




# Idioms in Academic Writing


## Vocabulary Unit 9E

CI Week 7

Lesson 5



1 Although the more colourful idioms found in conversation or journalism (*raining cats and dogs, once in a blue moon*) are not typical in academic genres, some multi-word expressions are commonly used in academic writing. Explain the meaning of the idioms from this unit highlighted in sentences 1-4.

- 1 By focusing on various actions involved in 'harnessing fortune', certain features **come to the fore**.
  - 2 Ethnocentrism is one solution to the inevitable tension when people with different cultural backgrounds **come into contact**.
  - 3 ... 'Tribal' reality shows favour entertainment **at the expense of** education.
  - 4 **In the same vein**, Ballard (1996: 155) reports an exchange between a politics lecturer in an Australian university and a Japanese student.
- 

2 In pairs, compare your answers and discuss whether each of the idioms always has the same fixed form or whether it can vary. Use a dictionary if necessary.

**Example:** *I think you can also say 'bring something to the fore.'*

3 Complete sentences 1–6 with one word in each space. Underline the idiom in each case.

1 Each feature may be present to a greater or ..... extent in any individual.

2 These voters tend to vote for the same party ..... matter who the candidate is.

3 Higher levels of rainfall can ..... rise to flooding and landslides.

4 The report paints a disturbing ..... of the state of UK prisons.

5 The ban on smoking in public places ..... into force in England and Wales in 2007.

6 Germany introduced stricter controls and other countries soon followed .....



Please, check your  
knowledge in Teams!