

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

OCEANS & SEA LIFE / CHEATING

ENGLISH IDIOM – THAT SOUNDS FISHY

- Watch the **YouTube** video (3:12) and fill in the missing words.



Easy English Conversation presents . . . “That sounds fishy!” In English, when you say that you say that something sounds fishy, you mean that some (1) _____ might not be true. You can also say that something smells fishy. For example, “Sam (2) _____ his homework to the teacher. He said that his dog ate his homework.” But, you know what? That (3) _____ true. After all, dogs do like to eat a lot of different things. I mean, one time, I saw a dog eating jelly beans. And another time, well, I saw an x-ray of a dog that had keys in its (4) _____! I wonder why a dog would eat keys? So, anyway, dogs can be strange. And so (5) _____ my classmate’s dog really did eat his homework. I can’t really be sure. So that’s why it sounds, or smells, fishy. You can probably (7) _____ where this idiom comes from. It comes from, of course, the smell of fish. Some people like the smell of fish. But other people (8) _____ like the smell of fish. They think it smells bad. Here’s another example. You might say, “I’m sorry that I’m late for work. There (9) _____ too many cars on the road.” And your boss might say, “Really? You’ve been late for work every day this (10) _____! That smells fishy!” And then you might say, “I’ll be on time tomorrow.”

FUN FACT: A group of fish that swim together is called a . . . of fish.
(A) school / (B) sea / (C) house

Aim Listening and Reading practice / Learning an Idiom

Level Intermediate

Video 3 minutes 12 seconds

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_t7YJZkhhbY&t=2s

ANSWER KEY

(1) information, (2) didn't give, (3) might be, (4) stomach, (5) maybe, (6) idiom, (7) guess, (8) don't, (9) were, (10) week

FUN FACT: A group of fish is called a (A) **school** of fish.

ACTIVITY NOTES

1.

As a fun way to get things started, begin your **Oceans & Sea Life** or **Cheating** lesson by asking your learners if they like the smell of fish. Some of your students will like the smell, while some others may dislike it. Ask them to guess the meaning of the idiom, “It sounds / smells fishy.” Tell them that they will watch a video that explains the meaning.

2.

Distribute the attached YouTube Idiom Worksheet and play the video. Be sure to stop the video when you hear the bell and see the words “Fun Fact!” (2:08)

3.

Consider playing the video a second time as your learners fill in the missing words. Note that *Closed Captioning** is available, so you may want to turn this function on, the second time, to help your students. Again, as above, stop the video when you hear the bell and see the words, “Fun Fact!”

4.

Have your learners take a guess at what a group of fish that swim together is called. Continue the video to find out the answer (school).

5.

Continue the lesson by discussing what information they heard or read about recently that sounds fishy. You may want to assign writing homework directly related to this idiom; you can find this at:

<https://www.allthingstopics.com/idiom-quiz-fishy.html>

** This Closed Captioning function can be found in the bottom bar of the YouTube video. It has been added to the video directly from the script and contains no transcription errors (such as misspellings) that can often occur (when closed captioning is automated).*