**Understanding Idioms

“Every dog has its day”

Idioms are an important part of everyday English. They consist of two or more words, usually in a fixed order. They have a figurative meaning that is different from the meaning each word has on its own. They are often unique to one language group or culture. This often makes word-by-word translations nonsensical.

1. Look at the image. Explain what went wrong here.
2. Match the idioms with their meaning. Work with a partner.

Fast finishers: If possible, find a German version of the idiom.

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| English Idiom  |  |  | Meaning |
| 1) dog-eat-dog*ex.: We live in a dog-eat-dog world.* |  | a) | not getting along with each other |
| 2) dog-tired*ex.: I am often dog-tired when I get home from work.* |  | b) | someone who tries to keep others from having or enjoying something |
| 3) like a dog with two tails*ex.: Jenny has been like a dog with two tails since she won the lottery.*  |  | c) | to deteriorate, to get into a very bad state, to be ruined |
| 4) to fight like cats and dogs.*ex.: The two siblings fight like cats and dogs.* |  | d) | bag to take home your leftovers after a meal at a restaurant |
| 5) not a dog’s chance*ex.: You don’t have a dog’s chance of passing this exam.* |  | c) | to be very happy |
| 6) a dog in the manger*Ex: Don’t be like a dog in the manger. Come with us!* |  | e) | intensely competitive |
| 7) dog-eared*ex.: She sat down and started reading a dog-eared book.* |  | f) | Everyone has good luck at some point in their life. |
| 8) go to the dogs*ex: Ever since the last election, this country has gone to the dogs.* |  | g) | no chance at all |
| 9) a doggy bag*ex.: The restaurant gave us a doggy bag for our leftovers.* |  | h) | to be very tired |
| 10) Every dog has its day.*ex.: I was surprised she got a better grade than you. Well, every dog has its day.* |  | i) | used a lot, so the corners of the pages are turned down |

1. Choose one or more idioms and …
2. **… draw a comic strip** *or*
3. **… write a meaningful dialogue (at least two idioms)** *or*
4. **… write a short poem**