

Travel Idioms

Read the paragraphs below, and match the idioms in **bold** with the definitions on the next page.

A.

You should always **read between the lines** when you look in a holiday brochure. I chose a hotel that was described as being in a quiet location **a stone's throw** from the beach. That was true to a certain extent, but really they were **pulling a fast one**. You see, the hotel was **in the back of beyond**, and it was on a cliff looking down at the beach two hundred feet below! The only place to go in the evening was the hotel bar, and that was a **pick-up joint**.

B.

The brochure told me that the hotel was the best in the area, but to be honest it **fell short of my expectations**. First of all you had to **pay through the nose** for food and service which **wasn't really up to the mark**, and secondly, the manager was a real **misery guts** who complained all the time and kept **laying down the law** ('Don't leave your window open, Don't smoke in your room, Don't make any noise after 10pm, and so on). I met someone who used to stay at the hotel, but he told me it had **gone to the dogs** since a new company had taken it over.

C.

Prices for long-haul flights are usually a bit **steep**. However, competition between airlines has **brought prices down** recently, and if you **shop around** you can usually get a **good deal**, especially if you go to a **bucket shop** or search on the Internet. I managed to get a **cut-price** flight to Perth - £350 return! - but the flight left London at **an unearthly hour** and went **round the houses** (we flew via Dubai, Karachi, Colombo, Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta.) before we reached our destination!

D.

We had a guest staying at our hotel last week. She was a very **tough customer**, always complaining and **picking holes in everything**. Anyway, when she checked out, she demanded a refund, but our manager calmly and politely explained that this was **out of the question**. She **flew off the handle**, told him to **pull his socks up**, and **stormed out** of the hotel without paying! It's bad enough when you get a **skipper**, but when housekeeping went to clean her room, we also discovered she had **nicked** the towels!

E.

I really recommend the restaurant on the corner. You always **get your money's worth**. The **grub** is good and plentiful, and the house **plonk** is **cheap'n'cheerful** (although it might **take the skin off your teeth**). The place is popular with the **natives**, so that's a good sign.

F.

The Aphrodite Hotel in Kyrenia is **out of this world**, and if you stay there you'll know that you're **in good hands**. When I was there, the staff **went out of their way** to make me feel welcome, and the manager **fell over himself** to make sure everything was perfect. He knew I was **dog-tired** when I arrived, so asked all his staff to **keep the noise down**, and of course I **slept like a log**!

1. Get something that is worth the amount of money you paid.

3. Very tired.

5. Look for the cheapest prices.

7. Stolen.

9. Did everything possible (two expressions).

11. Local people.

13. Declined in quality.

15. Very near.

17. Very rough tasting.

19. Not being completely honest.

21. Made things cheaper.

23. Very early, or during the night.

25. Finding faults all the time.

27. Wasn't as good as I expected.

29. Decide what somebody really means when they say or write something.

31. (Cheap) wine.

33. Very cheap (but not always very good quality) (two expressions).

35. Very remote, a long way from main towns.

37. A hotel guest who leaves without paying his / her bill.

2. Not possible.

4. Very good / Excellent.

6. A place where men go to try to meet women.

8. Slept very well.

10. Safe and well cared for.

12. Somebody who is always in a bad mood.

14. A place where you can buy cheap travel tickets.

16. Food.

18. Walked out of a room angrily.

20. Somebody who demands the very best quality and service.

22. Telling everyone what to do and how to behave.

24. Became very angry.

26. Wasn't good enough.

28. Pay a lot of money.

30. Be quiet.

32. Make an effort to improve.

34. Something which is very cheap and good value.

36. A very indirect route.

38. Expensive