wybrane zwroty
i idiomy angielskie -
- ciekawie
i z humorem

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- not get to first base
- make the best of
- be few and far between
- turn a blind eye to
- be in the same boat
- count for nothing
- be beyond one's capacity
- waste one's breath
- run around in circles
- be eaten up with jealousy
- take it easy
Wybrane zwroty i idiomy angielskie – ciekawie i z humorem
A SPORTS EVENT

BUSINESS IS BUSINESS

BURIED TREASURE

A TROUBLESOME WORKER

A REPORT

DOING MY JOB

AWAY WITH PROHIBITION

FOUND AND LOST

GETTING TOGETHER

KEY TO EXERCISES
Przedmowa

„Wybrane zwroty i idiomy angielskie” to książka mająca na celu rozwinięcie u uczących się języka umiejętności naturalnego posługiwania się utartymi zwrotami i idiomami angielskimi, które siłą rzeczy nie mogą być na polski tłumaczone dosłownie. Ponad pięćset takich zwrotów ujętych zostało w dwudziestu pięciu ciekawych i często zabawnych tekstach. Pod każdym z nich czytelnik znajdzie objaśnienia zastosowanych zwrotów i trudniejszych słówek. Zestawy pytań następujące dalej ułożono w taki sposób, by skłonić odpowiadającego do użycia omawianych zwrotów, co również może być przyczynkiem do otwartej konwersacji. Zadaniem kolejnych ćwiczeń jest utrwalenie poznanego materiału. Na końcu książki znajduje się klucz z rozwiązaniami, umożliwiający sprawdzenie czy ćwiczenia zostały zrobione poprawnie.

Autor
A DIFFICULT CUSTOMER

The job was about ready when he came over and started complaining. Of course, I followed your advice, and I put on an act. I don’t know how, but he knew in advance what he could expect of us. He told me to stop acting the fool, or we wouldn’t get paid at all. At this point I thought it was a good time to adopt a hard line towards him, and I informed him that we were above his petty complaints, and we were not after his dirty money. All of a sudden he started rushing about the office and shouting out loud that it was a scandal. He even threatened that he was going to sue us for damages. Can you believe it? He might have thought that he held all the aces, but it wasn’t exactly so. All in all, I was quite patient with him like you told me to, but the moment he called me an ignoramus, I felt that it would be advisable to punch him in the face. Naturally, I had no chance to look that word up in a dictionary (there was no dictionary available in the office), but I decided that even if that word wasn’t particularly offensive, a good punch in the face would teach him some manners. As it turned out later, this action agreed with him. He signed all the documents of his own accord (there were no more complaints). His face looked pretty bad, so I offered to accommodate him with a ride home, but he assured me again and again that I shouldn’t be bothered, and he would be just fine. Contrary to all appearances, people often tend to become quite cordial when you approach them the right way, don’t they?

Explanations:

be about ready — być prawie gotowym
complain — narzekać
follow sb’s advice — pojść za czyjąś radą
put on an act — odgrywać komedię
know in advance — wiedzieć z góry
act the fool — strugać wariata
at this point — w tym momencie
adopt a hard line towards — przyjąć twarde stanowisko wobec
be above sth — być ponad coś
petty complaints — małostkowe narzekania
be after — chodzić o, zabiegać o
all of a sudden — nagle
rush about — biegać tam i z powrotem
threaten — grozić
sue sb for damages — pozwać do sądu o odszkodowanie
hold all the aces — trzymać wszystkie atuty w ręku
advisable to punch him in the face — wskazane walnąć go w mordę
look the word up — sprawdzić (w słowniku)
offensive — obraźliwy
turn out — okazać się
I. Answer the following questions with full sentences:

1. What situations are you always ready to adopt a hard line in?
2. What do you think of people who get married because they are after the other person’s money only?
3. What would you never do on your own accord?
4. How would you describe a situation with someone holding all the aces?
5. What agrees with you and what doesn’t?
6. Why is it good to know in advance about potential problems?

II. Fill in the gaps with the right phrase / idiom from the text:

1. ..................................................... he’s one of the best specialists we’ve ever had.
2. I can’t believe you signed the agreement ..................................................... The conditions are unacceptable.
3. If you don’t stop ..................................................... I’ll go to talk to your boss and you’ll be in trouble.
4. She told him she wouldn’t lend him the money but he asked ..................................................... and she finally agreed to do it.
5. The bomb was ..................................................... when no one knows why it suddenly exploded, killing its constructor.
6. There was nothing we could do. We had to satisfy their demands. They .....................................................
7. They tried to ..................................................... , but I knew all along what their true intentions were.
8. Wine doesn’t ..................................................... me. I have stomach problem after drinking it.

III. Translate the following sentences into English using the phrases from the text:

1. Biegał po pokoju tam i z powrotem.
2. Byliśmy prawie gotowi z materiałami.
3. Cały czas odgrywał komedię twierdząc, że nic nie wie.
5. Mogę służyć pani drobną pożyczką.
7. Nie lubię go i w ogóle.
8. Tak naprawdę to chodzi im o twoje pieniądze.
9. Wbrew pozorom to naprawdę przyzwoity człowiek.
10. Wino mi nie służy.
11. Z góry wiedziałem jak to się skończy.
12. Zrobił to z własnej woli.
13. Niestety mieli wszystkie atuty w ręku.
LONG LIVE YOUTH!

Life was so beautiful until I came of age. Now and again I could do stupid stuff and all, if you know what I’m saying. The cops all along were trying to can me, but I was under age and qualified for some government programs for juvenile delinquents. I allow that I have a lot to answer for and the long arm of the law would be more than happy to bust me, but I’ve been around and I know how to avoid serious trouble. They could just as well try to get Michael Jackson for sexual harassment. Wait a minute, joking apart, I recently heard that he actually was under arrest on such charges. Life is full of surprises, man. On the other hand, I guess he was asking for trouble with kids being around in his house all the time. There are opinions that such guys should be above suspicion. What I think though, is that he should move his ass and do some real work. What is it that I have to work my ass off day and night (I do night shifts as well) and at best get enough dough to pay the bills and buy decent grub. But what pisses me off the most, is that some rich guys say that I am a pain in the ass of the society. Man, I hate it so bad! All I can do is chill out and answer back / talk back and tell them they have an attitude problem. Stupid to say that, as it were, it got them thinking: ‘What the hell? What is this bum talking about?’ At least I had a chance to get away and stay out of trouble. If I were rich, man, I of all people, I would kick asses! Not literally, of course, you know what I’m saying. Oh, no. I would air my views about politicians, social workers, and Mrs Bigley who doesn’t want to leave me alone and keeps telling me how wonderful it would be if I joined her church. Last week she had a car accident, but soon I found out that she was alive and kicking. Well, I was actually relieved to learn that she was fine. Dumb as she were I kind of like her. After all she is a decent old woman who means well. While I am about Mrs Bigley, well, I may go and see that church of hers.

Explanations:

- **long live**  
  niech żyje

- **come of age**  
  osiągnąć pełnoletność

- **now and again**  
  co jakiś czas

- **stuff**  
  rzeczy

- **and all**  
  i w ogóle

- **cops**  
  gliny

- **all along**  
  przez cały czas; od początku

- **can me**  
  zapudlować mnie

- **under age**  
  niepełnoletni

- **juvenile delinquent**  
  młodociany przestępca

- **allow that**  
  przyznać, że

- **have a lot to answer for**  
  mieć dużo na sumieniu

- **the long arm of the law**  
  karząca ręka sprawiedliwości

- **bust**  
  przymknąć; zaaresztować

- **I’ve been around**  
  bywało się w świecie; z
1. What was your life like when you came of age?
2. Why do you think young people answer back to their parents / teachers?
3. What kind of person would you call a pain in the ass?
4. What situation would you like to be left alone in?
5. How would you characterise a person who says that he has been around?
6. What kind of people should always be above suspicion?
II. Fill in the gaps with the right phrase / idiom from the text:

1. ........................................ the accident, well, I want to stress that it was all your fault.
2. Children shouldn’t ........................................ to their teachers at school. Unfortunately these days they do it much too often.
3. Don’t worry, he’ll be just fine. He ........................................, so the situation is not new to him.
4. Going there is ........................................ . If they recognize you, they will lynch you.
5. He’s a regular ........................................ . He’s continuously complaining about the way we do things.
6. His daughter’s demands are growing. This is why he is ........................................ to satisfy them.
7. I can’t wait to ........................................ . I’ll be free to smoke and drink whatever I want to.
8. I don’t think we’ll get much for the furniture. It’s old and ........................................ we’ll receive about 1000$.
9. I want to be a politician because then I will be able to ........................................ without being regarded insane.
10. It’s finished and nothing will change it. You can ........................................ try to reach the moon. The result will be the same.
11. Ok gentlemen, ........................................ , who painted my dog red?
12. The house collapsed, but luckily the people who lived there are ........................................
13. There was nothing the police could do to the youngster. He was ........................................, so they had to let him go.
14. You are 21 now. I think it’s high time you ........................................ and found yourself a decent job.
15. You have to help me. You are my brother ........................................

III. Translate the following sentences into English using the phrases from the text:

1. Daj mi spokój.
2. Dosięgnie cię wreszcie karząca ręka sprawiedliwości.
4. Mam wiele na sumieniu.
5. Mimo wypadku jest w doskonałej formie.
6. Moim zdaniem ma niewłaściwy stosunek do otoczenia.
7. Może byś ruszył dupę i poszedł szukać pracy?
8. Nie mogliśmy nic zrobić, bo był niepełnoletni.
9. Nie mogła się doczekać kiedy osiągnie pełnoletniość.
10. No dobra, żarty na bok. O co tak naprawdę chodzi?
11. Od czasu do czasu odwiedzam ich w domu.
12. Od początku są z nim problemy.
13. Ona boi się publicznie wyrażać swoje poglądy.
14. Przyznamę, że to był błąd.
15. Równie dobrze możesz poprosić bym poleciał dziś na księżyc.
16. Skoro już jesteśmy przy pieniądzach, to powiedz jak je zdobyć.
17. Takim zachowaniem sam prosisz się o kłopoty.
18. Ten bachor to prawdziwy wrzód na dupie.
20. W najlepszym wypadku dostaniesz wyrok w zawieszeniu.
21. Właśnie on, ze wszystkich ludzi, musiał zostać wybrany!
22. Z niejednego pieca chleb jadłem.
23. Zapieprzam za marne grosze.
24. Zaufaj mi, jestem w końcu twoim bratem.
LOVE HURTS

I have an impression that she doesn’t like me anymore. I guess she thinks I’m anything but handsome. This is probably the end. I don’t know what I’m going to do now. Is there any hope for me? Quite apart from the difference in our social background, my personality may not appeal to her. I was ready to go against the current to get close to her. I allowed myself a year for this task. The problem is that I sometimes get into an argument with her in order to clear the air between us. It doesn’t help the relationship, but she never listens to what I’m saying. I often think that she just doesn’t want me to be on her ass. In any case that’s the impression I get because she keeps ignoring me all the time. It’s high time to straighten things out between us once and for all. I have to take the dog out now. This is going to be a race against time because the news start in 15 minutes and I have to be back home then. They are going to show her and talk about her again. This will be a good opportunity to tell her that I’m through with her and she isn’t my girlfriend anymore. I see no future for us. After all I’m just a dustman and she’s the Queen of England. As far as I know such relationships don’t work out. There might have been a chance for us if she knew about my existence, but in this situation...

Explanations:

he’s anything but handsome
quite apart from social background
appeal to go against the current
allow oneself time for get into an argument with clear the air relationship be on sb’s ass in any case keeps ignoring me straighten things out once and for all take the dog out race against time I’m through with her dustman as far as I know relationship work out

przystojny to on nie jest
pomijając już pochodzenie społeczne przemawiać do (np. argumenty) iść pod prąd dać sobie / zarezerwować sobie czas na wdawać się w sprzeczkę oczyścić atmosferę związek zawracać komuś dupę w każdym razie ciągle mnie ignoruje wyjaśnić pewne sprawy raz na zawsze zabrać psa na spacer wyścig z czasem skończyłem z nią śmieciarz o ile wiem. związek zadziałać; udać się
I. Answer the following questions with full sentences:

1. What would you like to settle once and for all?
2. What kind of situation would you call ‘racing against time’?
3. What kind of arguments never appeal to you?
4. When is it good to go against the current?
5. Do you agree that most politicians are anything but wise? Why?
6. Do you think it is safe to get into an argument with a criminal? Why?

II. Fill in the gaps with the right phrase / idiom from the text:

1. ……………………………………………. the accident in which our brand new car was smashed, our house was burgled too.
2. ……………………………………………. your father is very rich, isn’t he? He shall pay whatever we demand for you, won’t he?
3. He hates it when people ……………………………………….. with such trivial problems like money.
4. I told him what I really thought about him. He got really upset, but I think this ……………………………………….. between us.
5. I want you to understand it ……………………………………….. I will not tolerate incompetence, stupidity, and bad manners.
6. I’m sorry to say this, but your boss is ……………………………………….. intelligent.
7. My ambition is to be the president of this country. I ……………………………………….. three years for this.

III. Translate the following sentences into English using the phrases from the text:

1. Kłótnie często służą oczyszczeniu atmosfery.
2. Mój akumulator jest już prawie wyczerpany.
3. Nie chcę by zawracał mi dupę takimi problemami.
4. Nie ma innego wyjścia jak tylko iść pod prąd przez najbliższy rok.
5. O ile wiem to ona jest w domu.
6. Pomijając już jej niekompetencje to nie jest nawet ładna.
7. Spójrzmy prawdzie w oczy. Inteligentna to ona nie jest.
8. Staraj się nie wdawać w sprzeczki z klientami.
10. To będzie wyścig z czasem.
12. Zarezerwuj sobie pół godziny na naszą rozmowę.
What the hell?!
MUTINY

I will never lay down my arms! What do you mean there is no one to fight and nothing to fight for? Oh, you’re damn wrong! How about those monsters all around? This one on your left, for example, is all but dead. I’m going to finish him off in a moment. Of course you can’t see them. They’re invisible to people dressed in white. But I see them quite clearly. They’ve been at large for centuries, but I’m going to put an end to their miserable existence. Oh no, I’m not insane. I’m not a lunatic either. It is the world that has gone crazy. I assure you that soon you all will approach me about the monsters visiting your backyard. You’ll see! No, I’m not trying to draw your attention away from the desserts on the table. They are out of my reach anyway. Your insinuations and instructions are of no account to me. You’d better stop banging at the door. I’m not going to answer the door. Nobody’s home. Tell the doctor that he may see me by appointment. At worst, the monsters there may eat him up. No, you can’t do that! You can’t deprive me of my dessert! So what that I’m a patient in this mental hospital? I know my rights. Stop saying that, or I’ll bring your practices to the attention of the press. Don’t you worry, I’ll find a way to make a few telephone calls, and not even the monsters will stop me, let alone the doctors. The female personnel might, if they start wearing miniskirts and are nice to me... You never know he, he.

Explanations:

mutiny
lay down one’s arms
there’s no one to fight
be damn wrong
monsters
all but
finish sb off
invisible to people
dressed in white
be at large
put an end to
insane
lunatic
go crazy
approach about
draw sb’s attention away
out of one’s reach
insinuations
of no account
bang at the door
deprive sb of sth
mental hospital szpital dla umysłowo chorych
bring sth to the attention zwrócić czyjąś uwagę na
let alone nie mówiąc już o
you never know nigdy nie wiadomo

I. Answer the following questions with full sentences:

1. What things are out of your reach?
2. What kind of people can you see by appointment only?
3. What would you do if you heard of a dangerous animal being at large in your city?
4. What things are of no account to you?
5. What can at worst happen if you fail your next examination?
6. What would you do if your mobile telephone battery were all but dead?

II. Fill in the gaps with the right phrase / idiom from the text:

1. A serial killer is …………………………………………. . He escaped from prison yesterday.
2. After 2 month fighting the defenders decided to …………………………………………. and surrender.
3. By faking an attack on the barracks they are trying to …………………………………………. from their real target, which is the headquarters.
4. Forget it. This position is …………………………………………. . You don’t have the necessary qualifications.
5. Their objections are …………………………………………. . They aren’t powerful enough to wreck our plans.
6. There must be some kind of misunderstanding. I’ve never been to New York, …………………………………………. living with her in Manhattan.
7. Whatever happens they’ll have to accept our conditions anyway. …………………………………………. we’ll get their consent a little later than expected, but we surely will.

III. Translate the following sentences into English using the phrases from the text:

1. Chciałbym zwrócić państwa uwagę na koszty przedsięwzięcia.
2. Czas żebyśmy złożyli broń i przyjęli ich warunki.
3. Groźne zwierzę jest na wolności.
4. Ktoś dzwoni. Otworzył drzwi?
5. Nie mamy za dużo pieniędzy nie mówiąc już o samochodzie.
6. Oni próbują odwrócić naszą uwagę od problemu kosztów.
7. Taki cel jest poza naszym zasięgiem.
8. Uwagi takie są dla mnie bez znaczenia.
10. Wczoraj zwróciłem się do niego w sprawie pożyczki.
A PRACTICAL SOLUTION

There are many such ideas about,’ Mrs Jones said. ‘Don’t you want to know what ideas?’ she asked. Mr Jones said nothing. ‘You never pay attention to what I’m saying!’ she continued. ‘What kind of husband are you?’ Mr Jones said nothing. ‘You refuse to answer the phone, to answer the door when the postman comes over with your pension, what is it?’ she said. ‘As opposed to other decent husbands, you do absolutely nothing. You could at least keep up appearances, and pretend, once in a while, that I’m the apple of your eye. It’s I who takes you for a walk now and again so that you can take some fresh air. Some gratitude wouldn’t be too much, would it? You could say something at last. Don’t tell me that you answer to God Almighty only. Why have men never attached significance to plain conversations with their wives? They always try to avail themselves of every opportunity to get away from their beloved spouses. Always, whenever they can. And then, there may be a rude awakening for many a man when they come back home and the wife is gone. One should allow for this eventuality. I may leave you one day, too. Why not? Be sure that I’d do that if you were planning to go for the bad, that is get involved with some other woman. Or perhaps not so. Other girls may be within arm’s reach, but not for you my dear, not any more. Fortunately, I thought of that ahead of time and decided to take the necessary measures. I couldn’t stand it that you turned your back on me when I begged you not to leave me you old bastard. It was an awful cheek to say that I was too old for you. That’s why I put some cyanide in your food, and after I made sure you were dead all right, I cremated your body in our stove. You are just an urn with ashes, and there is no way you could leave me now. We’ll be together for the rest of our... not our perhaps... for the rest of my life.

Explanations:

- **solution**
- **there are many such ideas about**
- **pay attention to**
- **what kind of husband are you**
- **answer the phone**
- **answer the door**
- **as opposed to**
- **decent**
- **keep up appearances**
- **pretend**
- **once in a while**
- **be the apple of one’s eye**
- **take some fresh air**

**Solution**
- rozwiązanie
- krąży wiele takich pomysłów
- zwracać uwagę na
- co z ciebie za mąż
- odebrać telefon
- otworzyć drzwi (jak ktoś puka)
- w przeciwnieństwie do
- przyzwoity
- zachowywać pozory
- udawać
- co jakiś czas
- być oczkiem w głowie
- zaczerpnąć świeżego powietrza
I. Answer the following questions with full sentences:

1. What do you always pay attention to? Why?
2. What situation would you try to keep up appearances in?
3. Who would you like to be the apple of his / her eye? Why?
4. What opportunity would you never avail yourself of? Why?
5. Can you give an example of a rude awakening?
6. Why do you think young people often go for the bad?
7. What situation / statement would you call an awful cheek?
8. What do you never attach significance to? Why?
9. Who do you answer to?

II. Fill in the gaps with the right phrase / idiom from the text:

1. Believe it or not, success is ......................................................... . You just have to try a little harder.
2. He didn’t expect the job to be so difficult. Obviously it was a ………………….. for him.
3. He had been such a good boy until he met those young hooligans. It was them who made him ………………….. .
4. His little daughter is ……………………………………. . He loves her so much.
5. I couldn’t believe she said that. It was ……………………………………. considering all the things they had done for her.
6. If you don’t ……………………………………. what you say, you may get into serious trouble.
7. Somebody is knocking at the door. Will you ………………….. it?
8. That was a great opportunity. No wonder he decided to ……………………………………. it.
9. The bank is practically bankrupt. All they can do now is to ……………………………………. to prevent uncontrolled panic.
10. The investor was very happy to hear that the building would be finished in 2 weeks ……………………………………. .
11. We waited for 2 hours and he came ……………………………………. .
12. When he lost all the money he had won in the lottery, all his friends ……………………………………. . him and he was left all alone.

III. Translate the following sentences into English using the phrases from the text:

1. Córka jest jego oczkiem w głowie.
2. Dzwoni telefon. Odbierzesz?
4. Móglibyś przynajmniej zachowywać pozory.
5. Nie boję się, że moje dzieci zejdą na złą drogę.
6. Nie zwracaj uwagi na to, co mówią.
7. Nigdy nie przywiązywał wagi do pieniędzy.
8. Odpowiadam jedynie przed Bogiem i historią.
9. Odwiedzę was co jakiś czas.
10. Skorzystałem z okazji i ukradłem ten samochód.
11. Sukces był na wyciągnięcie ręki.
12. Ta strata to był dla niego zimny prysznic.
13. To była niesłychana bezczelność z jego strony.
14. Ty stary draniu.
15. Ukończyliśmy budowę przed czasem.
17. Weźcie pod uwagę możliwość spadku cen.
18. Wreszcie przyszli.
19. Wszyscy odwrócił się do mnie plecami jak straciłem pracę.
20. Wyjdę by zaczerpnąć świeżego powietrza.