

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Saying Origins

**Directions:** Read each short blurb about a common expression's origin. Then, explain what the expression means today in your own words.

### 1. "The Ball Is in Your Court"

This expression comes from sports like tennis or basketball, where one player or team has the ball and must make the next move. It means that it's someone else's turn to act or decide.

→ What it means today: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. "Bite the Bullet"

In the past, before modern medicine, soldiers were sometimes told to bite on a bullet during painful surgeries when no anesthesia was available. Today, the phrase means to face something difficult or unpleasant with courage.

→ What it means today: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. "Break the Ice"

Long ago, ships sailing in frozen waters needed smaller boats to "break the ice" so they could move forward. The expression now means to do or say something to make people feel more comfortable in a social situation.

→ What it means today: \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. "Let the Cat Out of the Bag"

This saying comes from old marketplaces, where dishonest sellers would sometimes hide a cat in a bag instead of a piglet. If the buyer opened the bag, the "cat was out," revealing the truth. Today it means to accidentally share a secret.

→ What it means today: \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. "Hit the Hay"

Before modern beds, people used to sleep on sacks filled with hay. When someone said they were going to "hit the hay," it meant they were ready for bed. The phrase still means to go to sleep.

→ What it means today: \_\_\_\_\_