

Expression Fix-Up Answer Key

Sample Revision

When Mia's basketball team won the championship, she said the other team had to **bite the dust** after their big victory. Her coach told her not to **spill the beans** about the surprise party planned for the team. Mia laughed and replied that she was **over the moon** because they had worked so hard. Later, when the team went out for pizza, her friend Leo said the game was a **tough cookie** to win since they won by only one point.

Teacher's Guide

Skill Focus: Students learn how **context shapes meaning** by identifying and correcting **misused expressions**, deepening their understanding of idiomatic accuracy and tone.

Teaching Tips:

- **Mini-Lesson:** Review what an idiom or expression is and why using it in the right context matters for clear communication.
- **Guided Practice:** Read the paragraph aloud once as-is, then again with the corrected version. Ask students which version “feels right” and why.
- **Discussion Prompt:** How can misusing expressions change the tone or cause confusion in writing or speech?
- **Differentiation:**
 - Provide a list of the expressions with short definitions for learners who need extra support.
 - Challenge advanced students to write their own short paragraph that intentionally misuses three expressions, then trade and correct with a partner.
- **Extension Idea:** Have students find examples of expressions used in song lyrics, news articles, or movies and discuss how their meanings fit the context.