

BBC Learning English

The Teacher

Mouth idioms

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In this episode, **The Teacher** introduces you to three idiomatic phrases connected with mouth.

- 1. To put one's foot in one's mouth.**
- 2. To look a gift horse in the mouth.**
- 3. To be born with a silver spoon in one's mouth.**

Hello, I'm a very interesting and intelligent man.

And this is my mouth. Today my mouth will be helping me to teach you some English idioms.

I bet you've often been taught by a mouth before.

Of course you have. I have always used my mouth to teach!

But my boss doesn't appreciate my lessons. However, he's keeping quiet because he's been known to put his foot in his mouth before.

He put his foot in his mouth... because "the teacher" has won the 2007 President's award from the English Speaking Union!

In English if someone makes an embarrassing blunder, we can say he puts his foot in his mouth.

To put one's foot in one's mouth.

But you appreciate my lessons! You don't complain about these extravagant videos!

Of course you do, they are free! You shouldn't look a gift horse in the mouth!

In English if someone expresses displeasure for a gift which is not perfect, we can say that he looks a gift horse in the mouth.

To look a gift horse in the mouth.

What are you saying? That my break until April isn't well earned? My boss thinks the same. He says that I don't work enough and that he will fire me as soon as possible. But it isn't a problem, because I am rich. In fact, I was born with a silver spoon in my mouth.

In English if someone is born into wealth and comfort or is born rich, we can say that he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth.

To be born with a silver spoon in one's mouth.