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## IDIOM BUSTING

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Spare a thought for the 2nd-language English speakers who visit your site.

English is an easy language to learn enough to speak or read moderately well: easy verb endings, no genders, etc. But it's difficult to learn really well - irregular spellings, nuances and pronunciation. One thing which is hard to understand in any language is idiom.

We use idioms constantly, and do not even realize it. Try to remove those where the meaning is not completely obvious.

Also try to avoid phrasal verbs - these can also be confusing. If there is a single replacement word of similar meaning, maybe use it. E.g.

'return' instead of 'go back'

'leave' instead of 'go away'

'fill' instead of 'top up'

Sometimes US and British English use different constructions - again this can be confusing to 2nd-language speakers - e.g.

US 'start over', UK 'start again'

US 'named for', UK 'named after'

US 'visit with', UK 'visit'

I express no view as to which are more logical! But be aware that your version may not be obvious even to a first-language speaker on the other side of the pond! Where there is a way of expressing something in a neutral international way, use it.