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USEFUL LANGUAGE

- Wizard (n) a person with magical powers
- Let go (phr. v) to make someone leave a job
- Persona (n) the personality that someone has that is different from their real or private character
- Atop (prep) on top of
- Ladder (n) a piece of equipment for climbing up and down
- Gown (n) a long loose piece of clothing
- Staff (n) a long stick used to help with walking or fighting
- Tongue-in-cheek (adj) not serious
- Realm (n) an area of knowledge or activity
- Curse (n) magical words that are said to give someone trouble

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The only publicly employed wizard in the world will no longer receive a paycheck after this year. The Wizard of Christchurch, in New Zealand, has been told by the city council that they will stop paying him a \$NZ16 000 salary. The Wizard, whose real name is Ian Brackenbury Channell, has been paid the small salary since 1998. However, he has been doing his wizardly performance for much longer.

Mr. Channell, originally from England, started to develop a wizard persona while teaching at the University of New South Wales in Sydney in the late 1960s. He moved to Christchurch in 1972 and continued to perform as The Wizard, frequently speaking to the public from atop a ladder in Christchurch's Cathedral Square, dressed in wizard's hat and gown, with a long beard and a staff.

Over the years, various government officials have embraced the Wizard as something of a tourist attraction in the heart of the city. His payment started in recognition of the promotional value of his work, and there have been frequent tongue-in-cheek references to his work in the magical realm. In 1990, the Prime Minister of New Zealand suggested that the Wizard extend his magical services to the rest of the country.

At 88, Mr. Channell may not be old for a wizard, but he is well past the retirement age for most workers. He is unhappy about the council's decision, but he claims he will not put a curse on them, and although he will not be paid, he will continue talking to tourists as The Wizard.

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DISCUSSION

- 1. Are there any unusual characters around your city? What makes them interesting or recognizable?
- 2. Have you ever been let go from a job? What happened?
- 3. Do you believe in magic? What is magic?
- 4. If someone in your culture claimed to have magical powers, how would they be treated?
- 5. How would you feel if someone put a curse on you? Would you be worried?
- 6. Is your hometown a tourist destination? Why do tourists visit or not visit there?
- 7. How can a place attract more tourists? What methods can increase tourism?
- 8. What age do people generally retire in your country? What age would be good to retire, in your opinion?
- 9. How do retired people live in your country? Do they have to survive off savings?
- 10. Do you have a public persona that is different from your private persona? What's different about the public you and the private you?



IDIOM LESSON #1



Idioms About Feelings (1)

Hit the hay	If someone says they're going to hit the hay, it means they are going to bed. It reflects a need for rest, possibly due to emotional exhaustion or weariness.
	After a long day at work, I can't wait to hit the hay and get some good sleep.
Bite the bullet	To bite the bullet is to endure a painful or difficult situation with courage and resilience, often involving facing uncomfortable emotions or challenges.
	I had to bite the bullet and apologize even though I didn't think I was wrong.

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USEFUL LANGUAGE

- Genetic engineering (n) making changes to the genes of a plant or animal
- Trait (n) a quality or characteristic
- Extinct (adj) not existing now
- Tusk (n) one of two long, curved teeth that stick out of the mouths of some animals
- De-extinction (n) making something no longer extinct
- Intended (adj) planned, wanted
- Repopulate (v) increase the numbers of something in a place after they have dropped
- Tundra (n) a large, flat area with frozen ground and no trees
- Emission (n) something that comes out of something else
- Impact (n) effect

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We could soon see woolly mammoths - or at least animals that are very like them - walking the earth once again. An American company called Colossal plans to use genetic engineering to add woolly mammoth traits to Asian elephants. They claim the resulting hybrid will look and sound like a woolly mammoth. They also say it will be able to live in the same environment under the same conditions that mammoths once did.

Woolly mammoths coexisted with early humans, and they mostly went extinct about 10 000 years ago, with a few lasting until 4000 years ago. They were similar in size to today's African elephants, although they had very long tusks and a coat of hair.

Colossal claims the de-extinction of the woolly mammoth could help us fight climate change. The intended home for the mammoths is Pleistocene Park in Siberia, Russia. At Pleistocene Park, scientists are trying to repopulate the area with large animals that, through their natural activities, will change the tundra to grassland. If achieved, this will lead to less emission of greenhouse gases.

However, some critics think there are better ways to help the environment. For one thing, it will take a long time to raise enough mammoths to have any significant environmental impact. Others compare the project to Jurassic Park to point out that genetic engineering can have unexpected results.

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DISCUSSION

- How much do you want to see a woolly mammoth?
- 2. How do you feel about genetic engineering in general?
- 3. Do you eat genetically modified foods? Why or why not?
- 4. Bringing back extinct animals good idea or bad idea?
- 5. Is animal extinction something we should try to prevent? Or is it a natural process?
- 6. Do you think bringing back woolly mammoths could help the environment?
- 7. What are some easier ways we could positively affect the environment?
- 8. Can you imagine living in the past alongside woolly mammoths? How would you have felt about them at that time?
- 9. If you could receive some new traits, what traits would you like to have?
- 10. If you could visit a place like Jurassic Park, would you?



IDIOM LESSON #2



Idioms About Feelings (2)

Throw in the towel	If someone throws in the towel, they give up or surrender, often due to emotional exhaustion or the feeling that the effort is no longer worth it. After hours of trying to fix the computer, I finally threw in the towel and called for professional help.
In the same boat	Being in the same boat means sharing a similar situation or predicament with others, usually involving common emotions or challenges.
	We're all in the same boat, dealing with the stress of upcoming exams.