

Legal Idioms & Phrases

1. **Beyond a reasonable doubt** – ponad wszelką wątpliwość - The level of certainty required to convict someone in a criminal case.

Example: The jury must be convinced **beyond a reasonable doubt** to convict.

2. **Caught red-handed** – złapany na gorącym uczynku - Caught in the act of committing a crime.

Example: The thief was **caught red-handed** stealing jewelry from the store.

3. **Plead guilty / plead not guilty** – przyznać się / nie przyznać się do winy - To formally admit or deny committing a crime.

Example: The defendant decided to **plead guilty** to the charges.

4. **Close the case** – zamknąć sprawę / zakończyć postępowanie lub process - To end a legal investigation or trial.

Example: With no new evidence, the prosecutor decided to **close the case**.

5. **Drop the charges** – wycofać zarzuty - To stop pursuing a criminal accusation.

Example: The victim agreed to forgive the offender, so the police **dropped the charges**.

6. **Face the music** – ponieść konsekwencje - To accept the consequences or punishment for one's actions.

Example: After the fraud was discovered, he had to **face the music**.

7. **Under the table** – potajemnie, nielegalnie - Done secretly, often illegally (e.g., payments or agreements).

Example: The company was paying employees **under the table** to avoid taxes.

Exercise 1: Match the Idiom to Its Meaning

Match each idiom with the correct definition. Write the letter (A–G).

1. beyond a reasonable doubt
2. caught red-handed
3. plead guilty / plead not guilty
4. close the case
5. drop the charges
6. face the music
7. under the table

Definitions

- A) To formally admit or deny committing a crime.
 - B) Done secretly or illegally, especially payments or agreements.
 - C) To stop pursuing a criminal accusation.
 - D) The level of certainty needed to convict someone in a criminal case.
 - E) To accept the consequences or punishment for one's actions.
 - F) Caught in the act of committing a crime.
 - G) To end a legal investigation or trial.
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◇ Exercise 2: Gap-Filling Sentences

Complete the sentences using the correct idiom.

1. The jury must be convinced _____ before they can convict the defendant.
 2. The shoplifter was _____ when he tried to steal the laptop.
 3. The defendant decided to _____ after consulting with his lawyer.
 4. With no new evidence, the prosecutor had no choice but to _____.
 5. The victim asked the police to _____ because she wanted to forgive the offender.
 6. After being caught cheating, the student had to _____ in front of the principal.
 7. The company was paying employees _____ to avoid paying taxes.
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◇ Exercise 3: Translation

Translate into Polish using words in the brackets in the correct form.

1. Ława przysięgłych musi być przekonana **ponad wszelką wątpliwość**.
(Jury/convince)
→ _____
2. Złodziej został **złapany na gorącym uczynku**, gdy kradł pieniądze ze sklepu.
(thief)
→ _____
3. Oskarżony zdecydował się **przyznać do winy**. (defendant)
→ _____
4. Prokurator zdecydował się **zamknąć sprawę**, ponieważ nie znaleziono nowych dowodów. (prosecutor/evidence)
→ _____
5. Policja **wycofała zarzuty** z braku dowodów.
→ _____
6. Przestępca musiał **ponieść konsekwencje**. (offender)
→ _____
7. Firma płaciła pracownikom **nielegalnie** aby uniknąć podatków. (avoid/to pay/taxes)
→ _____

◇ Answer Key

Exercise 1 – Matching

1 – D

2 – F

3 – A

4 – G

5 – C

6 – E

7 – B

Exercise 2 – Gap-Filling

1. beyond a reasonable doubt
2. caught red-handed
3. plead guilty / plead not guilty
4. close the case
5. drop the charges
6. face the music

Key

1. The jury must be convinced **beyond a reasonable doubt** to convict the defendant.
2. The thief was **caught red-handed** stealing money from the store.
3. The defendant decided to **plead guilty**.
4. The prosecutor decided to **close the case** because no new evidence was found.
5. The police **dropped the charges** due to lack of evidence.
6. The offender had to **face the music**.
7. The company was paying employees **under the table** to avoid taxes.

