



NSW Adult Literacy and Numeracy

'Home'



RESOURCES

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HOME Idioms



On the following pages are some idioms that use the word *home*.

Any one of them could lead to some interesting student writing on the topic of *home*.

For example, *bring home the bacon*. Who *brings home the bacon* in their family? Was it so when they were growing up? Are there cultural differences about who *brings home the bacon*? Student stories could easily come from this idiom.

Charity begins at home is another one that might generate interest in writing. Students might write experiences about looking after – or being looked after – by family and friends. Or situations where it didn't happen....

Chickens come home to roost is an idiom that some students might relate to – how something that happened in the past has caused problems later on down the track.

And, then there's *the home stretch*...have there been situations that students can recall when they realised they were, at last, in the *home stretch*?

If you want to find more *home* idioms, have a look at <http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/home>.

- 1. A person's home is his/her castle.** *(British, old-fashioned)*
something that you say which means that people believe they should be able to control what happens in their own homes, and that no one else should tell them what to do there. *An Australian's home is her castle. The government has no right to interfere in our private lives!*
- 2. be home free**
to be certain to succeed at something because you have finished the most difficult part of it. *Once you leave the expressway and cross the bridge, you're home free - we're the third house after the bridge.*
- 3. be nothing much to write home about**
to not be especially good or exciting. *The food was OK, but nothing to write home about.*
- 4. bring home the bacon** *(informal)*
to earn money to live on. *If Jo's going to be at home looking after the kids, someone needs to bring home the bacon.*
to do something successfully, especially to win a game or race. *Racegoers crowded the stand to see him bring home the bacon. (= win the race)*
- 5. Charity begins at home.**
something that you say which means you should try to help your family and friends before you help other people. *You ought to stay in and look after your father. Charity begins at home.*
- 6. chickens come home to roost**
If you say that chickens are coming home to roost, you mean that bad or silly things done in the past are beginning to cause problems. *There was too much greed in the past, and now the chickens are coming home to roost with crime and corruption soaring.*
- 7. drive/hammer something home**
to say something very clearly and with a lot of force, often repeating it several times, so that you are sure that people understand it. *She used charts and statistics to drive home her message that we need to economise.*
- 8. eat someone out of house and home** *(humorous)*
to eat most of the food that someone has in their house. *The boys have only been back two days and they've already eaten me out of house and home.*
- 9. a home away from home**
a place where you feel as comfortable as you do in your own home. *I visit Chicago so often, it's become a home away from home for me.*
- 10. Home is where the heart is.**
something that you say which means that your true home is with the person or in the place that you love most. *I don't mind moving round the world with Chris. Home is where the heart is.*
- 11. the home stretch**

the last part of a long or difficult activity. *We've been working on the project for six months, but we're in the home stretch now.*

12. until the cows come home

for a very long time. *We could talk about this problem until the cows come home, but it wouldn't solve anything.*

13. something to write home about

be something especially good or exciting. *If Australia won the World Cup, that would be something to write home about!*

14. make yourself at home

to behave in a relaxed way in a place, as if it was your own home. *Sit down and make yourself at home while I make some coffee.* (often an order) *We made ourselves at home, using the bathroom and drinking all their beer.*

15. The lights are on but nobody's home. (*humorous*)

something that you say when you think someone is stupid, or when someone does not react because they are thinking about something else. *It's no good expecting John to say anything. The lights are on but no-one's home*

16. home free

sure of success because you have finished the most difficult part. *Once you get past the essay questions on the test, you're home free.*

17. hammer home something

won't understand even a simple message unless it is hammered home in speech after speech.

18. hit a home run

to succeed with something. *We felt our band hit a home run that night - it was the best performance we ever gave*

19. home in (on something)

1. to aim for and move directly toward something. *When he questioned the witness, the lawyer homed in on him like a laser. The missile homed in on the ship.*

2. to aim your attention toward something. *The report homed in on the faulty wiring that might have caused the fire.*

20. be close to home

if a subject is close to home, it affects you in a personal way, and it can upset you if someone says something unpleasant about it. *His comments about working mothers were a bit close to home for me*

Home Idioms

Choose an expression below to complete the following sentences.
Make sure you use upper case letters and full stops when needed.

my home is my castle.

home is where the heart is

you're home free

charity begins at home

until the cows come home

they've eaten me out of house and home

1. The government has no right to interfere _____.
2. The boys have only been home for a few days and _____
3. I was happy to move across country with my new husband _____
4. The first question is the hardest. Once you get past that one, _____
5. You need to baby sit for your sister tonight. _____
6. We can keep talking about this _____ but it won't help.



Home Among The Gum Trees

Lyrics by John Williamson



I've been around the world a couple of times, or maybe more,
I've seen the sights, I've had delights on every foreign shore,
but when my mates all ask me the place that I adore,
I tell them right away.

Give me a home among the gum trees,
with lots of plum trees, a sheep or two, a kangaroo.
A clothesline out the back, verandah out the front,
and an old rocking chair.

You can see me in the kitchen cooking up a roast
or Vegemite on toast, just you and me, a cup of tea.
And later on we'll settle down and mull up on the porch,
and watch the possums play.

Give me a home among the gum trees,
with lots of plum trees, a sheep or two, a kangaroo.
A clothesline out the back, verandah out the front,
and an old rocking chair.

There's a Safeway up the corner, and a Woolies down the street,
a brand new place they've opened up where they regulate the heat,
but I'd trade them all tomorrow for a simple bush retreat
where the kookaburras call.

Give me a home among the gum trees,
with lots of plum trees, a sheep or two, a kangaroo.
A clothesline out the back, verandah out the front,
and an old rocking chair.

Some people like their houses with fences all around,
others live in mansions, and some beneath the ground.
But me, I like the bush, you know, with rabbits running 'round,
and a pumpkin vine out the back.

Give me a home among the gum trees,
with lots of plum trees, a sheep or two, a kangaroo.
A clothesline out the back, verandah out the front,
and an old rocking chair.

Discussion

This is John Williamson's idea of a perfect home. What would be your perfect home?

Consider

- Where it would be
- What it would look like
- What would be out front
- What would be down the road
- What animals might be around

Think of the places you have called home.

What was the most ideal home you have ever had? Describe it.

Do you consider more than one place as your home? People sometimes talk about their 'ancestral home.' What do you think that means? Is your ancestral home the place you now live?

Descriptive Writing

John Williamson's song is written with rhyming words which makes it enjoyable to sing or listen to.

Write a paragraph that describes what his home would look like. Use the information from Williamson's song. However, do not write your paragraph in verse with rhyming words. You will want to consider things like what the outside of the house will look like, what will be happening inside, where it will be located and what else will be in the area.

Narrative Writing

Write about your perfect home – either as you have experienced it or as you would like it to be.



Home Team

Go the Rabbitohs!

The *South Sydney Rabbitohs* were established in 1908. One version of how the club got its moniker says that during the depression, many of the players used to catch and sell rabbits, calling out "Rabbitoh" as they walked the neighbourhood in search of income. Another version says it was a derogatory reference to South's homeground being littered with "rabbit `oles" (holes).

The club used to be called the "pride of the league" and in their near century long history, Souths won 20 first grade premierships - more than any other club. It was often said that when *Souths go well, Rugby League goes well*.

Despite its rich history, on October 15, 1999, the NRL announced the Rabbitohs would not be invited to participate in the 2000 competition. But in a classic Australian story, the club refused to give up. Street rallies were attended by 150,000 people and forced the NRL to readmit the club two years later. Sadly, it still couldn't produce a decent footy team and the club remained firmly entrenched in its `rabbithole' as other clubs ran over the top of it.

Although the street rallies demonstrated the passion and loyalty that Souths still commanded, popularity in Rugby League is somewhat unimportant due to the NRL's reliance upon poker machines. In the era where clubs made most of their money via gate takings, the Rabbitohs' huge supporter base ensured they were always one of the league's wealthiest clubs with funds to develop, retain and buy players. But as clubs became more reliant upon poker machine income, clubs such as *Eastern Suburbs* which have few fans and almost no junior development, were able to outbid Souths for players on the basis it has a profitable league club and Souths do not.

Without a future, in 2006 the "people's club" voted to accept private ownership. An injection of private funds was seen as the only hope for the future.

Before you begin.....

Have a look at this photo.



What do you think it tells you about the article you are about to read?

Discussion Questions

Many people have a home team that they follow.

Following are some possible discussion questions that you might like to use with your students:

- Do you follow any particular sport?
- Do you have a favourite team that you support?
- How do you support your team?
- Do you go to games?
- Do you watch them at odd hours of the night?
- Do you check the internet to see how they are doing?
- What are some of the local teams in your city?
- What are some of the local teams in your suburb?
- Were you in Sydney for the Olympics in 2000? What was it like?

Vocabulary

Match the word on the left with its meaning on the right:

| Word | Meaning |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. established | a. name |
| 2. version | b. gatherings to support a cause |
| 3. moniker | c. insulting |
| 4. derogatory | d. fixed |
| 5. rallies | e. set up |
| 6. entrenched | f. more money given |
| 7. reliance | g. dependency |
| 8. injection of...funds | h. report, description |

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| | |
| 9. classic | i. entry, admission |
| 10. gate taking | j. typical, characteristic |

Language: Compound Words

There are several compound words in the text.

Scan the text, highlight the compound words and write 6 of them below:

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |
| 5 | |
| 6 | |

Language: Prefix

The prefix *re* can mean *back* or *again*.

In the text it says:

*Street rallies were attended by 150,000 people and forced the NRL to **readmit** the club two years later.*

What do you think *readmit* means?

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

List 5 other words with the prefix *re*:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 1. | |
| 2. | |
| 3. | |

| | |
|-----------|--|
| | |
| 4. | |
| 5. | |

Language: comparative

The text says that the Rabbitohs were one of the league’s wealthiest clubs. Complete the following table showing the comparative forms of the following words. Remember, when the base word ends in *y*, drop the *y*, add *i* and then the ending. The first one has been done for you.

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <i>wealthy</i> | <i>wealthier</i> | <i>Wealthiest</i> |
| 2. happy | | |
| 3. healthy | | |
| 4. pretty | | |
| 5. tiny | | |
| 6. silly | | |

Reading for meaning

Answer the following questions based on the text:

1. When were the South Sydney Rabbitohs established?
2. Explain 1 version of how the Rabbitohs got their name.
3. What sport do the Rabbitohs play?
4. What forced the NRL to readmit the Rabbitohs?
5. Explain the expression *entrenched in its rabbithole*.

6. The article says that most clubs have stopped making most of their money in gate taking. How do they now make money?

7. What did the 'people's club' decide to do in 2006?

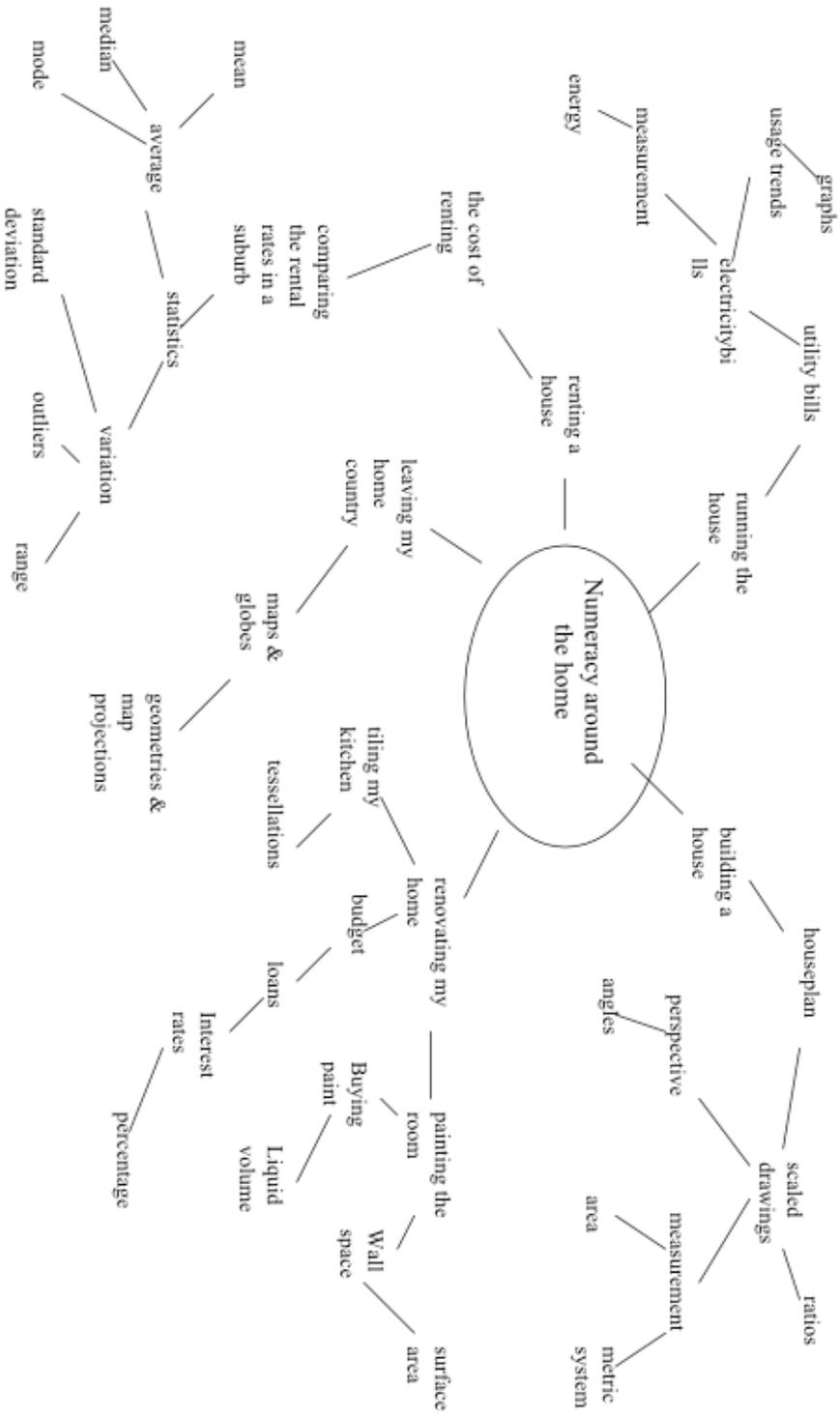
Research

Find out about the private ownership of the Rabbitohs.
Who are the new owners?



Numeracy Around the Home

Numeracy around the home ... some starting points and directions



What I remember about my home.



Write about the country that your home was in.

Describe what your home looked like.

Describe some of the people who lived in your home.

Write about some good times you had in your home.

Did many people visit your home?

Write about what makes a home comfortable. Is it the size of the home, the cost of the home or the people who live in the home?

Was it difficult living in your home?

Have you returned to this home? Was it different from how you remembered it? What was different about it; was it smaller, bigger, and older?

What makes a good home?

