



Academic Writing Podcast 9 – Metaphors and Idioms

Sample Text

Archaeologists' recent discovery of 7,500-year-old fishing poles and traps in eastern Russia **sheds new light on** pre-agricultural human civilization. The fishing equipment was found near the Dubna river basin and provides **glaring** evidence of year-round settlements. Previously, it was believed that humans were entirely nomadic during this period, but this theory was overturned **in light of** the new discovery. The archaeologists **elucidate** their new theory by explaining that the people of this settlement probably used fish as key source of protein and traded fish as part of their economic life. Many other artifacts were found at the site where the fishing equipment was located: together, these findings **illuminate** human civilization at the time. The archaeologists' paper concludes by **highlighting** the importance of scientific exploration and research.

Glossary

1) to shed (cast, throw) new light on

to make something clearer

- Experts hope the plane's flight recorders will **shed light on** the cause of the crash.
- The latest study could **throw light on** why older people are the only ones affected.

2) glaring

very easily seen (to glare means to shine too brightly)

- a **glaring error/omission/inconsistency/injustice**
- the most **glaring example** of this problem
- The work, unfortunately, contains **glaring** contradictions.
- This is in **glaring** contrast to the process described in previous chapters.

3) in (the) light of

after considering something, because of

- Biodiversity must be protected, especially **in light of** the complex global environmental challenges.
- Hence, **in the light of** this situation, it might be insightful to explore the perceptions of the Russian learners' perception of traditional English grammar rules.



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4) to elucidate

to make something clearer by explaining it more fully

- The findings from this study begin to **elucidate** the unique context of the Russian market.
- The calls this paper explore can not be **elucidated** through traditional empirical description.
- This article **elucidates** the health-related quality of life among people living in the TOOLONG Plateau of China.

5) to illuminate

to show more clearly something which is difficult to understand

- This text **illuminates** the philosopher's early thinking.
- This research will help **illuminate** how variation in genotype is related to variation in phenotype.
- DeVoto **illuminated** the inner life of modern liberalism as no one had before or since.

6) to highlight

to emphasise something important, especially so that people give it more attention

- The report **highlights** the major problems facing society today.
- These findings **highlight** the need for community colleges to create a climate of fairness and inclusiveness.
- These results **highlight** how habitat structure can shape wildlife disease.

Tasks

How many phrases do you remember which include the word **light**?

What other phrases do you remember which associate with **light**?¹

¹ Voices: Voices: Imanni Wilkes Burg and Zhenya Bakin