

Idioms That Ring a Bell

An activity of "The world loves bells".

In "**The world loves bells**" (page 22–23, *What's Up* January 2023) we read about bells around the world that have been restored recently. The love for bells is reflected in the English language too — several popular idioms have "bell", or its variation, in them.

1. Complete each the following sentences with an idiom from this list:

saved by the bell	set off alarm bells	ring a bell
sound the death knell*	clear as a bell	bells and whistles

*"knell" refers to the sound of a bell, usually during serious occasions like funerals.

- a) "Have you heard of Dick Lee?" Dinesh asked. "Hmm, the name does _____, but I can't recall who he is," Wei Zhong replied.
- b) Grandpa is very down-to-earth. He is happy with a basic handphone without all the _____. "I just need to make phone calls and send messages with it," he explains.
- c) Advocato the cat heard Timmy call her _____, but she feigned ignorance and looked the other way. Timmy sighed. Perhaps they should have gotten a dog.
- d) The incoming phone call appeared to be from the authorities. But, when the caller asked for her bank account details, that _____ and Aiman hung up.
- e) The teacher was moving down the row, checking on homework. Valerie was next but her worksheet was blank. "Miss Tay, it's recess time!" someone called out. Miss Tay dismissed the class. Valerie breathed a sigh of relief — _____!
- f) You would hope that fines for litterbugs would _____ for littering, but the battle against this menace is still going on.

2. Now that you have warmed up, unleash your creativity! Using **all five idioms**, compose a short story within 250 words. Use this space to draft your story.

2. When you are happy with your story, submit it as your entry for our contest. Make sure you have used all five idioms (see page 1), and kept within 250 words.

CONTEST: A TALE FULL OF BELLS

Email your essay to ourcontest@whatsup.sg.

- Put “A tale full of bells” as the subject.
- Include your full name, class, and school.

Contest deadline: 17 February 2023