



# Insights From The Front Desk

## Idioms are a Learned Skill, by Jasmine Wear

You don't have to have a processing disability to be confused about the meaning of a word, phrase, or an idiom. An idiom as described by the Oxford dictionary is "a group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words." This means that unless someone teaches you the meaning, it is difficult to determine the meaning using the words alone. Idioms can be classified as transparent, semi-transparent, and opaque. Transparent idioms are described as having meaning more closely related to the meanings of the words. Opaque idioms have little to no connection to the literal meaning of the phrase, 'Kick the bucket' is an example of an opaque idiom.

Idioms are inherently unpredictable to individuals looking at them literally, this is because some idioms are metaphorical. Idioms are rooted in the culture and mannerism used within the language. They are often used as sub context where they introduce the figurative meanings. This is why many non-native English speakers struggle to understand the complex, figurative meanings of English idioms.

Studies have shown that as children age they develop the ability to understand idioms ([Click here to view this study](#)). However, activities that teach children about the meaning of idioms have been proven to help comprehension ([Click here to read more about this study](#)). If you are struggling to understand idioms, researching the meanings, and cultural aspects of an idiom may be helpful in understanding idioms. [Click here to view a list of common idioms including meanings and usage](#)



Above Images of idioms literal meanings Ex. Cat got your tongue [Click here to view this image online](#)

## Language Nuances, by Alix Comelo

Language nuances communicate meaning essential to understanding. According to Youtuber, language nuances matter. According to “Nuance in Language Learning” by A Better You (Youtuber), “Nuance refers to shades of meaning created by the subtle differences in word meaning and usage. Nuance is used to impact the reader's emotions and response to a text. Nuance can also be used to foreshadow and to create a more memorable reading experience”. In other words, words have various connotations.



Above shows words with difference connotations. [Click here to go to image online](#)

Nuance refers to a difference in appearance, meaning and sound; it can be used to describe subtle variations of language, expression, or sound that make an impression, idea or feeling. Having nuanced English allows you to use the language in a more precise or interesting way. A good example of this would be describing something good as “lovely”, someone brave as “courageous”, calm as “determined”, walk as in “shuffle”. These words might seem small but they greatly affect how we understand what is being said. Whether it's a presentation, a poem, or an assignment it can greatly affect the tone.

[Click here to check out the Youtube video, "Nuance in Language Learning" by A Better You \(Youtuber\).](#)

## Tips for Staying Motivated By Jasmine Wear

1. Pick a major you enjoy.
2. Add a fun elective to spice up an unexciting semester.
3. Surround yourself with good friends.
4. Join a club! [Click here to see FRC clubs!](#)
5. Support campus sports. [Click here to view the Sports Calendar.](#)
6. Attend Campus events! [Click here to view the Events Calendar.](#)

## Spotlight on Artificial Intelligence

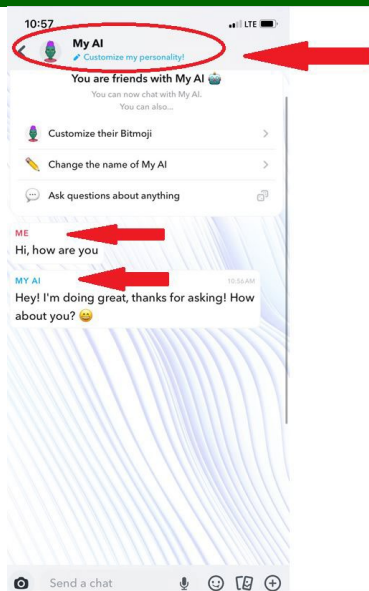
Let's talk about the elephant in the room, Chat GPT. ChatGPT is artificial intelligence developed by a research company startup called OpenAI. According to Statista, a website reporting on cybercrime, "The AI-operated chatbot is a large language model (LLM) based on deep learning techniques." Statista also reports that while it is increasing in popularity, the main concerns have been around the ethics of its misuse.

While it may seem as if AI has really picked up in this 2024 year, this technology was first deployed in 1988 as an asset management tool to analyze market risks. It was called Aladdin, because it made predictions for investors like a genie. ([Click here to read more from the source](#)).

Chat GPT uses similar computing power, as it is AI driven by data to make predictions based on the data it is provided. Advances in Natural Language Processing (NLP) explains how this more advanced machine inference system works. Check out the following links to find out more:

- [What is Chat GPT?](#)
- [AI's Next Great Challenge: Understanding the Nuances of Language](#)
- [Advances in Natural Language Processing](#)
- [BlackRock bets on Aladdin as genie of growth](#)

The predictive power of AI increases as more data is fed into the system. The AI technology being used is a collection of data that gathers information to analyze. While it may produce reports of established general patterns of reasoning, it is still unable to deal with specific details that depend on situational context. Even so, it can be difficult to discern the difference between artificial or human intelligence. We decided to see what this looked like in the popular social media app, Snapchat. The experiment is shown below:



In this above screenshot of Snapchat AI, we see a human user asking Chat GPT AI how it is and it responds with all the nuances of a thoughtful human being.

The results are in. AI sure sounds humanlike!

There is no doubt that AI is now attempting to imitate human speech, so the question is, how can we tell if we are speaking with a computer or a real human? For starters, we can look at the screen to see if the speaker (source) is referenced. We see this is the case with AI on the social media platform, Snapchat.

Communication is what sets humans apart from other species. To say communication is simply the transfer of information is to minimize its complexity, because it is the nature of interactions that builds real human relationships. [Click here to read more about this subject](#).

## Human Versus AI Created Content, by Sean Cvengros

Technology is changing the way we perceive information. We examined results of human versus AI created content.

*Check it out! We wrote on this Prompt:* What is real? And what is not? Here is a side by side comparison.

### Content created by Sean, The Human.

As Artificial Intelligence is becoming more and more prevalent in today's society it is quite difficult to distinguish between what is reality and what is not. As AI can now create images, write full blown detailed essays, create computer programs, mimic famous voices and much more. There are certain tools online that can help distinguish between what is Artificial Intelligence and what is human created, but as time goes on it gets harder and harder to distinguish. And being able to differentiate what is AI generated or human without tools is generally near impossible.

### Content created by AI, Chat GPT.

The question of what is real and what is not delves into the realms of philosophy and perception. Reality, in its most conventional sense, comprises elements that exist objectively, independent of individual perception or interpretation, such as physical objects and natural phenomena. However, the subjective nature of human experience introduces complexities; what may be real to one person may not be so to another. Subjectivity blurs the lines between objective reality and personal interpretation, suggesting that reality can be influenced by perception, beliefs, and experiences. Furthermore, philosophical perspectives like idealism suggest that reality may be fundamentally mental or spiritual, while theories such as simulation theory propose that what we perceive as reality could be akin to a sophisticated simulation. Thus, the distinction between what is real and what is not remains a multifaceted and open-ended inquiry.

What Chat GPT created and what I, a human being, created is drastically different. Chat GPT went into philosophical perspectives and personal interpretation of reality in terms of what's real and what isn't. By contrast, I wrote about the rise of AI and how difficult it is to distinguish between what's real and what is not. AI used sophisticated transitions, was open ended and broad, and outperformed my grammar and literary flow. In terms of a better answer mine was more relevant, because I could see between the lines while ChatGPT just provided details like a computer. The difference was in the fact that I am a human with emotional intelligence and it is a machine just looking at data.

Now here is an AI and human created image with the prompt: A dog sitting in a doorway getting ready for a walk.



The above image is a human generated creation of a dog.



The above image is an AI generated creation of a dog.

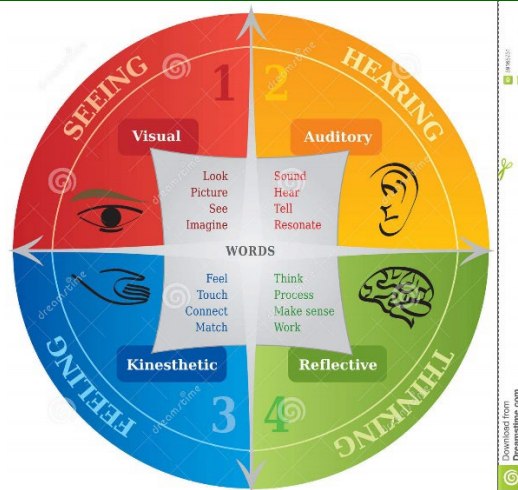
I spent about a day to complete my image, while the AI took my image and generated a completely new one within seconds. Both images are extremely similar, but the human created image has a lot of flaws, because it was done by a real artist with color pencils. The AI tool used some of the same colors of my designs to create its own unique image with the reference of my picture and the same prompt. The AI generated art was useful, but not the same experience.

## What is a Learning Disability, by Sean Cvengros

What is a learning disability? According to Walters State Community College, a learning disability is a significant difficulty in the acquisition and the use of listening, speaking, reading, writing reasoning and or mathematical ability. [Click here to go to this source.](#) In simple terms, a learning disability is a processing difficulty.

You don't have to have a learning disability to utilize these strategies, as they will be just as helpful to you as anyone else. Here are some useful study tips:

- **Understand Your Learning Style** – Try to identify what kind of learning style you have. Whether your style is primarily visual, auditory, or hands on learning, you should tailor your learning experiences to your dominant learning preference.
- **Time management** – Develop a consistent study schedule to help maintain focus and productivity.
- **Color Coordination** – When taking notes or while reading a textbook it is often helpful to use different colors to help distinguish between ideas.
- **Read Ahead** – Preview text before class. This can help you be knowledgeable and ask valuable questions.
- **Take Consistent Breaks between assignments**– Taking frequent breaks can help you come back with a different perspective. A break for a minimum of 15 minutes every hour is a great refresh, so you are not stressed.
- **Organization** – Staying organized can help clear up the mind clutter. Be successful with tools like planners, calendars, and checklists to stay on top of assignments.
- **Create Outlines**– It's easy to get off topic and distracted, but following an outline will make sure you stay on topic and consistent with whatever you may be working on.



[Click here to go to the source of the above Learning Style Diagram online](#)

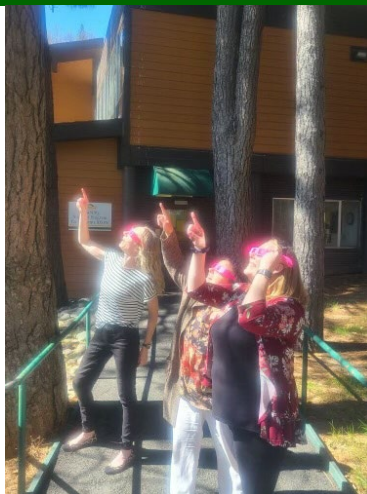
## What's going on in the DSPS Office?

### Chips, Dips, Solar Eclipse DSPS Party



Sarah Dimick and Heather Robinson on Chips, Dips, Solar Eclipse DSPS Party Day

### April 8<sup>th</sup> Solar Eclipse Day



Sarah Dimick, Danielle Westmoreland, and Heather Robinson looking at Solar Eclipse April 8th.

## We provide technology to help you succeed!

- ✓ Read your text out loud,
- ✓ Type with your voice,
- ✓ Transcribe your lectures.

[Click here to contact DSPS](#)

## Coach Dee says

*Pictures are worth a thousand words* and *a rose by any other name would still be a rose* are well known quotes. They can be described as food for thought. Let's get our thoughts jogging with the following images:

Do you have test anxiety?

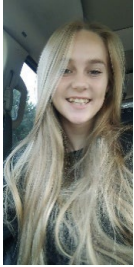
Can you rate your level?



AI generated image with Abobe Firefly 2/27/2024

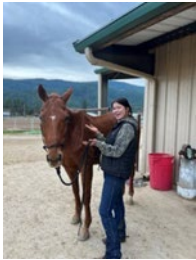


## DSPS OFFICE STUDENT STAFF



Jasmine Wear

Jasmine Wear is a senior at FRC who is studying Farm and Ranch Management with the goal of receiving her Bachelor's degree. Jasmine grew up in Mendocino County, California and aspires to use her degree for beef cattle production. She enjoys spending time in nature, hanging out with friends, and has a passion for animals and disability awareness.



Violet Heyman-Fratus

Violet Heyman-Fratus is a freshman at FRC who is majoring in Equine Science. She enjoys hanging out with her friends and trying new things. Her favorite thing to do on weekends is ride her horse into town and get pizza! A fun fact about Violet is she used to be a competitive dancer.



Alix Camelo

Alix Camelo is a freshman at FRC, she will be receiving her Associates degree in Business by 2025. She loves talking to people and helping others. She plans to transfer to a 4 year university to get her Bachelors and then Masters. She enjoys getting lost in conversation, the beach and sunny days. She is from Los Angeles, California. She has also started an ASL club to pursue her dream of learning Sign Language. Her favorite saying is "Yesterday was a gift, today is a blessing, and tomorrow is a mystery." Never forget that life is short, so live it to the fullest and don't worry about the things you can't control.



Sean Cvengros

Sean Cvengros is a first semester student at FRC. His major is Psychology with the goal of ultimately becoming a therapist in the future. He loves to spend time outdoors, fishing, backpacking, hiking, surfing and so much more! Sean has a passion for mental health awareness, animals, and Ecology.

## DSPS OFFICE STAFF



Sarah Dimick

Sarah Dimick is the Director of Disability Support Programs for Students, and WorkAbility III. She attended FRC before transferring to CSU Chico to pursue her bachelor's and master's degrees. Sarah was diagnosed with a disability while in graduate school, and had to quickly learn how to navigate school while also focusing on her health. While this was incredibly challenging, she was able to complete her degree with the support of her instructors, and mentors. Sarah is grateful to be able to use her experience as a student with a disability to help others achieve their goals. She lives at Lake Almanor with her husband and two cats, and spends her time reading and starting crafts that she will most likely never finish.



Heather Robinson

Heather Robinson lives in Quincy with her teenage daughter. She attends Chico State University's online Social Science program, working towards a BA with an emphasis on career and life planning. Heather has worked as a caregiver for those with disabilities for about 15 years, as she enjoys assisting others to gain and maintain their independence. Heather loves spending time in the forest and enjoys crystal hunting.



Danielle Westmoreland

Danielle Westmoreland has worked as the DSPS Assistive Technology Specialist since 2007. She returned to Quincy to marry her husband after earning her BA at CSU Chico. During her attendance at FRC she was in many student leadership roles. She is the club advisor for the campus sign language club, Sounds of Signs. She is passionate about helping dsp students to achieve their educational goals. Her ability to empathize with others comes from her background of having a traumatic head injury when she was thirteen. She is also author of two books everyone can relate to: "Tapping out Beats" and "Covid Chronicles with Dee and Flower," which both showcase how we need the spirit of connection to inspire growth.

DSPS OFFICE MAIN EXT. 255

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