



# “Idioms: Do You See What I’m Saying?”

Presented by: Wink Smith

## **Objectives: “Idioms: Do You See What I’m Saying?”**

English idioms can be an interpreter’s worst nightmare. However, idioms are a common form of expression, used with purpose. Interpreters are supposed to take a message and convey it with the speaker’s intent into a language most accessible to the receiver. If you revert to the receiver’s second language during the use of an idiom, the intention may be lost. Imagine interpreting the phrase, “there is more than one way to skin a cat.” When I was a kid, I signed that — almost verbatim — to my Deaf father. Let’s just say we spent an additional 15 minutes clearing up why the mechanic would want my dad to skin our cat. On the other hand, the intent can be lost when we try to convert the idiom to the lowest common denominator. An idiom is often used as a “period” to a sentence, which is part of the crucial information about that message that must come across to the receiver.

This workshop isn’t limited to only practicing these idioms. Rather, interpreting idioms becomes easier with a little theory to build these interpretations upon. This workshop demonstrates how to break down idioms by the meaning of the English expression, not by the individual words that are used. Participants will use the structures of both English and ASL to their benefit, as well as learn tools that will enable them to analyze these idioms and discuss best practices with regards to interpreting them. This will be accomplished by the use of dozens of samples, some of which have multiple meanings and various options for delivery. This workshop sets the groundwork for deconstructing English idioms in order to determine their core meaning and strategies to effectively interpret them into ASL concepts. ***\*Presented in ASL\****

## **The presenter: Linguist, Entertainer, Presenter, Interpreter**

Wink, MA, MBA, NIC Master, enjoys researching and creating various workshops that focus on skill building through deliberate practice, which he wrote about in the RID Views, Winter 2012 issue. Presenting workshops the last ten years at national conferences (NAD, RID, Silent Weekend) regional conferences (RID I, II, III, IV, V), state conferences, and local workshops across the nation has given Wink experiences to enhance applications for interpreters of all levels. Wink is widely noted for the comfortable atmosphere he creates and the passion he exudes. Currently Wink travels full time performing, presenting workshops, and managing Winkshop, Inc, through which he has developed a dozen training DVDs. A fun fact: in 2016 alone, Wink traveled professionally enough miles to circle the earth over three times. (ASL: <https://youtu.be/o4Pv0mAqETA>)

## **WHEN:**

**July 13, 2019**

**Radford  
University**

**Bonnie Hurlburt  
Student Center**

**“The Bonnie”**

**Rooms 249/250**

## **TIME**

**9 AM – 12 PM**

**0.3 CEUs**

## ***HOSTED BY:***

*The Virginia  
Department of  
Education Interpreter  
Grant*



**Virginia Registry of  
Interpreters for the  
Deaf**

**RADFORD  
UNIVERSITY**



**Cost:**

VRID Members: \$50.00

VRID Non-Members: \$60.00

VRID Student Members: \$25.00

DOE Grant Participants: Free

To request accommodations or any other questions please contact Karen Stinson at [kastinson@radford.edu](mailto:kastinson@radford.edu)