

## Appendix 4

### Sorting Task Instrument

| <b>Idiom Survey (V1)</b>   |                                    |       |  |    |                          |       |
|--|------------------------------------|-------|--|----|--------------------------|-------|
| Please sort these idioms into two groups: transparent (T), or opaque (O). A transparent idiom is one whose meaning can be figured out from its words. For example, play with fire gives us an image that relates to inviting danger or trouble. An opaque idiom, on the other hand, is one whose words do not give clues to its meaning. For example, the words butter up appear to have no relationship to the act of flattery. |                                    |       |  |    |                          |       |
|  |                                    | T / O |  |    |                          | T / O |
| 1  | between a rock and a hard place    |       |  | 24 | pull my leg              |       |
| 2  | stick out like a sore thumb        |       |  | 25 | tie the knot             |       |
| 3  | pull the plug                      |       |  | 26 | with flying colors       |       |
| 4  | my cup of tea                      |       |  | 27 | walk on eggshells        |       |
| 5  | a piece of cake                    |       |  | 28 | quit cold turkey         |       |
| 6  | put your money where your mouth is |       |  | 29 | clean as a whistle       |       |
| 7  | kick the bucket                    |       |  | 30 | pay through the nose     |       |
| 8  | dead as a doornail                 |       |  | 31 | tough as nails           |       |
| 9  | twenty-four seven                  |       |  | 32 | like the back of my hand |       |
| 10   | scratch the surface                |       |  | 33 | in a pickle              |       |
| 11   | like a deer in the headlights      |       |  | 34 | to think outside the box |       |
| 12   | out like a light                   |       |  | 35 | push the envelope        |       |
| 13   | a shot in the dark                 |       |  | 36 | work like a charm        |       |
| 14   | hit like a ton of bricks           |       |  | 37 | under the weather        |       |
| 15   | bite the bullet                    |       |  | 38 | see eye to eye           |       |
| 16   | built like a tank                  |       |  | 39 | a pain in the neck       |       |
| 17   | sell like hotcakes                 |       |  | 40 | sugarcoat the truth      |       |
| 18   | put two and two together           |       |  | 41 | back to square one       |       |
| 19   | to feel blue                       |       |  | 42 | on pins and needles      |       |
| 20   | take it with a grain of salt       |       |  | 43 | out of the blue          |       |
| 21   | American as apple pie              |       |  | 44 | one track mind           |       |
| 22   | dry as a bone                      |       |  | 45 | like two peas in a pod   |       |
| 23   | feel like a million bucks          |       |  |    |                          |       |