

# A GOOD TURN



# OF PHRASE

ТАКОЙ НЕОЖИДАНЫЙ АНГЛИЙСКИЙ...

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им. А.А. КУЛЕШОВА»

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ТАКОЙ НЕОЖИДАНЫЙ  
АНГЛИЙСКИЙ...

Практикум

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A good turn of phrase = Такой неожиданный английский...:  
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Практикум предназначен для проведения занятий на факультете иностранных языков по курсу «Идиоматическое многообразие английского языка».

Тематически фразеологизмы сгруппированы по четырем разделам. В начале каждого раздела дан словарь по теме, затем предлагаются тексты для чтения, содержащие идиоматические выражения. Предлагаются упражнения по развитию навыков диалогической речи, составлению диалогов со знакомыми идиомами.

Данные материалы могут быть использованы на занятиях по фразеологии английского языка, практике устной и письменной речи и для самостоятельной работы.

Издание рекомендовано для учебной работы на факультете иностранных языков и для широкого круга читателей.

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## PREFACE

This book deals with set expressions. As the practice of translation shows, idiomatic set-phrases happen to be most difficult to cope with for a number of reasons. The first important reason lies in the nature of set - phrases themselves: a phraseological unit is a set lexeme - combination whose meaning is either fully or partially figurative.

The English language is highly idiomatic. What are idioms? Hornby A.S. defines the phenomenon as "language of a people or country: specific character of this, eg. one peculiar to a country, district, group of people, or to one individual. 2(gram.) succession of words whose meaning is not obvious through knowledge of the individual meanings of the constituent words but must be learnt as a whole."

An idiom as a group of words combined to express an idea beyond the meaning of the individual words. Eg. *take it easy* is an idiom.

The word *take* means "to get into one's hands" or "to receive". The word *easy* means "not difficult". However, when these words are combined, as in *take it easy*, they form a unit that means "relax" or "make oneself free from care".

Idioms can be arranged in different ways, eg. phrases from geography, recreation, medicine, business, etc.

Formal classification is based on the fact that set expressions can function in speech as:

- a) nouns (maiden name, ladies' man, lord and master);
- b) verbs (take advantage; pick and choose);
- c) adjectives (high and mighty, as mad as a hatter);
- d) adverbs (by reason of, once in a blue moon);
- e) sentences (Bless (one's) soul! God bless me! ).

Most idioms in this book are acceptable forms of expression and are found in speeches, movies, novels and newspapers. There is no slang in this book because slang tends to become outdated quickly.

This book will help you notice, understand, and use idioms. The studying of the offered idioms will enrich your vocabulary and help you communicate like a native speaker of English.

## UNIT 1

### Разговорные выражения для различных ситуаций

#### Conventional expressions for situations of everyday life

##### *Стадии разговора*

##### *Conversation stages*

1. Понял – I got you.
2. Теперь нам всё ясно – Now we know where we are.
3. Я не совсем понял Вас – I didn't quite get you.
4. Я не расслышал последнее слово – I didn't catch the last word.
5. В этом смысл? – Is that the point?
6. Я Вас правильно понял? – Did I get you right?
7. Куда Вы ведёте разговор? – What are you driving at?
8. Вы читаете мои мысли – You read my mind.
9. Логично – It stands to reason.
10. Что-то есть (рациональное) в том, что ты говоришь – There is something in what you say.
11. Будем придерживаться фактов – Let us stick to facts.
12. Обратимся к фактам – Let us take facts.
13. От этого факта никуда не уйти – There is no getting away from the fact.
14. В этом-то вся и разница – That makes all the difference.
15. Это дело мнения каждого – It is a matter of opinion.
16. Тем не менее – Nevertheless.
17. Не говоря о... – To say nothing of...
18. Не говоря уже о... – Let alone...
19. Спроси что-нибудь полегче – Ask me another.
20. Я совершенно ничего не знаю об этом – I don't know the first thing about it.

21. К сожалению, не знаю – I wish I knew.
22. Если мне не изменяет память – If I remember rightly.
23. Боже мой! – Dear me!
24. Хотите верьте, хотите нет – Believe it or not.
25. Подумать только – Just fancy.
26. Это верх всему – That beats everything.
27. Хватит, перестань! – Come on, stop it!
28. Что там у тебя ещё? – What is it now?
29. Не могли бы Вы уделить мне минутку внимания? –  
Could you spare me a moment?
30. Можно мне с Вами поговорить? – May I have a word with  
you?
31. Не могли бы Вы сделать мне одолжение? – Could you do  
me a favour?
32. Не вешайте трубку, подождите – Hold the line, don't  
hang up.

### ***Оценка ситуации***

### ***Evaluation of a situation***

1. Не стоит – It is not worth while.
2. Чуть не попали в беду – It was a narrow escape.
3. Извините, пожалуйста, я хотел как лучше – Forgive me,  
please, I meant well.
4. Я не хотел Вас обидеть – I did not mean to hurt you.
5. Не сердитесь на меня – Don't be cross with me.
6. Не буду больше занимать Вашего времени – I won't take  
any more of your time.
7. Не пропадайте (держите связь) – Keep in touch.
8. Я буду скучать по Вас – I shall be missing you.
9. Берегите себя – Take care of yourself.
10. Привет семье – My best regards to everybody at home.
11. Это делает Вам честь – It does you credit.
12. Молодец! – You have made a good job of it!
13. Вы превзошли самого себя – You have surpassed yourself.
14. Именно так это нужно сделать – That is the way to do it.
15. Именно это нужно сделать – It is the very thing to do.
16. Тем лучше – So much the better.
17. Это честная игра – It is a fair play.

18. Хватит / сойдёт – That will do.
19. Это не на должном уровне – It is not up to the mark.
20. Это не делает Вам чести – It does not do you credit.
21. Ты всё испортил / перепутал – You have made a mess of it.
22. Это оставляет желать лучшего – It leaves much to be desired.
23. Это нечестная игра – It is a foul play.
24. Какая от этого польза? – What is the use doing it?
25. Это неуместно – It is out of place.
26. Не стоит (это делать) – It is not worth while.
27. Так тебе и нужно – It serves you right.
28. Какой хам (мошенник/зануда) – What a cad/rascal/bore!
29. Это очень досадно – It is very annoying.
30. Какая наглость! – The cheek!
31. Мне это ужасно надоело – I am sick and tired of it!
32. Старая песня! – The same old story.
33. Чтобы я этого больше не слышал – Don't let me hear it again.
34. Решай сам – It is up to you.
35. Разбирайся сам – Use your own judgement.
36. К чему волнения? – Why worry?
37. Я знал это с самого начала – I have known it all along.
38. Как Вам здесь нравится? – How do you like it here?
39. Что Вы об этом думаете? – What do you make of it?
40. Как там было? – How was it?
41. Чем это закончилось? – How did it work out?
42. Что произошло? – What is up?
43. Что здесь происходит? – What is going on here?
44. Ничего особенного – Nothing much.
45. Пришлось поработать – It was quite a job.
46. Разрешите дать Вам совет – May I give you a word of advice.
47. Молчи об этом – Keep quiet.
48. Не упускай этой возможности – Don't miss the chance.
49. Пусть дела идут своим чередом – Let things take their course.
50. Не делай опрометчивых шагов – Don't take rash steps.
51. Не полагайся на удачу – Don't take chances.

52. Не ищи неприятностей - Don't look for trouble.  
53. Помогнишь мои слова - Mark my words.  
54. Я буду осторожен - I'll look out.  
55. Ну, хватит, успокойся - Come, come.  
56. Ну, хватит, успокойся - There, there.  
57. Ну, ладно, не надо расстраиваться - Well, well.  
58. Не делай из этого проблему - Don't make an issue of it.  
59. Всё устроится - Everything will come round.  
60. Всякое бывает - Things happen.  
61. Следующий раз повезёт - Next time lucky.  
62. Я никогда не переживу этого - I shall never get over it.  
63. Я совершенно выдохся - I am completely run down.  
64. Ничего не вышло - It didn't work out.  
65. Ничего не получилось - Nothing came off.  
66. Чуть не случилось / за малым... - It was a near thing.  
67. Мы едва избежали неприятностей - It was a narrow  
escape.  
68. Он подвёл нас - He failed us.  
69. Он пошёл на попятную (отказался от своих слов) - He  
backed out.  
70. Он подвёл нас - He let us down.  
71. Таковы дела - That is the way things are.  
72. При таком положении дел - As things stand now.  
73. Время истекает - Time is getting short.  
74. Не спеши, работай спокойно - Take your time.  
75. Я об этом позабочусь - I'll see about it.  
76. Не отказывайся от своего слова - Don't go back on  
your word.  
77. Ловлю тебя на слове - I take you at your word.  
78. На сегодня всё. Заканчиваем. - Let us call it a day.

***Согласие, подтверждение. Одобрение, неодобрение.***

***Agreement, confirmation. Approval, disapproval***

1. Сделай / пусть сделают - Be sure to do it.
2. Будем надеяться - Let us hope for the best.
3. Заранее Вам благодарен - Thank you in advance.
4. У меня договорённость о встрече - I have an appointment.



5. Было очень весело – It was a great fun.
6. Было не до шуток – It was no fun.
7. С удовольствием – With pleasure.
8. С большим удовольствием – Most willingly.
9. К сожалению, не могу – I wish I could.
10. На Вашем месте я бы... – If I were you...
11. Обязательно сделай это – Be sure to do it.
12. Пусть тебе это сделают – Have it done.
13. Не смей – Don't you dare.
14. Ты заплатишься за это – You will pay for it.
15. Тебе это так просто не сойдёт – You won't get away with it.
16. Не суетись – Don't be fussy.
17. Я заколебался... – I am in two minds...
18. Логично. – It stands to reason.
19. Само собой разумеется. – That goes without saying.
20. Это нельзя отрицать. – There is no denying it.
21. Далеко от этого. – Far from it.
22. Это для меня новость. – It is new to me.
23. Ничего подобного. – Nothing of the kind.
24. Не вздумай отказываться / брать свои слова назад – Don't back out.
25. Держи своё слово – Be as good as your word.

**Exercise 1. Choose any three conversational formulas from each unit. Compose a dialogue using these formulas. Then act out your dialogues.**

## UNIT 2

### Idioms from flora and fauna

#### The List of Words

1. Apple	28. Crop	55. Gum	82. Pea
2. Bananas	29. Crow	56. Hare	83. Peacock
3. Bat	30. Cuckoo	57. Hawk	84. Pig
4. Beans	31. Cucumber	58. Hen	85. Pigeon
5. Bear	32. Cudgel	59. Herring	86. Pony
6. Bee	33. Daisy	60. Horn	87. Possum
7. Bird	34. Dodo	61. Horse	88. Potato
8. Branch	35. Dog	62. Kitten	89. Ram
9. Bud	36. Donkey	63. Lamb	90. Rat
10. Bull	37. Duck	64. Lark	91. Rein
11. Bully	38. Duckling	65. Laurel	92. Rose
12. Bunch	39. Elephant	66. Leaf	93. Sardine
13. Bush	40. Ewe	67. Lemon	94. Seal
14. Butterfly	41. Fig	68. Lily	95. Seed
15. Calf	42. Fish	69. Lion	96. Snail
16. Camel	43. Flower	70. Mackerel	97. Snake
17. Carrot	44. Fly	71. Mare	98. Sponge
18. Cat	45. Fowl	72. Mint	99. Swallow
19. Cherry	46. Frog	73. Monkey	100. Swan
20. Chestnut	47. Fruit	74. Mule	101. Tea
21. Chicken	48. Goat	75. Nut	102. Tree
22. Clover	49. Goose	76. Oats	103. Trot
23. Cock	50. Gooseberry	77. Olive	104. Turkey
24. Cockle	51. Grain	78. Onion	105. Whale
25. Corn	52. Grape	79. Oyster	106. Wolf
26. Cow	53. Grass	80. Palm	107. Wood
27. Crocodile	54. Grasshopper	81. Parrot	108. Worm

## A

### APPLE

**An apple of discord** (formal or literary) something which causes jealousy and fighting.

В русском языке: яблоко раздора.

**The apple of (someone's) eye** a person or thing which is greatly loved (by someone).

Любимец; беречь как зеницу ока.

**In apple-pie order** (informal) neat and tidy, with everything in its correct place.

В полном порядке.

## B

### BEE

**Think (one or someone) is the bee's knees** (often derogatory) to think (one or someone else) is the most admirable and wonderful of all people.

Самый лучший; неповторимый.

### BIRD

**An early bird** a person who gains advantage by acting more promptly than others.

Ранняя пташка.

**Give, get the bird** to send or be sent away in a very definite manner and usually rudely.

Освистать (актёра).

**A little bird told me** I found out in a way that I do not intend to reveal.

Слухом земля полнится.

### BULL

**(Like) a bull in a china shop** a person who acts in a very clumsy or tactless way.

Слон в посудной лавке.

**Take the bull by the horns** to tackle a difficulty boldly.

Брать быка за рога.

## BUSH

**Beat about the bush** to approach a subject in an indirect way, without coming to the point.

Ходить вокруг да около.

**(The) bush telegraph** the fast spreading of information, usually by word of mouth (An Australian phrase).

Быстрое распространение слухов.

Молва.

**Bookworm**, someone who reads a lot.

**As blind as a bat** not able to see well because of very bad eyesight.

**Bury the hatchet** to forget old quarrels.

**Blood is thicker than water** blood ties or family relationships are the strongest.

## C

## CAMEL

**The straw that breaks the camel's back** means that when one trivial annoyance, worry etc. is added to another there comes a point when the addition of yet one more causes a disaster.

Последняя капля переполняет чашу.

## CAT

**The cat's pajamas / whiskers** anything very good.

То, что надо.

Первый сорт.

**Grin like a Cheshire cat** (slightly derogatory) to smile very broadly.

Широко улыбаться.

**Like a cat on hot bricks** very nervous and unable to keep still.

Как на иголках.

Как на горячих углях.

**Put the cat among the pigeons** to cause a disturbance, especially suddenly.

Внести переполох.

Внезапно напугать.

**Room to swing a cat** the smallest amount of space necessary (to live in, to do something in etc.).

Повернуться негде.

Невероятная теснота.

**Lead a cat-and-dog life** to quarrel and fight very often.  
Though it is very often that a cat and dog are rather friendly living in one family.

Жить как кошка с собакой.

### **CHESTNUT**

**An old chestnut** an old joke, often no longer funny.

Анекдот с бородой.

### **CHICKEN**

**Count one's chickens before they are hatched** to make plans which depend on something which is still uncertain.

Цыплят по осени считают.

**No spring chicken** no longer young.

Он не маленький.

Не малое дитя.

**Chicken, a** afraid, scared

### **CLOVER**

**In clover** in great comfort and contentment.

У нас не жизнь, а масленица (малина).

Мы живём припеваючи.

### **COCK**

**A cock-and-bull story** an absurd, unbelievable and mostly untrue story.

Вздор.

Небылица (в лицах).

**Cock on the walk** the most important person in a group.

Верховод, заводила.

Первый парень на селе.

### **COW**

**A sacred cow** (derogatory) a custom, tradition, body of people etc. that is regarded (by a group of people) with so much respect that one is not allowed even to criticize it freely. (From the fact that cattle are regarded as sacred by Hindus).

Нечто неприкосновенное.

Истина в последней инстанции.

**Till the cows come home** for a very long time.

До второго пришествия.

Довольно долгий промежуток времени.

## CUCUMBER

**As cool as a cucumber** very calm and not at all upset or worried.

Хладнокровный; невозмутимый.

**Copycat**, a person who wants to do the same thing as other people.

## D

### DAISY

**As fresh as a daisy** very bright, active and untired.

Пышущий здоровьем.

### DOG

**Be top dog** to be the most important or powerful person.

Быть хозяином положения.

Быть важным и обладающим властью.

**Dog eat dog** a situation in which one has to compete ruthlessly in order to survive or be successful.

Добиваться цели, поста всеми средствами, невзирая на окружающих.

Есть поедет друг друга.

**Dog Latin** very incorrect Latin (as compared to Classical Latin).

Кухонная латынь.

**A dogsbody** someone who is given odd jobs, especially unpleasant ones, to do.

Работяга.

Ишак.

**A dog's breakfast / dinner** an untidy mess.

Мешанина.

Неразбериха.

Страшный беспорядок.

**In the doghouse** in disgrace.

В немилости.

**Let sleeping dogs lie** a saying, meaning that one should not try to reform or improve a situation, people etc. who might cause trouble but are not doing so at present.

Не тронь лиха, пока спит тихо.

**Work like a dog, to** to work very hard.

## DONKEY

**Donkey's ages / years** a very long time (From a pun of "donkey's ears" – which are very long).

С незапамятных времён.

**Donkey work hard**, unrewarding part of any task.

Черновая работа.

Самая тяжёлая, незаметная и очень малооплачиваемая работа.

## DUCK

**Be like water off a duck's back** to have no effect.

Как с гуся вода.

**A dead duck** a project, person etc. unlikely to continue or to survive.

Конченный человек.

Гиблое дело.

**A lame duck** (something derogatory) a helpless or inefficient person.

Неудачник.

**Like a dying duck** (derogatory) behaving in a weak, pathetic and sad manner.

Как мокрая курица.

Готовая жертва.

## DUCKLING

**An ugly duckling** a member of a family who at first lacks beauty, cleverness etc. but later becomes the most beautiful or successful.

Гадкий утёнок.

**Drive sb. Round the bend, to** annoy sb. a lot.

## E

### ELEPHANT

A **white elephant** something which is useless and a nuisance or which causes much trouble while doing little good.

Ненужная вещь. Обременительное имущество.

## F

### FIG

**Not to give a fig for (something)** not care about something at all.

А мне всё равно.

Мне безразлично.

А мне наплевать.

### FISH

A **big fish** an important leading person.

Крупная птица.

Важная персона.

**Fish in troubled waters** (derogatory) to take advantage of a disturbance, difficulties, problems etc. to obtain benefits for oneself.

Ловить рыбу (рыбку) в мутной воде.

**Have other fish to fry** to have something else to do or to attend to (and therefore unable to devote all one's attention to the subject being discussed).

Иметь дела поважнее, чем те, которыми занят в настоящий момент.

A **queer fish** (informal derogatory) a person with odd habits, or a person whose personality one does not understand.

Чудак.

Станный тип.

**Never fry a fish till it's caught** not to be pleased with your results too early.

Не радуйся раньше времени.

Не дели шкуру неубитого медведя.

**To fish for compliments** to ask for additional praises or compliments.

Напрашиваться на комплименты.



## FLOWER

**The flower of** (formal) the best of.

Цвет (нации, страны, молодёжи, и т.д.).

## FLY

**A flying visit** a very short, often unexpected, visit.

Нанести мимолётный визит.

**A fly in the ointment** something that spoils something or makes something less perfect, attractive or less valuable.

Ложка дёгтя в бочке мёда.

**Fly off the handle** to lose one's temper.

Потерять самообладание.

Сорваться.

Взорваться.

Прийти в ярость.

**A high flier** a person who is ambitious or who has natural characteristics which will cause him or her to be successful.

Подающий большие надежды, многообещающий человек.

**Pigs might fly** an expression indicating that one believes that something is very unlikely to happen.

Бывает, что свиньи летают.

**Time flies** a saying, meaning that time passes very quickly – usually used to express surprise at the amount of time that has passed without one noticing it.

Время летит неумолимо.

Подумать только, как быстро летит время!

## FRUIT

**Bear fruit** (formal) to produce results.

Усилия приносят плоды.

## G

### GRAPE

**The grapevine** an informal means of passing news, rumours etc. from person to person in an office.

Молва донесла до меня, что ...

### GRASS

**The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence** a saying, meaning that one always tends to feel that others are in a better or more favourable position than oneself, or that one would be in better position if circumstances were different.

У других всегда всё кажется лучше.

**The grass roots** the ordinary people in an association, trade union, country etc. as opposed to those who take decisions.

Рядовые граждане.

Происходить из низов.

**A grass widow** a woman whose husband is temporarily not living with her.

Соломенная вдова.

## Н

### HARE

**Run with the hare and hunt with the hounds** to try to be on both sides of an argument at once.

Служить и вашим и нашим.

### HEN

**Henpecked** ruled by his wife.

Быть под каблуком у жены.

### HORSE

**A dark horse** a person about whose abilities etc. little is known.  
Тёмная лошадка.

**Eat like a horse** to eat a great deal.

Он ест за семерых.

**A horse laugh** a loud, harsh laugh.

Громкий хохот.

Ржание.

**A house of a different colour** something or someone of a completely different kind.

Это совсем другой коленкор.

Это совсем из другой оперы.

**Horseplay** rough and noisy play.

Шумная игра. Шумная возня.

**Horse sense plain good sense.**

Полагаться на простой здравый смысл.

**Put the cart before the horse** to do, plan or stay things in the wrong order.

Поставить всё с ног на голову.

Запрячь телегу впереди лошади.

**Straight from the horse's mouth** from a well-informed and reliable source.

Из первых рук.

Из достоверных источников.

**A willing horse** someone who is willing to work, to help people etc.

Работяга.

Рабочая лошадка.

**You can take a horse to the water but you can't make it drink** a saying, meaning that one cannot actually force someone else to perform an action, only encourage him or her to do it.

Заставить нельзя, можно только предложить.

## L

### LARK

**As happy as a lark** very happy.

Распевать весёлые песни, как жаворонок.

Быть весёлым и счастливым.

**Get up with the lark** to rise early in the morning.

Вставать с петухами.

Подниматься ни свет, ни заря.

### LEAF

**Turn over a new leaf** to begin a new and better way of behaving, working, living.

Начинать (начать) новую жизнь.

Исправиться.

### LEMON

**The answer is a lemon** one has given an unsatisfactory answer or no answer at all.

Это не так.

Это неверно.

## LILY

**Gild the lily** to add unnecessary decoration, exaggeration to something.

Перебарщивать.

Переборщить.

Масло масляное.

## LION

**A lion hunter** (derogatory) a person who tries to become friendly with famous people, invites them to parties, spends most of his free time in the places where he can meet those people.

Охотник на львов.

Человек, гоняющийся за знаменитостями.

**The loin's share** the largest share.

Огромное количество чего-либо.

Львиная доля.

**Put one's head in the lion's mouth** to place oneself in a dangerous position.

Рисковать головой.

## M

### MARE

**A mare's nest** a supposed discovery of something which turns out to be imaginary.

Миф.

Иллюзия.

### MINT

**In mint condition** used, but in extremely good condition.

Абсолютно новый.

Новёхонький.

### MONKEY

**Monkey business** mischievous or illegal happenings.

Шалости.

Проделки.

Несерьёзное дело. Мероприятие.

**As quite as a mouse** making almost no noise, being shy and not talking much.

## N

### NUT

**A hard nut to crack** a difficult problem.

Трудная задача.

Твёрдый орешек.

**In a nutshell** something expressed or described very briefly.

Кратко.

В двух словах.

## O

### OLIVE

**An olive branch** a sign of a wish for peace.

Стараться удалить дело миром.

(A symbol for peace in the ancient world).

### ONION

**Know one's onions** to know one's job, the subject one studies well.

Быть экспертом в своём деле.

Он в своём деле собаку съел.

### OYSTER

**The world is his oyster** he can go anywhere and do anything.

Весь мир к его услугам.

## P

### PARROT

**Parrot fashion** without understanding the meaning of what one has learnt, is saying, etc.

Как попугай.

**Sick as a parrot** suffering from a disappointment.

Быть сильно расстроенным (разочарованным).

### PEACOCK

**As proud as a peacock** very proud.

Как гордый павлин.

## PIG

**Go to pigs and whistles** to become ruined or worthless.

Быть забытым или брошенным.

Стать ненужным.

**Pigheaded** not taking advice, stubborn.

## PIGEON

**A stool-pigeon** an informer or spy for the police.

Информатор.

Стукач.

**That's not my pigeon** that is not my affair or interest.

Это не моё (их, наше) дело.

## POSSUM

**Play possum** to pretend to be unavailable, ignorant of a fact or uninterested in order to protect oneself.

Прикидываться бесчувственным.

## POTATO

**A hot potato** a subject, person which is extremely difficult and dangerous to handle or deal with.

Это слишком щекотливый вопрос.

**Play hard to get** to pretend one is not interested in sb.

**Like putty in sb's hands** easily controlled or manipulated

## R

### RAT

**Rat on someone** to betray one's friends or colleagues.

Изменять (изменить) кому-то.

**The rat race** a fierce, unending competition for success, wealth in business, society etc.

Бороться за место под солнцем.

**Smell a rat** to have a feeling that something is not as it should be, but is wrong or bad.

Здесь что-то нечисто.

Чувствовать подвох.

## S

### SEED

**Go to seed 1)** (of a person) to become careless about one's clothes and appearance.

Быть неряшливым.

Опуститься.

Обрюзгнуть.

**Go to seed 2)** (of place) to become rather shabby and uncared for.

Иметь неприглядный вид.

Быть заброшенным.

Непригодный для употребления.

### SNAIL

**At a snail's pace** very slowly.

Ползёт как улитка.

Очень медленно передвигается.

### SNAKE

**A snake in the grass** a person who cannot be trusted.

Пригреть змею у себя на груди.

**The black sheep of the family** a person strongly disapproved of by members of his/her family.

## T

### TEA

**Someone's cup of tea** the sort of thing someone likes or prefers.

Это по мне.

Это в моём вкусе.

### TURKEY

**Talk turkey** (especially in US) to talk honestly and openly, mostly about business.

Вести разговор без обиняков.

**Tie the knot, to** to get married

## W

### WOLF

**Cry wolf** to give warning at an imaginary danger.

Поднять (поднимать) ложную тревогу.

**A lone wolf** a person who prefers to be by himself, without companions.

Индивидуалист.

Единоличник.

### WOOD

**This (that) neck of the woods** a particular place or part of the country.

Глушь.

Отдалённая местность.

**Out of the wood(s)** out of danger.

Быть вне опасности.

Трудности преодолены.

**Touch wood** (used as an interjection) to touch something made of wood superstitiously, in order to avoid bad luck.

Постучать по дереву (по изделию из дерева).

Тьфу, тьфу! Чтоб не сглазить!

### WORM

**The worm turns** a patient, long-suffering person decides not to be patient and long-suffering any longer.

Раб, и тот взбунтуется.

(From a saying – **tread on a worm's tail and it will turn.**)

**Exercise 1. Study the vocabulary. Then translate the sentences.**

1. Twenty five years passed since we live together. Oh dear, how time flies!

2. He is a kind of person whom you can only advise, but he makes the decision himself. It is like a saying – you can take a horse to the water but you can't make it drink.

3. Pat is very young to get married, but Mr. Bring is no sprig chicken.



4. Don't let yourself go to seed when you reach middle age!

5. Ann acts as secretary and general dogsbody to the firm.

6. Our teacher liked all our desks were always in apple-pie order.

7. He is not a very reputable researcher – he is always discovering mare's nests.

8. She doesn't seem to be interested in the project, and everybody suspects that she has other fish to fry.

9. I didn't find that comedian funny. I've heard all those old chestnuts before.

10. She likes their house, their garden – but I think it is just because the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.

11. Little Doris was the apple of her father's eye.

12. Her kitchen is so tiny as well as the whole house – there's hardly room to swing a cat.

13. She is very cautious – she never fries a fish till it's caught.

14. He is a kind of person who runs with hare and hunts with the hounds.

15. At the jail he promised that if he be released he will turn over a new leaf.

16. It was obvious that the mechanic knew his onions and would have our car working again soon.

17. Eric is rather a lone wolf – he likes to go on holiday by himself.

18. Mrs. Edge's big house proved to be an apple of discord for the members of her former family – within a month of her death they were fighting over who should have it.

19. The bush telegraph in our office is the most effective way of spreading news.

20. She is not ambitious and hates the dog – eat-dog business world.

21. The flower of the nation died on the battlefield in the last World War.

22. This is not official but I did hear through the grapevine that he is leaving.

23. Joyce spent the whole day working in the garden and being as happy as a lark.

24. She put her head in the lion's mouth by going to Africa alone.
25. Beware of him – he's a real snake in the grass.
26. She has to be an early bird if she wants to get a bargain at an auction sale.
27. He just stood there watching me make a fool of myself and grinning like a Cheshire cat.
28. I don't think you should mention the fence to the neighbours – I think you should let sleeping dogs lie.
29. Oh dear, this is a pretty kettle of fish!
30. There is some dissatisfaction at the grass roots about our union's policies.
31. She gets up with the lark and does most of the housework before breakfast.
32. They seem to be involved in some monkey business but they think it is very serious and profitable one.
33. I'm sick as a parrot about his coming without his children. My daughter wanted to play with them.
34. She has cried wolf so often about her children's health that no one believes her any longer.
35. The teacher came in time. Someone ratted on them.
36. She was like a cat on hot bricks before her last exam that year.
37. Everyone was rushing about madly except the bride, who was as cool as a cucumber.
38. Jack would feel more sympathy with her if she wouldn't move about the house like a dying duck!
39. I'm not sure but we might have fine weather for our holiday, what do you think? I think that "and pigs might fly!"
40. His horse laugh could be heard throughout the hotel lounge.
41. He said that it would be gilding the lily to wear diamonds with that dress because she looked beautiful without any jewellery at all.
42. The police received information about the planned robbery from a stool-pigeon.
43. The landlord made their life a misery for twenty years until the worm finally turned and they left his house for ever.

44. All the girls at school think John is the bee's knees. I know you think you are the bee's knees, but it is not so!

45. The Aunt's arrival put the cat among the pigeons, she said.

46. He finds it difficult to adjust to his new school after being cock of the walk at his old one.

47. Mary paid her father a flying visit before she went back to Australia.

48. What a dog's breakfast you've made of your homework!

49. I'm a grass widow at the moment – my husband is playing cricket in Australia.

50. I don't give a fig for what he thinks.

51. Children are often indulged in horseplay. It's harmless for them.

52. His car is two years old, but it is still in mint condition.

53. Billy was as proud as peacock that he could use his computer himself.

54. Hard rock is not really her cup of tea, I think. He said that classical music is not his cup of tea.

55. She went to see him to try to end the quarrel but he gave her the bird so she didn't try again.

56. His last letter was like a straw that breaks the camel's back for me.

57. We could cheerfully sit talking at that nice cafe till the cows come home.

58. He forgot his wife's birthday, so he's in the doghouse.

59. During the war, his company had been quietly fishing in troubled waters by selling electronic communication systems to both sides.

60. They knew three of the football players but the fourth was a dark horse for all of them.

61. They got that story straight from the horse's mouth.

62. Finding the money for the festival will be a hard nut to crack in our country now.

63. I'm not interested in the financial side of our organization – that's our partner's pigeon!

64. We are not out of the wood(s) yet.

65. A little bird told me that you are leaving for France.

66. He thinks he's the cat's pyjamas since he has got that job.
67. When Margaret married a wealthy man she thought that she would live in clover for the rest of the life.
68. We now have the computer to do the donkey work.
69. Mr. Good works in the Ministry of Defence, and everybody thinks he is quite a big fish, but actually he is not.
70. I hope my hard work will bear fruit.
71. It would take hours to describe exactly what happened, but in a nutshell he said that it wasn't his fault.
72. Ever since their son was offered a job playing in a pop-group, his schoolwork has gone to pigs and whistles.
73. He grew tired of the rat race and retired to live in the country.
74. What are you doing in this neck of the woods?
75. He was a bad diplomat, because he tended to approach vital and delicate negotiations like a bull in a china shop.
76. Those neighbours are leading a cat-and-dog life since they settled their.
77. Benjamin always likes to be top dog in any company.
78. That place is always full of lame ducks from everywhere who need help and care.
79. She enjoys her job – the fly in the ointment is that she starts early in the morning and lives rather far from her job.
80. He never does anything without asking his wife first – he's completely henpecked.
81. Polly is a willing horse and seems to do three-quarters of the work of the whole committee.
82. The young actress was overwhelmed to find that she was now the target of all the lion hunters in the city.
83. Our teacher hates parrot-fashion.  
He always repeats what his elder brother says, no matter it is right or wrong, just parrot-fashion.
84. I can knit but do it at a snail's pace, unfortunately.
85. None of the children has ever had a serious illness, touch wood!
86. If you want to improve the situation you must take the bull by the horns.

87. The politician said that he was aware that the policy he was attacking was one of the government's sacred cows and that he was therefore unlikely to succeed in changing it.

88. I haven't seen him in donkey's ages.

89. That enormous wardrobe your mother gave us has been nothing but a white elephant in our small room.

90. I don't like the way she behaves her – as if she wants to fish for compliments.

91. It is amazing that Richard is so thin, he is really a bag of bones, but he eats like a horse.

92. Isn't it rather putting the cart before the horse to redecorate the bathroom when you are planning to put in a new bath soon?

93. After his death, when his money was divided, his wife got the lion's share.

94. You are talented, young, healthy and wealthy – the world's your oyster!

95. The subject of police brutality is a hot potato.

96. Erik is rather a lone wolf – he likes to go on holiday by himself.

97. Stop beating about the bush and tell me what is the matter!

98. I want to visit South Africa this summer, but I'm not going to count my chickens before they are hatched.

99. After a night without sleep we were all exhausted except Dolly, who was as fresh as a daisy.

100. I am afraid the new continental project is a dead duck – no country can afford it.

If you go to that desert alone you are a dead duck!

101. The old farmer flew off the handle when he heard that the boys had raided his garden again.

102. He says that it is sometimes safer to rely on horse sense than on the advice of one's colleagues.

103. You said that he is the only decent person to go there but I think your answer is a lemon.

104. The prime minister's remarks were interpreted as an olive branch held out to all his opponents.

105. The police set up a trap, but the thieves smelt a rat and drove away.

106. He liked to tell a cock-and-bull story about finding the money hidden in a bottle behind a tree in the park

My mother hates my cock-and-bull stories about my fights with the class-mates.

107. The book has an inscription in dog Latin on the title page.

108. There's no use reproaching Sam – it's like water off a duck's back.

109. Our Sales Manager is a very high flier.

110. The oil executive seemed to have stopped making vague statements and was prepared to talk turkey.

111. He may be away – he doesn't answer the telephone – but he might just be playing possum.

112. She was such an ugly duckling only two years ago, but now she looks a real beauty!

## READING

**Read the texts, do the exercises after the texts.**

### TEXT 1

Next day I went down to Tilby. It was an Elizabethan mansion standing in a spacious park, in which roamed fallow deer, and from its windows you had wide views of rolling downs. It seemed to me that as far as the eye could reach the land belonged to the Blands. His tenants must have found Sir Adolphus, a wonderful landloral, for I never saw farms kept in such order, the barns and cow-sheds were spick and span and the pigsties were a picture; the public-houses looked like Old English water-colours and the cottages he had built on the estate combined admirably picturesqueness and convenience. It must have cost him a pot of money to run the place on these lines. Fortunately he had it. The park with its grand old trees (and its nine-hole golf course) was tended like a garden, and the wide-stretching gardens were the pride of the neighborhood. The magnificent house, with its steep

roofs and mullioned windows, had been restored by the most celebrated architect in England and furnished by Lady Bland, with taste and knowledge, in a style that perfectly fitted it.

“Of course it’s very simple,” she said. “Just an English house in the country.”

The dining-room was adorned with old English sporting pictures and the Chippendale chairs were of incredible value. In the drawing-room were portraits by Reynolds and Gainsborough and landscapes by Old Crome and Richard Wilson. Even in my bedroom with its four-post bed were water-colours by Briket Foster. It was very beautiful and a treat to stay there, but though it would have distressed Muriel Bland beyond anything to know it, it entirely missed oddly enough the effect she had sought. It did not give you for a moment the impression of an English house. You had the feeling that every object had been bought with a careful eye to the general scheme. You missed the full Academy portraits that hung in the dining-room beside a Carlo Dolci that an ancestor had brought back from the grand tour, and the water-colours painted by a great-aunt cluttered up the drawing-room so engagingly. There was no ugly Victorian sofa that had always been there and that it never occurred to anybody to take away and no needlework chairs that an unmarried daughter had so painstakingly worked at about the time of the Great Exhibition. There was beauty but no sentiment.

### **Exercises**

1. Write down the words from the text which can be referred to the following themes: 1) flora; 2) fauna; 3) human being (parts of the body).

2. Give the possible idioms with the words you have found. Consult the vocabulary if necessary.

3. Find the expressions in the text above and use them in the situations from the story:

- a) as far as the eye could reach;
- b) the barns and cow-sheds were spick and span;

- c) it cost him a pot of money
- d) its four-past bed were water-colours;
- e) with taste and knowledge

4. Choose the correct answer:

- a) It was an Elizabethan mansion, in which roamed...
- 1) Bears; 2) dogs; 3) cats; 4) fallow deer.

b) The barns and cow-sheds were ...

- 1) dirty; 2) filthy; 3) spick and span; 4) shining.

c) The public houses looked like...

- 1) old English water-colour; 2) shabby; 3) light;
- 4) a picture.

d) It must have cost him... to run the place.

- 1) a lot; 2) not much; 3) a pot of money; 4) an earth.

5. Describe the mansion in Tilby, using idioms where possible.

## TEXT 2

**Exercise 1. Read the story. Then discuss the questions.**

### **Two Very Different Brothers**

At school, Randy was shy and **as quiet as a mouse**. He was also very clever. He had a twin brother, Jason. Jason loved football and had to **work like a dog** to make good grades. In school, Randy was the **bookworm**. He loved to read. But without his glasses he could not see. He was **as blind as a bat**. Jason **ate like a horse** and was two hundred pounds at age seventeen. Both of them were **early birds** and got out of bed at four every morning. Randy read and studied. Jason went training. Today, because they were **pigheaded** and did not give up, Jason is quarterback for the Glendale geeks, and Randy is the owner of the team.



1. If you **work like a dog**, do you work hard or don't you work hard? When have you worked like a dog?
2. Are you **an early bird**? Tell why or why not.
3. If you are **pigheaded**, do you change easily?

**Exercise 2. Each example has an idiom with an animal word. Read the example carefully to find the meaning of the idiom. Then look at the definitions that follow the examples. Write the idiom next to its definition.**

<b>as blind as a bat</b>	I'm <b>as blind as a bat</b> without my glasses.
<b>as quiet as a mouse</b>	When the teacher walked into the room, each student was at his or her desk, reading a book, <b>as quiet as a mouse</b> .
<b>a bookworm</b>	Howard reads twelve books a week. He's a real <b>bookworm</b> .
<b>a copycat</b>	My little brother Marvin is a <b>copycat</b> . If I get black sneakers, he wants to have black sneakers, too.
<b>chicken</b>	Richard is too <b>chicken</b> to try waterskiing.
<b>an early bird</b>	Allan arrives at the office before everyone else. He's <b>an early bird</b> .
<b>to eat like a horse</b>	Every time Jess goes walking in the mountains, he comes home with a big appetite, and he <b>eats like a horse</b> .
<b>pigheaded</b>	Adam is so <b>pigheaded</b> that he never listens to anyone. He always does what he has decided.
<b>to smell a rat</b>	I could <b>smell a rat</b> . Someone stopped me on the street and offered to sell me a gold watch for five dollars.
<b>to talk turkey</b>	Let's stop being polite and talking around the problem. Let's start <b>to talk turkey</b> .

**to work like a dog**

Javier works two jobs and goes to college. He **works like a dog** because he wants to get a good education.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ making almost no noise, being shy and not talking much
2. \_\_\_\_\_ to work very hard
3. \_\_\_\_\_ not taking advice, stubborn
4. \_\_\_\_\_ to eat a lot
5. \_\_\_\_\_ the first person to be somewhere, a person who gets out of bed early
6. \_\_\_\_\_ not able to see well because of very bad eyesight
7. \_\_\_\_\_ someone who reads a lot
8. \_\_\_\_\_ afraid, scared
9. \_\_\_\_\_ to talk openly and directly
10. \_\_\_\_\_ to think there may be something wrong
11. \_\_\_\_\_ a person who wants to do the same thing as other people

**Exercise 3. Answer each question with *yes* or *no*. Explain your answer.**

1. Marvin stays in bed all day. Does he work like a dog?
2. Gloria always listens to other people's advice. Is she pigheaded?
3. Bert is very original. He dresses in his own style. Is he a copycat?
4. I can't see a thing without my glasses. Am I as blind as a bat?
5. Hank eats a lot. Does he eat like a horse?
6. Manuel never says very much. Is he as quiet as a mouse?
7. Carlo is always late. Is he an early bird?
8. If Stamo thinks there is something wrong or dishonest going on, does she smell a rat?
9. Are you chicken if you go skydiving?
10. If you won't talk openly to someone, will you talk turkey?
11. Larisa never reads. Is she a bookworm?

**Exercise 4. Complete each example with an idiom from this unit.**

1. Janos goes to school all day and then works two evening jobs. He \_\_\_\_\_.
2. At the sale, the \_\_\_\_\_ will get all the bargains before anyone else arrives.
3. Andrew never speaks at meetings. He's \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Reiko always wears the same clothes as her friends. She is such a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Every time we invite Tony to dinner, he finishes every dish. He \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The store was advertising TVs for one hundred dollars. I \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Let's \_\_\_\_\_. We need to solve this problem quickly.
8. Jaime goes to the library three times a week because he's a \_\_\_\_\_.
9. You're just \_\_\_\_\_. Everyone can ride a bike.
10. Roger won't take advice from anyone. He's just plain \_\_\_\_\_.
11. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ without my glasses.

**Exercise 5. Work with a partner or in a small group. Do the following activities.**

1. The idioms in this unit all use animals. Do you know any other English idioms that use animals?
2. Are there animal idioms in your native language? Are any idioms like the ones in English?
3. Would you **smell a rat** if someone who is normally as **quiet as a mouse** demanded that you **talk turkey**?
4. A **copycat** sees someone else do something and wants to do the same thing. Describe a situation where someone was a copycat.

**Exercise 6. Read the dialogue and try to explain the idioms in bold. Then look at the picture and say which idiom it represents.**



Gladys: Morning Mabel. You'll never guess who I got a letter from today!

Mabel: Go on, who?

Gladys: Edith Barclay, you know, she used to live at number 6.

Mabel: Edith Barclay! Ooh, I haven't heard from her for **1) donkey's years!** Have she and her son **2) buried the hatchet** yet?

Gladys: Well, that's what she wrote to tell me! Oh, do you remember when Samuel was little? He was **3) the apple** of his mother's eye ... and then they fell out when he started seeing that girl ... What was her name?

Mabel: Ooh, Sheila Briggs. Her parents were lovely folk, but she was **4) the black sheep of the family.**

Gladys: I can't see what he saw in her. I remember he chased after her for ages – she really **5) played hard to get!**

Mabel: Yes. And then when they finally started seeing each other he was **6) like putty in her hands** – he even stopped talking to his mother because that girl told him to.

Gladys: Terrible. Anyway, back to the letter... the Briggs girl must've finally **7) driven him round the bend** – because he broke up with her.

Mabel: Oh good!

Gladys: Yes, and guess what? Edith introduced him to a young lady – Edith said she's a lovely girl. Anyway, apparently they **8) tied the knot** last month and now, what with Sam's good job and all, they're living **9) in clover!**

Mabel: Oh, how lovely. Mind you, I always thought they'd sort it out in the end – after all, **10) blood is thicker than water.**

Gladys: Quite right!

**Exercise 7. Match the items with the idioms from Ex 6.**

a to pretend one is not interested in sb	g a long time
b to annoy sb a lot	h sb one is most fond of
c easily controlled or manipulated	i a person strongly disapproved of by members of his/her family
d in comfort/wealth	j blood ties or family relationships are the strongest
e to get married	
f to forget old quarrels	

**Exercise 8. Rewrite the following sentences using the words in bold. Do not change these words in any way.**

- Robert and Helen have decided to get married at Christmas.  
**tie** .....
- It has been ages since I last went to the theatre.  
**donkey's** .....
- Although David is acting like he's not interested, it's obvious that he likes Mary.  
**playing** .....
- After years of arguing, the sisters agreed to forget their differences.  
**hatchet** .....
- Her constant complaining really annoys me.  
**bend** .....

**Exercise 9. Choose the word which best completes each sentence.**

- Anne always does whatever Frank tells her to do. She's like ..... in his hands.  
A glue    B putty    C butter    D clay
- Fred was in ..... after he won the lottery.  
A clover    B grass    C wheat    D barley
- Perhaps because he was so different, he became the black ..... of the family.  
A cow    B cat    C sheep    D donkey

4. Laura thinks her son can do no wrong — he's the apple of her..... .

**A** eye    **B** ear    **C** heart    **D** mind

5 Why not ask your family for a loan – after all, blood is ..... than water.

**A** denser    **B** heavier    **C** thinner    **D** thicker

### **On Your Own**

**Work with a partner. Choose three idioms. Write a short conversation for each idiom. Then act out your conversations.**

## UNIT 3

### Idioms from people

#### VOCABULARY

1. Arm	17. Feet	33. Neck
2. Back	18. Finger	34. Nerve
3. Blood	19. Fist	35. Nose
4. Body	20. Foot	36. Palm
5. Bone	21. Hair	37. Shoulder
6. Bosom	22. Hand	38. Skeleton
7. Brain	23. Head	39. Skin
8. Breast	24. Heart	40. Stomach
9. Brow	25. Heel	41. Teeth
10. Cheek	26. Knee	42. Throat
11. Chest	27. Knuckle	43. Thumb
12. Chin	28. Leg	44. Toe
13. Ear	29. Lid	45. Tongue
14. Elbow	30. Lip	46. Tooth
15. Eye	31. Mouth	47. Wrist
16. Face	32. Nail	

#### A

**Keep at arm's length** to avoid becoming too friendly with (someone).

**A shot in the arm** the addition of new ideas, money etc. to a failing business in the hope of reviving it.

**Cost an arm and a leg, to** to be very expensive.

#### B

**Backbiting** criticizing and speaking evil of a person when he or she is not present.

**A backhanded compliment** a remark that is intended to be or seems like a compliment, but in fact is not.

**A backhander** (informal) a bribe.

**A backwater** a place not affected by what is happening in the world outside, usually because of its isolation.

**Have one's back to the wall** to be in a very difficult or desperate situation.

**Blood is thicker than water** one should have more loyalty to people who are related to one than to other people.

**Sweat blood** to work hard, to use a great deal of effort.

**Keep body and soul together** to remain alive – especially not to die of hunger.

**As dry as a bone** completely dry.

**The bare bones** the essential facts.

**Feel in one's bones** to know by instinct without having any proof.

**Bosom friend** a close friend.

**Brainchild (someone's)** a favourite theory, invention thought up by a particular person.

**The brain drain** the loss of experts to another country (usually in search of better salaries).

**(the) big guns** important and powerful people.

## C

**Have a cheek** be impudent; show impudence in one's behaviour or remarks.

**Cheek** (verb) use impudent language to.

**Keep one's chin up** not to be overcome by fear, worry in a difficult situation.

## E

**Fall on deaf ears** not to be listened to.

**Play by ear** to play a piece of music without using printed music.

**Easy on the eye** pleasant to look at.

**In twinkling of an eye** in a moment; immediately.

**In one's mind's eye** in one's imagination.



**The naked eye** the eye unassisted by spectacles, a telescope, a microscope.

**A private eye** a private detective.

**See eye to eye** to be in agreement.

**See eye to eye, to** to agree completely.

**Dead end, a** something which leads nowhere and has no future.

## F

**At face value** being as valuable as it appears.

**Have a long face** to look unhappy or disapproving.

**Long face, a** sad, dissatisfied expression.

**Let's face it** if one is to be honest.

**Have both feet / have one's feet on the ground** to act always with good sense.

**Be all fingers and thumbs, my fingers are all thumbs** to be, I am, very awkward and clumsy in handling or holding things.

**Cross one's fingers** to hope for good luck.

**Have something at one's fingertips** to know all the details thoroughly.

**Have green fingers, (US) a green thumb** to be skilled at gardening.

**Point the finger at someone** to call attention to someone by blaming them for something.

**To one's fingertips** completely or perfectly.

**Put one's foot in it** to do or say something stupid.

## H

**Get in someone's hair** to annoy someone.

**Keep one's hair on** to remain calm and not become angry.

**Make someone's hair curl / stand on end** to horrify or terrify a person.

**At first hand** obtained directly.

**At second hand** through or from another person.

**A free hand** freedom to do whatever one likes.

**Hands down** very easily.

**Have one's hands full** to be very busy.

**Live from hand to mouth** to be able to get only what one needs at present, without having anything extra to save up.

**An old hand** a person who is very experienced at doing something.

**On hand** near; present; ready for use.

**Play into someone's hands** do exactly what (an opponent or enemy) wants one to do.

**Above someone's head** too difficult for someone to understand.

**Have a good head on one's shoulders** to be calm, clever and sensible.

**Head over heels** completely.

**Make headway** to go forward; to make progress.

**Not to be able to make head or tail of something** to be unable to understand something.

**Soft in the head** stupid or unintelligent.

**Talk one's head off** to talk a great deal.

**At heart** really; basically.

**Find it in one's heart to do something** to manage or persuade oneself to do something.

**From the bottom of one's heart** very much; very sincerely.

**Have something at heart** to have or feel a kind concern for or interest in something.

**Have one's heart in one's mouth** to be extremely worried and anxious.

**Heart and soul** completely; with all one's attention and energy.

**Heartfelt** sincere.

**A heart-to-heart** an open and sincere talk in private.

**Wear one's heart on one's sleeve** to show one's feelings openly.

**An Achilles' heel** [ə`kili:z] a person's one weakness, way in which they can be injured.

**Down-at-heel** shabby, untidy and not well looked after well-dressed.

**By heart** by memory.

**Head over heels in love** very much in love.

**Have time on one's hands** to have spare time.

**Hit the headlines** to attract a great deal of attention and interest from the newspapers, television.

## I

**Have several irons in the fire** to have several options/projects at the same time.

## J

**Keep up with the Joneses** to be in competition with other people for a higher social standard.

## L

**Pull someone's leg** to joke.

**My lips are sealed** I am unable to reveal secret.

**Pay lip-service to something** to pretend to agree with and approve of an idea, way of thinking without really doing so.

**Pull one's leg, to** to joke, to kid or trick someone.

**Shake a leg, to** to hurry up, move faster.

## M

**Down in the mouth** miserable or in low spirits.

**Have a big mouth** to be in the habit of talking too loudly too much, or of saying things one shouldn't.

**Big mouth, a** a person who talks too much and does not keep secrets

## N

**As hard as nails** (of a person) very unfeeling and lacking in pity, kindness, but able to bear a great deal of hardship or trouble.

**Hit the nail on the head** to be absolutely accurate.

**A nail in someone's coffin** something which is very bad for someone's health, e.g. cigarette.

**On the nail** immediately.

**A bag / bundle of nerves** a very excitable, anxious, easily frightened person.

**Lose one's nerve** to become frightened and lose the ability to continue with a course of action.

**A nosey parker** someone who takes too much interest in other people and what they are doing.

**Pay through the nose** to pay a lot for something.

**See beyond / further than the end of one's nose** to understand more than simply what is happening in the present; to see what future effect one's actions will have.

**Turn up one's nose at something** to treat something with contempt.

**Nosey** always wanting to know other people's business and what other people are doing.

**Pain in the neck**, a something or someone that annoys or bothers a person.

## P

**Adopt lower profile, to** to avoid public attention

## R

**Rat race (the)** the struggle for success, especially in a large city.

## S

**By the skin of one's teeth** very narrowly; only just.

**Save one's skin** to save one's life.

**Skin and bone** very thin.

**Skin-deep** on the surface only.

**At full stretch** using all one's energy to do something.

**Take a back seat, to** to take a position of less importance, influence.

## T

**Cut one's teeth on something** to get valuable experience from something.

**In the teeth of something** against or in opposition to something.

**Set someone's teeth on the edge** to cause an unpleasant feeling of discomfort to someone.

**Show one's teeth** to show one's anger and power to resist; to act decisively.

**Teething troubles** problems experienced at the beginning of a new plan, operation.

**Have a frog in one's throat** to be hoarse.

**Thumb a lift** to ask for or get a lift in someone's car by signaling to the driver with one's thumb.

**Thumbs up** hope of, or wishes for, success.

**Thumbs down** disapproval or failure.

**Twiddle one's thumbs** to do nothing.

**Under someone's thumb** controlled or greatly influenced by someone.

**Be on the tip of one's tongue** to be almost, but usually not, spoken or said.

**Be, get long in the tooth** to be or become old.

**Have a sweet tooth** to like sweet things to eat.

**Do one's own thing** to do whatever one wants.

## W

**A slap on the wrist** a mild scolding.

**Exercise 1. Study the vocabulary. Then translate the sentences.**

1. Keep your chin up – things are bound to get better soon.
2. She told me what she was giving you for your birthday – but my lips are sealed!
3. He won the contract for his firm by giving a backhander to the official.
4. What he said was well above their heads – he should have made his talk much simpler.
5. He said he would probably get a slap on the wrist for taking the day off, but that no one would be really angry.
6. I don't worry about her – she's got both feet on the ground and I know she won't do anything silly.
7. His advice fell on deaf ears.
8. His heart was in his mouth as he watched the firemen trying to reach the child on the roof of the burning buildings.

9. She keeps her new neighbors at arm's length.
10. Monica cannot work under pressure – she is just a bag of nerves.
11. There were many long faces among the children when they heard there would be no excursion that day.
12. These sour grapes set my teeth on edge; That shrill bell set everyone's teeth on edge.
13. He went on watching them through his binoculars until they were close enough to be seen with the naked eye.
14. Constant backbiting by her colleagues led to her resignation.
15. You haven't been refused the job yet – don't look so down in the mouth!
16. "Is the ground wet?" "No, it is as dry as a bone."
17. Her name is on the tip of my tongue (= I can't remember it); It was on the tip of my tongue to tell him the truth (= I almost told him).
18. If you think I'm going to play football for that team you must be soft in the head!
19. He gave her a free hand with her servants.
20. This loan is a shot in the arm for the economy.
21. He employed a private eye to find out if his wife was having an affair with another man.
22. If he could see beyond the end of his nose he would know that his strictness will result in his children resenting him.
23. During the school holidays the children keep getting in my hair.
24. He seems rather stern but he is at heart a very kind man.
25. He could bear his wife's sharp tongue no longer.
26. He said he liked me a lot better than the last time he met me, which I thought was rather a back-handed compliment.
27. He only had time to tell me the bare bones of his scheme.
28. They asked him to play the piano at the party, but he couldn't play by ear and he had no music with him.
29. He has the history of the firm at his fingertips.
30. That horror film really made my hair stand on end; Some of the stories she tells about her boss would make your hair curl!

31. He has been hitting the headlines recently with a series of important scientific discoveries.

32. I think he was really disappointed when he didn't get the job, but he is not a person who wears his heart on his sleeve.

33. You won't get any sympathy from Margaret – she's as hard as nails!

34. The child turned up his nose at the school dinner.

35. I'm getting a bit long in the tooth to climb mountains.

36. The village where he lives now is rather a backwater.

37. Everything seemed to be going well, but I could feel in my bones that something was wrong.

38. He likes his secretary to be easy on the eye as well as efficient.

39. My mother's garden is beautiful – she certainly has green fingers.

40. You'd better be on hand in case you are needed. They always keep some candles on hand in case there's a power failure.

41. Can you find it in your heart to forgive me?

42. She has stopped even paying lip-service to the rules.

43. When they were attacked by armed men, he managed to save his skin by pretending to be dead.

44. The government soon showed its teeth to the rebels.

45. My friend has a sweet tooth, so I always give her chocolates.

46. He certainly has his back to the wall as he has lost his job and cannot find another one.

47. This entire process is Dr. Smith's brain-child.

48. He arrived in the twinkling of an eye.

49. Although I do not wish to point the finger at anyone in particular, certain people in this office have not been working as well as they might.

50. He's not very good at chess – you'll win hands down.

51. The two friends talked their heads off when they eventually met again.

52. You haven't really got a black mark on your face – he's only pulling your leg.

53. She was just skin and bone after her illness.

54. He spent six months twiddling his thumbs while he waited for a job.

55. I would prefer to give the money to my friend rather than to my brother but blood is thicker than water.

56. As a result of brain drain Britain does not have enough doctors.

57. If you try hard you can see the room in your mind's eye.

58. Let's face it, none of us like him very much.

59. We have had our teething problems but the new system is working very well now.

60. She is an artist to her fingertips.

61. I heard the news at second hand.

62. By accepting the money he has played right into my hands.

63. I didn't mean to call you a fool – it was just a slip of the tongue.

64. She thanked him from the bottom of her heart for all his help.

65. We've never seen eye to eye about this matter.

66. He was a ruthless businessman but his uncritical love for his daughter was his Achilles' heel.

67. Every cigarette you smoke is another nail in your coffin.

68. If you want a really good car you have to pay through the nose for it.

69. They were walking in the teeth of a gale.

70. She is completely under her husband's thumb.

71. I sweated blood to finish that essay last night.

72. These two teenage girls were bosom friends and went everywhere together.

73. You must take this offer at face value.

74. I really put my foot in it when I asked about his wife – she has just run away with his friend!

75. I asked the boss, but I'm afraid it's thumbs down for our proposed scheme.

76. She must have her hands full with those four children to look after.

77. Most of the children just screamed, but Kathy has a head on her shoulders and she put the fire out with a bucket of water.



78. I offer you my heartfelt thanks for your help.
79. Your sister's got a big mouth – I might have known she would tell everyone our secret!
80. We escaped by the skin of our teeth.
81. Your voice sounds funny – have you got a frog in your throat?
82. He has to have a snack in the middle of the morning to keep body and soul together until lunchtime.
83. I am not going to stand any more of your cheek.
84. She couldn't undo the string of the parcel – she was all fingers and thumbs.
85. Keep your hair on – I'm working as fast as I can.
86. She is an old hand at jewelery work.
87. We are not making much headway with this new scheme.
88. He never shows it, but he has the interest of his workers at heart.
89. The hotel looked rather down-at-heel and had obviously seen better days.
90. You hit the nail right on the head when you described her as being native.
91. You will never become a good parachutist if you lose your nerve as you are about to jump.
92. His sorrow was skin-deep; Beauty is skin-deep.
93. He thumbed a lift outside the hospital.
94. He has a cheek to expect you to help him, after all the unpleasant things he has said about you.
95. I'm crossing my fingers and hoping that I get the job.
96. I was able to obtain information about the accident at first hand.
97. He fell head over heels in love.
98. After our heart-to-heart I felt more cheerful.
99. He paid cash on the nail and took the car away with him.
100. I don't see why I should tell her all my plans – she's just an old nosey parker.
101. The famous mountaineer said he had cut his teeth on rock-climbing in the Lake District.
102. He could see that the team manager was signaling thumbs up from the edge of the football pitch.

103. They are so poor they just live from hand to mouth and never have any money in the bank.

104. I can't make head or tail of these instructions.

105. She devoted herself heart and soul to working / or the church.

## READING

**Read the texts and do the exercises.**

### TEXT 1

Mrs. Forestier was a very nice woman. Kindly people often say that of a woman when they can say nothing about her, and it has come to be looked upon as cold praise. I do not mean it as such. Mrs. Forestier was neither charming, beautiful, nor intelligent; on the contrary she was absurd, homely and foolish; yet the more you knew her, the more you liked her, and when asked why, you found yourself forced to repeat that she was a very nice woman. She was as tall as the average man; she had a large mouth and a great hooked nose, pale-blue, shortsighted eyes, and big ugly hands. Her skin was lined and weather-beaten, but she made up heavily, and her hair, which she wore long, was dyed golden, tightly marcelled and elaborately dressed. She did everything she could to counteract the aggressive masculinity of her appearance, and succeeded only in looking like a vaudeville artist doing a female impersonation. Her voice was a woman's voice, but you were always expecting her, at the end of the number as it were, to break into a deep bass, and tearing off that golden wig discover a man's bald pate. She spent a great deal of money on her clothes, which she got from the most fashionable dressmakers in Paris, but though a woman of fifty she had an unfortunate taste for choosing dresses that looked exquisite on pretty little mannequins in the flower of their youth. She always wore a great quantity of rich jewels. Her movements were awkward and her gestures clumsy. If she went into a drawing-room where there was a valuable piece of

jade she managed to sweep it on the floor; if she lunched with you and you had a set of glasses you treasured she was almost certain to smash one of them to atoms.

Yet this ungainly exterior sheltered a tender, romantic, and idealistic soul. It took you some time to discover this, for when first you knew her you took her for a figure of fun, and then when you knew her better (and had suffered from her clumsiness) she exasperated you; but when you did discover it, you thought yourself very stupid not to have known it all the time, for then it looked out at you through those pale-blue, **near-sighted eyes**, rather shyly, but with a sincerity that only a fool could miss. Those dainty muslins and spring-like organdies, those virginal silks, clothed not the uncouth **body** but fresh, **girlish spirit**. You forgot that she broke your china and looked like a man dressed up as a woman, you saw her as she saw herself, as indeed she really was if reality were visible, as a dear little thing with a **heart of gold**. When you came to know her you found her as simple as a child; she was touchingly grateful for any attention you paid her; her own kindness was infinite, you could ask her to do anything for you, however tiresome, and she would do it as though by giving her the opportunity to put herself out you rendered her a service. She had a rare capacity for disinterested love. You knew that never an unkind nor a malicious thought had once passed through her **head**. And having granted all that you said over again that Mrs. Forestier was a very nice woman.

**Exercise 1. Answer the questions:**

- a) What do people often mean when they say 'She's a very nice woman'?
- b) What was Mrs. Forestier like?
- c) How did she look like?
- d) Did Mrs. Forestier like to dress well?
- e) Where did she buy her clothes?
- f) She wore a great quantity of rich jewels, didn't she?
- g) Were her movements awkward and her gestures clumsy?
- h) What happened when she entered into a drawing-room?
- i) What does the author write about her soul?
- g) Did she have a heart of gold?

**Exercise 2. Retell the story using the questions above as points of a short plan.**

**Exercise 3. Give idioms with all underlined words denoting parts of the human body.**

## **TEXT 2**

When I was a very small boy I was made to **learn by heart** certain of the fables of La Fontaine, and the moral of each was carefully explained to me. Among those I learnt was *The Ant and The Grasshopper*, which is devised to bring home to the young the useful lesson that in an imperfect world industry is rewarded and giddiness punished. In this admirable fable (I apologize for telling something which everyone is politely, but inexactly, supposed to know) the ant spends a laborious summer gathering its winter store, while the grasshopper sits on a blade of grass singing to the sun. Winter comes and the ant is comfortably provided for, but the grasshopper has an empty larder: he goes to the ant and begs for a little food. Then the ant gives him her classic answer.

“What were you doing in the summer time?”

“Saving your presence, I sang, I sang all day, all night.”

I do not ascribe it to perversity on my part, but rather to the in consequence of childhood, which is deficient in moral sense, that I could never quite reconcile myself to the lesson. My sympathies were with the grasshopper and for some time I never saw an ant without **putting my foot on it**. In this summary (and as I have discovered since, entirely human) fashion I sought to express my disapproval of prudence and common sense.

I could not help thinking of this fable when the other day I saw George Ramsay lurching by himself in a restaurant. I never saw anyone wear an expression of such deep gloom. He was staring into space. He looked as though **the burden of the whole world sat on his shoulders**. I was sorry for him: I suspected at once that his unfortunate brother had been causing trouble again. I went up to him and **held out my hand**.

But when circumstances forced George to realize that his brother would never settle down and **he washed his hands of him**, Tom, without a qualm, began to blackmail him.

**Exercise 1. Retell the fable.**

**Exercise 2. Comment on the underlined idioms. Paraphrase the idioms.**

**Exercise 3. Answer the questions:**

- a) Who were the author's sympathies with?
- b) What was the matter with George?
- c) Did you like the fable? Why?

### **TEXT 3**

**Exercise 1. Read the story. Then discuss the questions.**

#### **What a Group!**

Last year my English class was full of characters. That's a polite way of saying it had some unusual people that I'll never forget. One student was such a hard worker that he learned all the idioms in our book **by heart**. He was always saying things like "I'm on cloud nine", or "I'm green with envy". We never knew if he meant what he said or if he was just practicing English. Another student **had a sweet tooth**. She would bake lots of breads and cakes and bring them to every class for us to share during breaks. Two students met in the class and fell **head over heels in love**. We were all invited to their wedding and had a great time. Then there was a student who was always **pulling someone's leg**. For example, one day before class, he put a long homework assignment on the board and made us think that the teacher had given it. We all had **long faces** until the teacher came in. Then we realized that someone had played a joke on us.

1. What do you do when you learn things **by heart**? Tell about some things that you have learned by heart.

2. When someone **pulls your leg**, is the person telling the truth? Is the person always being mean?

3. How do you feel when you have a **long face**? If you have a long face, are you showing your feelings?

**Exercise 2. Each example has an idiom with parts of the body. Read the example carefully to find the meaning of the idiom. Then look at the definitions that follow the examples. Write the idiom next to its definition.**

**a big mouth**

My brother has such a **big mouth**. He told everything I said to our mother.

**by heart**

I know all my friends' telephone numbers **by heart**. I never have to look in the telephone book.

**to cost an arm and a leg**

Everything in that fancy department store **costs an arm and a leg**. I can't afford to buy anything there, not even a pencil.

**to have a sweet tooth**

I know you **have a sweet tooth**, so I bought you a box of chocolates.

**head over heels in love**

Pam and Tony are **head over heels in love**. They're planning to get married.

**a long face**

Because Judy didn't get an invitation to the party, she's walked around with a **long face** since yesterday.

**nosey**

Every time I go out, I notice my **nosey** neighbors watching me. They must know everything about me.

**a pain in the neck**

Waiting for the bus on the cold, windy corner is **a pain in the neck**.

**to pull someone's leg**

Tomorrow is not a holiday. Don't believe Rich. He's just **pulling your leg**.

**to see eye to eye**

Lucy and Dick never argue. They **see eye to eye** on almost everything.

**to shake a leg**

**Shake a leg!** We have to be at school in twenty minutes.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ to like sweet foods very much
2. \_\_\_\_\_ always wanting to know other people's business and what other people are doing
3. \_\_\_\_\_ a person who talks too much and does not keep secrets
4. \_\_\_\_\_ to agree completely
5. \_\_\_\_\_ a sad, dissatisfied expression
6. \_\_\_\_\_ by memory
7. \_\_\_\_\_ to hurry up, move faster
8. \_\_\_\_\_ to be very expensive
9. \_\_\_\_\_ very much in love
10. \_\_\_\_\_ to joke, to kid or trick someone
11. \_\_\_\_\_ something or someone that annoys or bothers a person

**Exercise 3.** Answer each question with **yes** or **no**. Explain your answer.

1. Barbara and Bob are always fighting. Do they see eye to eye?
2. Alicia never says a word. Does she have a big mouth?
3. Our neighbor Christine keeps coming to our house for no reason. Is it possible that she's being nosey?
4. Sid loved to eat pickles, olives, and anything salt. Does he have a sweet tooth?

5. Joseph thinks Maggie is the most wonderful person in the world. All he thinks about is Maggie. Is he head over heels in love?

6. The only problem with this school is the parking. There are no spaces, and it takes an hour to find a spot. Is parking a pain in the neck?

7. I got this book in the sale. It was eighty percent off the original price and cost almost nothing. Did it cost an arm and a leg?

8. Yoko did not get the job she applied for. She looks very unhappy. Does she have a long face?

9. Walter told us it was his birthday, but it wasn't true. Was he pulling our leg?

10. I can count from one to ten in French, Italian, and Greek. Did I learn this by heart?

11. Derek hurried and had only a quick bite to eat because he wanted to get to the movie on time. Did he shake a leg?

**Exercise 4. Each example has the correct idiom, but there is one error with each idiom. Find the error and correct it.**

1. George really had the long face because he had lost his wallet.

2. Our neighbors are noseys.

3. She loves cakes. She has such a sweet teeth.

4. They never see by eye.

5. That person has big mouth.

6. Come on! Shake legs!

7. Lisa is head on heels in love with Steve.

8. Driving in this terrible traffic is a pain my neck.

9. Don't believe her. She's pulling your legs.

10. I learned that poem by my heart.

11. That excellent stereo system must cost a leg and an arm.

**Exercise 5. Work with the partner or in a small group. Do the following activities.**

1. The idioms in this unit use words from parts of the body. Do you know any other English idioms with words from parts of the body?



2. Are there idioms in your language that use words from parts of the body? Are any idioms like the ones in English?

3. What are the good and bad things about **having a sweet tooth**?

**Exercise 6. Read the dialogue and try to explain the idioms in bold.**

**Bryson:** So Doctor, is it serious?

**Doctor:** Yes, Mr Bryson, I'm afraid it is. Have you been under a lot of pressure recently?

**Bryson:** As the head of a multinational company? I'll say! You see, we **1) have got several irons in the fire** at the moment – we're in the process of closing six major deals – so everyone's working **2) at full stretch**, including me, of course.

**Doctor:** Hm, yes. I saw you talking about buying out Swift Airlines on the news last night. Are you sure it would be wise to take over such an ailing company? It sounds like a bit of **3) a dead end** to me. Anyway, back to your chest pains. First of all, you ought to **4) adopt a lower profile** – all this publicity must be rather stressful. You really should **5) take a back seat** in the company.

**Bryson:** What? Let somebody else step into my shoes?

**Doctor:** Yes. Actually, the best thing you could do would be to leave **6) the rat race** altogether.

**Bryson:** Ah, Dr Morley, life isn't that easy when you're one of **7) the big guns**; I've got far too much responsibility. Mind you, it would be lovely to **8) have time on my hands** – I'd be able to go fishing and see the children more often. Yes, it would be nice to **9) do my own thing** for a while.

**Doctor:** So why don't you?

**Bryson:** Let me put it like this: Margaret's been pestering me to buy an apartment in Paris like the Bransons', and a yacht like the Guinness's, so I suppose I'll have to keep working just so she can **10) keep up with the Joneses!**

**Doctor:** Yes, well. Now, seriously Mr Bryson, unless you start taking it easy soon, you won't be much use to anyone.

**Exercise 7. Match the items with the idioms from Ex. 6.**

<p><b>a</b> sth which leads nowhere and has no future</p> <p><b>b</b> using all one's energy to do sth</p> <p><b>c</b> to avoid public attention</p> <p><b>d</b> important and powerful people</p> <p><b>e</b> to have several options/projects at the same time</p>	<p><b>f</b> the struggle for success, especially in a large city</p> <p><b>g</b> to be in competition with other people for a higher social standard</p> <p><b>h</b> to have spare time.</p> <p><b>i</b> to do whatever one wants</p> <p><b>j</b> to take a position of less importance / influence</p>
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**Exercise 8. Rewrite the following sentences using the words in bold. Do not change these words in any way.**

1. The researchers had to work very hard for six months in order to complete the project.

**stretch** .....

2. The politician seems to be avoiding the cameras since his unfortunate public display.

**low** .....

3. Selling encyclopedias over the telephone is a job with no future – you should look for another career.

**dead** .....

4. Now that Ellen's retired, she has a lot of spare time.

**hands** .....

5. Greta can't really afford a skiing holiday – she's only going because her friends are.

**Joneses** .....

**Exercise 9. Choose the word which best completes each sentence.**

1. John takes a ..... seat in his marriage. His wife makes all the decisions in the family.

**A** tail    **B** rear    **C** front    **D** back

2 Catherine Rhodes is considered to be one of the big ..... in the fashion industry.

**A** rifles    **B** guns    **C** pistols    **D** weapons

3. The couple decided to leave the ..... race and move to a small farm in the country instead.

A human B rodent C rat D mouse

4. When Tim moved out of his parents' house he was able to ..... his own thing.

A do B be C have D get

5. Martha didn't get the job at the florist's, but she's got several ..... in the fire.

A logs B irons C coals D embers

### On Your Own

Work with a partner. Choose three idioms. Write a short conversation for each idiom. Then act out your conversations.

## UNIT 4

### Idioms from business

#### A

##### A TO Z

**From A to Z** very thoroughly and completely.

В русском языке от А до Я.

##### ABC

**ABC** the simplest and most basic knowledge.

Азбучная истина.

##### ACCOUNT

**Bring (someone) to account** (*formal*) to make sure that (a criminal *etc*) pays for what he has done:

Получать по заслугам, воздать должным образом.

**By all accounts** in the opinion of most people:

По мнению многих. По всем данным.

**Call (someone) to account** (*formal*) to demand that someone explains what he has done and why, *esp* if this was apparently wrong:

Привлечь к ответу.

**On my *etc* account** because of me or for my sake:

Из-за / ради меня.

**On no account** not for any reason:

Ни за что, ни в коем случае.

##### ADD

**Add up** (*inf*) to seem sensible or logical:

Казаться разумным / логичным.

##### ARM

**The (long) arm of the law** see **law**.

Длинная рука закона.

**A smart aleck** someone who acts as if he or she knows everything and is often rude about it.

**As straight as a die** completely honest/fair.

## B

**Fill the bill** (*inf*) to be suitable; to be exactly what is required.

Отвечать всем требованиям.

**Funny business** (*inf*) tricks or deceptions etc.

Нечистое дело; штучки.

**Mean business** (*inf*) to intend to do something serious and businesslike; not to be joking.

Иметь серьёзные намерения.

**Monkey business** (*inf*) mischievous or illegal happenings etc.

Нечистое дело.

**Buy (someone) off** (*inf*) to bribe (someone).

Подкупать, давать взятку.

**Behind one's back** without one's knowledge/consent.

## C

**On the cards** (*inf*) likely. (From trying to forecast future events using a pack of playing cards).

Возможно, вполне вероятно.

**Play one's cards right** to take the fullest possible advantage of one's chances of success.

Использовать все преимущества.

**Carry (something) off** to deal with (a difficult situation, something awkward one is obliged to do *etc*) successfully.

Удачно выйти из трудного положения.

Выйти сухим из воды.

**Carry weight** to have influence.

Иметь большое влияние, вес.

**Pay (someone) (back) in his *etc* own coin** to punish someone for treating one badly by treating them in the same way.

Отплатить той же монетой.

**Keep company (with) (old)** to be friendly (with), esp as a boy – or girlfriend.

Водить дружбу, встречаться.

**Keep (someone) company** to go, stay etc with (someone).  
Составить компанию, поддерживать дружеские отношения.

**Send (someone) to Coventry** not to allow (someone) to associate with others; to refuse to speak to (someone) (*usu* because of something they have done).

(The most likely explanation for this phrase is that it is from an incident during the English Civil War when groups of Royalists captured in Birmingham were sent for safe-keeping to the Parliamentary stronghold of Coventry).

Подвергать бойкоту / остракизму.

**Chip on one's shoulder** sense of anger/bitterness because of unfair treatment.

## D

**Call it a day** (*inf*) to bring something to an end; to stop (eg working).

На сегодня хватит. Всё.

**Day in, day out** every day without exception.

Изо дня в день.

**Have had one's day** (*inf*) to be past the most successful *etc* period of one's life.

Счастливое время, деньки.

**In this day and age** at the present (advanced) period of time.

В наше время.

**The devil to pay** serious trouble. (From legendary bargains made with the devil, in which the bargains made with the devil, in which the bargainer usually agree to give the devil his soul at a later date in payment for immediate worldly success etc.).

Будет нелегко рассчитаться и т.д.

**Double Dutch** (*inf*) nonsense.

Китайская грамота, тарабарщина.

**Like a Dutch uncle** in a scolding manner.

Читать кому-то нотацию; журить.

**To go Dutch** to share the cost, to pay one's own bill.

**Down and out** person with no job or home.

**Down-do-earth** realistic / practical

## F

**In a fix:** in a difficult situation.

Быть в затруднительном (материальном) положении.

*Fix* is also the usual word for a dose of narcotic drugs, especially when given by injection.

**No funny business.**

Без фокусов.

**Funny ha-ha** “funny” meaning “amusing” (as opposed to **funny peculiar**).

Как смешно!

**Funny peculiar** “funny” meaning “queer” or “odd” (as opposed to **funny ha-ha**).

Как странно!

## G

**Silence is golden** a saying, *usu* meaning that it is better to say nothing in a particular situation.

Молчание – золото.

**Worth its / one's weight in gold** extremely valuable.

На вес золота. Очень ценно.

**The Greek calends never.** (The *calends* was the first day of the Roman month, but was not a part of the Greek calendar – the phrase was coined by the Emperor Augustus).

Такого не бывает. Никогда.

**A Greek gift** a dangerous gift.

Опасный дар. Подарок в духе Троянского коня.

**It's (all) Greek to me** (*inf*) I don't understand. (A quotation from Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*).

Это китайская грамота для меня.

**A wise guy** someone who acts as if he or she knows everything and is often rude about it.

**Golden boy** successful/popular person.

**Get something off one's chest** to talk about worries/problems in order to gain relief.

**Get one's own back** to take revenge.

## Н

**High and mighty** important and powerful (often used with a touch of sarcasm).

Важный и властный, принадлежащий к «сильным мира сего».

**Hot under the collar** annoyed /frustrated/excited/worried, etc.

**Have a short fuse** to have a tendency to get angry quickly/easily.

## I

**Ins and outs** details.

Все тонкости (детали) дела.

## J

**Make the best of a bad job** to do all one can to turn a failure, disaster *etc* into something successful.

Обойтись; не унывать; довольствоваться малым. Мужественно переносить невзгоды.

**On the job** working.

На службе. Быть при исполнении служебных обязанностей.

**A put-up job** (*inf*) something done to give a false appearance, in order to cheat or trick someone.

Подлог. Судебная инсценировка.

Махинация. Подтасовка фактов.

Подстроенное дело.

**A Jack of all trades** a person who can do many things.

**The jet set** groupe of rich and fashionable people who are interested in enjoyment.

## К

**Keep one's cool** to remain calm in a difficult situation.

## L

**A labour of love** a job *etc* which one does for one's own satisfaction or pleasure (or for that of someone whom one loves) and for which one is usually not paid.

Любимое дело. Бескорыстный труд.



**The (long) arm of the law** (*inf*) the power or authority of the police force.

Карающая рука закона.

**Be a law into oneself** not to obey rules or orders.

Жить по собственным правилам (законам).

**The law of the jungle** the rules for succeeding or surviving in a difficult or dangerous situation by the use of force *etc.* (A phrase coined by Rudyard Kipling).

Закон джунглей.

**The letter of the law.**

Буква закона.

**Pay lip-service to (something)** (*formal*) to pretend to agree with and approve of (an idea, way of thinking *etc*) without really doing so.

Признать что-нибудь только на словах.

Неискренние признания / заверения.

**Not for love or money** (*inf*) not in any way at all.

Ни за что на свете.

Любой ценой.

**Living rough** to live under unpleasant conditions.

## М

**Be on the market** to be for sale.

Поступить в продажу, выставить на продажу, продаваться.

**One in a million** (*not formal*) something or *esp* someone that is very special or very good in some way.

Редко, редкий; один из тысячи.

**A man/woman of means** a rich person.

**The real McRoy** a true example of something.

**A man/girl Friday** someone who does a large variety of tasks on the job.

**Make somebody's hackles rise** to make somebody very angry.

## N

**Call (someone) names** to insult (someone) by applying rude names to them.

Давать кличку. Ругать, обзывать.

**In the name of (someone)** (*formal*) by the authority of (someone).

Именем её Величества (закона).

**Make a name for oneself** to become famous, get a (*usu good*) reputation *etc.*

Прославить себя.

**Worthy of the name** that deserves to be so called.

Настоящий, стоящий.

**Risk one's neck** to do something that puts one's life, job etc in danger.

Рисковать головой.

**Pay through the nose** to pay a lot for something.

Заплатить бешеные деньги.

**A nosy Parker** somebody who is curious about other peoples business.

## O

**Be in, take (holy) orders** (*formal*) to be, or become, a priest, minister *etc.*

Становиться духовным лицом.

Духовный сан.

**The order of the day** something necessary, normal, common or particularly fashionable at a certain time. (Originally the term for the list of items for discussion in Parliament on a particular day).

Повестка дня.

## P

**Show one's paces** to show what one can do.

Показать, на что способен.

**Put paid to (something)** to prevent a person from doing something he planned or wanted to do.

Помешать.

Положить конец чему-либо.

**Rob Peter to pay Paul see rob.**

Облагодетельствовать одного за счёт другого.

Поддерживать одно в ущерб другому.

**In for a penny, in for a pound** a saying, meaning that once one has decided to take a risk, act in a particular way *etc*, one ought to do so boldly.

Взявшись за гуж, не говори, что не дуж.

**In penny numbers** a very few, or a very little, at a time.

В небольшом количестве.

**Not to have a penny to one's name** to have no money at all.

Не иметь за душой ни гроша.

**The penny drops** (*inf*) I *etc* understand. (The reference is to a coin taking a long time to operate the machinery of a slot machine).

Наконец-то дошло!

**In pocket, out of pocket** having gained, lost money over a business deal *etc*.

Быть в выигрыше, убытке (проигрыше).

**A practical joke** a *usu* irritating joke consisting of an action done to someone, rather than a story told.

Розыгрыш, шутка.

**Sharp practice** see **sharp**.

Мошенничество, махинация.

**Be at a premium** to be wanted by a lot of people and be therefore difficult to get.

(A financial term – “sold at more than the nominal value” – the opposite of at a discount).

Пользоваться большим спросом.

Быть выше номинала; с прибылью.

**Be pressed for (something)** (*inf*) to be short of (time, money *etc*).

Иметь очень мало денег, времени.

У меня времени в обрез.

**Put on a brave face** to try to look happy/pleasant in order to hide feeling upset/ embarrassed, *etc*.

## Q

**In question** (*formal*) being talked about.

Обсуждаемая проблема, вопрос.

То, о чём идёт речь.

**A loaded question**

Провокационный вопрос.

**The sixty-four thousand dollar question** see **sixty**.

Наиболее важный или трудный вопрос.

**A vexed question**

Больной вопрос.

## R

**First refusal** the opportunity to buy, accept *etc* or refuse (something) before it is offered, given, sold *etc* to someone else.

В первую очередь.

**Rob Peter to pay Paul** to get enough money *etc* to pay one debt or get one thing done by using the money *etc* which one actually needs to pay another debt or do something else.

Облагодетельствовать одного за счёт другого.

**Right hand man** close and trusted assistant,

**To run in the family** to be characterised by something common to many members of family.

**From rags to riches** from being very poor to being very rich.

**A rough diamond** a good person with uncivil/ curt manners.

## S

**As safe as house** completely safe.

Быть в полной безопасности.

Быть как за каменной стеной.

**Be on the safe side** to avoid risk or danger.

На всякий случай. Для верности.

**At second hand** through or from another person.

Понаслышке. Из вторых рук.

**Second sight** the power of seeing into the future or into other mysteries.

Ясновидение.

**Sharp practice** (derog) dishonesty or cheating.

Мошенничество, житрость.

**A big shot** (inf) an important person.

Важная персона, шишка, туз.

**Call the shots** to make the important decisions.

**The slippery slope** something that is difficult to stop once it has begun and which usually ends badly.

**Stab somebody in the back** to be disloyal to a person, especially to somebody who trusts one.

## T

**A tall order** something very difficult to do.

Трудновыполнимая задача.

**A tall story** a story which is hard to believe.

Небылица. Выдумка.

**Taxed (up) to the hilt** having to pay a maximum amount of taxes.

Облагаться самым высоким налогом.

**Tom, Dick or Harry** nobody special, just any person.

**The top of the ladder** the highest position on one's profession.

**Take somebody's point** to accept/appreciate what somebody has said.

## U

**Unisex** equally suited to or use by both sexes; use of clothes, hairdressers (etc).

Одинаково для обоих полов.

Одинаковая одежда, причёска.

**Up-and-coming** likely to become successful.

## V

**Take (someone's) name in vain** (formal) to use someone's (esp. God's) name in an insulting or blasphemous way.

Употреблять имя всуе.

**A vested interest** a biased and personal interest (in continuing or suggesting a particular scheme etc.). (A legal term).

Имущественное право, закреплённое законом.

Кровная заинтересованность.

**The estate vests in him** means that the property becomes his.

Всё имущество переходит к нему, к ней.

**(Someone's) vital statistics** a women's chest, waist and hip measurements. (Originally statistics dealing with population – e.g. births, marriages and deaths.)

Демографическая статистика.

Параметры тела.

## W

**All in a / the day's work** not causing extra or unusual effort or trouble.

В порядке вещей. Нормально.

**Have one's work cut out** to be faced with a difficult task.  
Быть вынужденным прекратить работу.

**A nasty piece of work** a person whose character and / or behaviour is extremely unpleasant.  
Ну и мерзавец!

**Worked-up** excited, nervous, annoyed etc.  
Быть взволнованным, возбуждённым, расстроенным.

**Work out** to happen successfully.  
Уладится, образуется.

**A wet blanket** a miserable person who doesn't like others to have fun.

## Y

**Yes-man** one who will readily agree with the superior, and comply with his wishes without protest or question.  
Соглашатель, подпевало.

**Not born yesterday** experienced and wise, not stupid or easily fooled.  
Я не маленький. Я не вчера родился.

## Z

**Zero hour** the time at which something is fixed to begin.  
Час «Ч».

**Exercise 1. Study the vocabulary. Then translate the sentences.**

1. The matter in question can be left till next week.
2. Just because he's older than me doesn't give him the right to talk to me like a Dutch uncle!
3. He was aware that in joining the mountaineering expedition he was risking his neck.

4. It took her a long time to make her daughter's wedding-dress – but it was a real labour of love.

5. He had kept her waiting so often that she decided to pay him back in his own coin by turning up half an hour late.

6. I can't say that she will agree to do it – she's a law into herself.

7. He's one of the big shots in the organization.

8. After her husband's death the enormous estate vested in her.

9. He soon discovered that the criminal underworld he had joined was governed by the law of the jungle And that the most ruthless members were the most successful.

10. This murderer must be brought to account.

11. Surely you don't expect me to believe that rubbish – I wasn't born yesterday, you know!

12. The doctors were discussing my illness, but what they were saying was Greek to me.

13. By all accounts, he's an excellent golfer.

14. The new sales manager was able to show his paces at the sales conference.

15. There will be the devil to pay when your mother sees this mess.

16. He was called to account for his ridiculous behaviour.

17. I can give you a general account of the case, but I don't know all the ins and outs of it .

18. The only way to retain the favour of the Director is to be a yes-man.

19. He has studied the subject from A to Z.

20. A February general election is very much on the cards.

21. She has a vested interest in suggesting that we sell our shares in the company, since she would make a huge profit if we did.

22. You don't have to leave early on my account.

23. I heard the news at second hand.

24. We couldn't get a taxi for love or money.

25. I couldn't understand what he was saying – it was double Dutch to me.



26. The policeman was not allowed to drink while he was on the job. Since I'm on the job, do you want me to put up the towel-rail as well as mirror?

27. I don't understand his behaviour – it just doesn't add up.

28. She has stopped even paying lip-service to the rules.

29. Zero hour is at midnight.

30. His workmates sent him to Coventry because he worked during the strike.

31. He's very high and mighty now, but I can remember the time when he was a mere nobody, with scarcely a penny.

Only the high and mighty can do that sort of thing and get away with it!

32. On no account must you open that door.

33. Finding somewhere for fifty children to stay tonight is rather a tall order.

34. I know the children are as safe as houses when Gillian is looking after them.

35. This book gives you the ABC of engineering.

36. His last deal left him out of pocket.

37. They are married in name only, since they have been living apart for years.

38. They have kept company for more than two years; She has kept company with him for a long time.

39. He made a name for himself as the first man to step on the moon.

40. Day in, day out she has to look after the baby.

41. "The office I work in is a very funny place." "Funny peculiar or funny ha-ha?"

42. We couldn't afford the whole dinner-service at once so we decided to buy it in penny numbers.

43. I could see from the expression on her face as she came in that she meant business.

44. You don't expect people to live in such primitive conditions in this day and age.

45. The hijackers told the pilot that if he tried any funny business they would shoot him.

46. I haven't finished this piece of work but I'm so tired that I'll have to call it a day: They were engaged to be married but they quarrelled so much that they decided to call it a day.

47. Tickets for the football match were at a premium.

48. This hair style is unisex.

49. The ram put paid to our visit to the zoo. This put paid to his ambitions.

50. We're in a fix now; it's going to cost us over eighty pence to get home, and we haven't a penny between us.

51. My secretary is worth her weight in gold.

52. We are looking for a holiday cottage and this will fill the bill.

53. There has been some sharp practice over this contract.

54. The police kept asking him loaded questions.

55. It is too late to refuse the invitation – you've just to make the best of it and try to enjoy yourself.

56. She thanked him for attending to her problems so kindly, but he assured her that it was all in the day's work.

57. Although the criminal moved to another town, the long arm of the law soon caught up with him.

58. The trial was just a put-up job.

59. We know we didn't leave the office window open, so the sixty-four thousand dollar question is – who did?

60. Any doctor worthy of the name would have known what was wrong with her. This is a cause which will appeal to any Briton worthy of the name!

61. She feels that if she plays her cards right she may get the widower to marry her.

62. Steam trains have had their day.

63. He seems to be involved in some monkey business or other.

64. His opinion carries a lot of weight around here.

65. Do hurry up – I'm a bit pressed for time.

66. What he did was illegal according to the letter of the law, but he would never be sent to prison for it.

67. The vexed question of who is to pay for the improvements to our school.

68. If you enter the beauty contest you will have to give your vital statistics.

69. He became / got very worked-up about the while problem.

70. You'll have your work cut out to beat the champion.

71. The gangster's friends bought off the police witness.

72. It was a difficult moment, but he carried it off well.

73. Speech is silver, silence is golden.

74. The arms with which the country has been supplied may turn out to be a Greek gift in the event of a civil war.

75. I'm not surprised to hear that her husband is in jail for assault – I always thought he was a nasty piece of work.

76. Her house has been on the market for months.

77. Her brother has trained to be a priest and takes orders next month.

Holy orders.

78. He didn't grasp her meaning at first, but eventually the penny dropped.

79. If you ever decide to sell your caravan, will you give me (the) first refusal?

80. They asked a woman with second sight where the dead body was.

81. Don't worry – it will work out in the end.

82. I'll come to and keep you company.

83. His wife has been wonderful throughout his illness – she is one in a million.

84. Hats with feathers are the order of the day at fashionable weddings this year.

85. He nailed my chair to the floor as a practical joke.

86. If you use your money to pay the interest on your bank loan, isn't that robbing Peter to pay Paul?

87. He says the Queen has invited him to Buckingham Palace, but that's just one of his tall stories.

88. They keep calling her names, shouting things like "Big head!" and "Foureyes"! (= someone who wears spectacles).

89. I don't think we'll need much money but I'll take my cheque-book just to be on the safe side.

**Exercise 2. Supply the most suitable words from the list on the right.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is hard to find at the moment. a) boss
2. The quality of the food in a restaurant depends on its \_\_\_\_\_. b) chauffeur
3. I work in a garage as a car \_\_\_\_\_. c) chef
4. Nancy has started a new \_\_\_\_\_. d) colleague
5. Mrs Wilks is the \_\_\_\_\_ of this shop, not the owner. e) college
6. If you want to know the way, ask a \_\_\_\_\_. f) conductor
7. Who's the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Boston Symphony Orchestra? g) doctor
8. Brenda Mittens was a university \_\_\_\_\_ at the age of 26. h) engineer
9. He has a car with a uniformed \_\_\_\_\_. i) job
10. His \_\_\_\_\_ at school has given him a good report. j) manager
11. What's the name of the \_\_\_\_\_ of your company? k) mechanic
12. An \_\_\_\_\_ designs bridges on roads. l) medicine
13. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the shop is putting up the rent. m) owner
14. There had been a burglary, so we called the \_\_\_\_\_. n) police
15. I went into business after I left \_\_\_\_\_. o) policemen
16. I can't use a \_\_\_\_\_, never mind a word processor! p) professor
17. Gordon is a \_\_\_\_\_ at the local hospital. q) teacher
18. Has the nurse given you your \_\_\_\_\_? r) typist
19. Smithers is a \_\_\_\_\_ of mine at the office. s) typewriter
20. It's useful to be a good \_\_\_\_\_ if you use a computer. t) work

**Exercise 3. Supply the best word or words.**

1. You'd like some spicy sausage. You might try a \_\_\_\_\_  
a) delicacy      b) delicatessen

2. You are standing in front of a shop window and admiring the \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) exhibition    b) show    c) display    d) exposition

3. A large shop that sells all kinds of goods is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) warehouse    b) storeroom    c) department  
d) department store

4. What \_\_\_\_\_ of toothpaste do you use?

- a) mark    b) brand    c) margue

5. When you're on holiday you might buy a \_\_\_\_\_ to take home with you.

- a) souvenir    b) memento    c) memory  
d) remembrance

6. A shop may sell things cheaply when it is having a \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) liquidation    b) clearance sale

7. Personally, I do all my shopping locally and prefer to deal with local \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) traders    b) tradesman    c) merchants    d) dealers

8. Something you buy at a good price can be described as \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) a bargain    b) an occasion    c) an opportunity  
d) second-hand

9. A business has to pay a lot for \_\_\_\_\_ on TV.

- a) advertising    b) propaganda    c) publicity

10. Spain is a fertile country and exports a lot of its \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) product    b) products    c) produce  
d) production

11. When you buy something, make sure you don't throw away your \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) prescription    b) receipt    c) recipe

12. You'll have to \_\_\_\_\_ if you want to buy an oriental carpet.

- a) make a bazaar    b) bazaar    c) bargain  
d) do a bazaar

13. You can have these goods \_\_\_\_\_ for up to month.

- a) on trial    b) on approval

14. You'll find the prices of our goods in our published \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) tariff    b) charges    c) price-list

15. We've been \_\_\_\_\_ with the same company for years.

- a) treating    b) dealing    c) using    d) handling

## READING

**Exercise 1. Read the story. Then discuss the questions.**

### The Real McCoy

Our boss Virgil is a very original person. He started a business from nothing, and now he's a millionaire. Although he is such a **man of means**, he remains a sincere, helpful person. If any of his friends needs help, he's the first to give it. He's a true friend, **the real McCoy**.

He does all sort of jobs in his company, from typing out his own letters to repairing big machines. He's a **jack of all trades**. And he doesn't bother about **keeping up with the Joneses**. He doesn't care what people think of his life-style; he doesn't have to have a lot of expensive things. He still drives the old car that he bought ten years ago, and he sometimes wears jeans to work.

1. If someone is **man or woman of means**, what does the person have a lot of?
2. What can a **jack of all trades** do?
3. If you want to **keep up with the Joneses**, what do you do?

**Exercise 2. Read the examples carefully to find the meaning of the idiom. Then look at the definitions that follow the examples. Write the idiom next to its definition. Note: You will use the same definition for two idioms.**

#### to go Dutch

When I go out to eat with my friends, we usually **go Dutch**. This way everyone knows what he or she is spending.

#### a jack of all trades

Louise can fix TVs, paint houses, and build shelves. She's a **jack of all trades**.

#### to keep up with the Joneses

Kate and Ken just bought the same car as Mavis and Mick, the same drapes as Dinah and Dick, the same Chihuahua as Antonio and Antonia. They're really **keeping up with the Joneses**.

**a man/girl Friday**

Griselda wants to get some work experience, and she likes to do a lot of different things. So she's gotten a job as a **girl Friday** at the local TV studio.

**a man/woman of means**

My cousin has a business that makes a large profit every year. He's a **man of means**.

**the real McCoy**

The large diamond in her ring isn't an imitation. It's the **real McCoy**.

**to run in the family**

Omar and his sister are both very **thin**. Being **skinny** must **run in the family**.

**a smart aleck**

Alexandra is such a **smart aleck**. She always thinks she's right about everything and always makes you think that you're wrong.

**Tom, Dick or Harry**

The boss was very careful about whom he hired for the job, and he interviewed several people. He didn't just hire any **Tom, Dick or Harry**.

**a wise guy**

Don't be such a **wise guy** and act as if you know it all. Other people won't like you.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ a true example of something.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ to want the same nice things  
that other people have
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ a person who can do many  
things
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ a rich person

5. \_\_\_\_\_ to share the cost, to pay one's own bill
6. \_\_\_\_\_ someone who acts as if he or she knows everything and is often rude about it
7. \_\_\_\_\_ nobody special, just any person
8. \_\_\_\_\_ someone who does a large variety of tasks on the job
9. \_\_\_\_\_ to be characterized by something common to many members of a family

**Exercise 3.** Answer each question with **yes** or **no**. Explain your answer.

1. When the neighbors bought a Mercedes, Frieda told her husband they had to have one too. Is Frieda trying to keep up with the Joneses?

2. George always wears the same old pants and shirt, and he drives a broken-down old car. Does George look like a man of means?

3. Fabian spends a lot of time and money trying to look different from anyone else. Does he want to look like Tom, Dick, or Harry?

4. Kevin and Mary went out on a date, and Kevin paid for the meal and movie. Did they go Dutch?

5. Chung is always polite and is willing to listen to other people's opinions in discussions. Is Chung a wise guy?

6. Emma is a very good plumber, but she can't do painting or carpentry or other things around the house. Is Emma a jack of all trades?

7. Elaine's father and mother are doctors, and Elaine is studying to become one. Does being a doctor run in the family?

8. This wooden bed is a genuine antique. It's two hundred years old. Is it the real McCoy?

9. Mathilda's only job at the office is to answer the telephone. Is she a girl Friday?



10. When I suggested that we go to a restaurant for our class party, Liz said that I had made a stupid suggestion, as usual. Was Liz being a smart aleck?

**Exercise 4. Each example has the correct idiom, but there is one error with each idiom. Find the error and correct it.**

1. This ring is real McCoy. It's genuine.
2. Bart is broke because he wants to keep up with the Joneses.
3. The president of our company is a woman of mean.
4. What we need in this office is a girl on Friday.
5. Be careful with Ben. He's somewhat of wise guy.
6. Being good at math goes in my family.
7. I don't like to work with her. She's such smart aleck.
8. I don't lend my car to just any Tom, Dick, and Harry.
9. At last I found Andy the handyman. He's jack in all trades.
10. Amanda asked Richard to go on a date, but she said that they would run Dutch.

**Exercise 5. Work with the partner or in a small group. Do the following activities.**

1. Are there idioms in your native language with people or people's names? Are any idioms like the ones in English?

2. **The real McCoy** is a true example of something. Describe two things that are the true example of something and say where you can find them.

3. Some people like to **keep up with the Joneses** and want to have what their friends or neighbors have. Describe a situation and use **keeping up with the Joneses**.

**Exercise 6. Read the newspaper review of a film and try to explain the idioms in bold.**

### Viewer's Choice

James Reed's classic production, starring Chuck Williams, Jay Johnson and Glenda Moore, tells the tale of a man who rises to **1) the top of the ladder**, before ending up as a **2) down-and-out** begging for money and **3) living rough** on the streets of New York.

At the beginning of the story, we meet Charlie Renton (Chuck Williams) who is **4) as poor as a church mouse** and lives in a tiny basement flat in Brooklyn. By luck, he manages to get a job with a big exporting company, and so begins his rapid rise **5) from rags to riches**.

Quickly, the **6) up-and-coming** young businessman becomes the company director's **7) right hand man** and miraculously helps the firm to double its profits in just one year. Then, following the retirement of his superior (Jay Johnson), Charlie finds himself **8) calling the shots** in the company.

For a while, everything seems fine: Charlie marries Charlene (Glenda Moore), moves into a fantastic house and joins **9) the jet set** with their extravagant parties, exclusive country clubs and flashy sports cars. Unfortunately, it is at this point that his slide down **10) the slippery slope** towards self-destruction begins.

*Tumble* is a magnificently directed study of human behaviour with a highly talented cast. Be prepared for some tear-jerking scenes, but don't miss it.



TUMBLI  
James Reed 1972)  
BBC 2 10:45 pm

### Exercise 7. Match the items with the idioms from Ex. 6

<b>a</b> the highest position in one's profession	<b>f</b> group of rich and fashionable people who are interested in enjoyment
<b>c</b> sth that is difficult to stop once it has begun and which usually ends badly	<b>g</b> likely to become successful
<b>d</b> close and trusted assistant	<b>h</b> person with no job or home
<b>e</b> to make the important decisions	<b>i</b> to live under unpleasant conditions
	<b>j</b> extremely poor

**Exercise 8. Fill in the gaps with phrases from the list:**

*poor as a church mouse, jet set, calling the shots, right hand man, up-and-coming*

1. I couldn't manage at work without Baxter – he's my .....
2. Now that the director has retired, Fred Martin will be taking over and .....
3. Sven can't even afford to buy a bus ticket – he's as .....
4. No wonder Carios is regarded as the best .....  
..... artist – his paintings are fantastic!
5. Now that his business is successful, Errol has joined the .....; he's bought houses in France and Tahiti.

**Exercise 9. Fill in the gaps with phrases from the list:**

*the slippery slope, from rags to riches, down-and-out, lives rough, the top of the ladder*

John came from a poor family in South London, but thanks to his shrewd business sense he went **1)** ..... and became a very successful stockbroker. Unfortunately, while he was at **2)** ..... he started drinking heavily and thus began his descent down **3)** ..... towards homelessness and poverty, Today John **4)** ..... in the doorways and alley-ways of central London. Little did he know, at the peak of his career, that he would end up **5)** ..... even poorer than he had been before.

**Exercise 10. Read the dialogue and try to explain the idioms in bold.**

**Boss:** Please sit down, Peter. I understand you want to **1) get something off your chest**, so tell me quickly because I've got a very busy schedule this morning.

**Peter:** Well, sir. It's about your choice of applicant for the position of medical director, Jefferson. You know I'm not **2) a nosy Parker**, sir, but I couldn't help noticing at the interview that he was a bit of **3) a dark horse**, so I decided to do a bit of investigating.

**Boss:** And...?

**Peter:** Well, I spoke to his previous employer, a Mr Todd, and found out that he has a tendency to **4) lose his head** when faced

with a difficult situation and also that he has a strong dislike of authority – apparently he has a **5) chip on his shoulder** because he's never held a senior position himself. It seems that he **6) has a very short fuse** as well, as he ended up hitting a patient who had disagreed with him. Of course, they fired him after that, and as Mr Todd told me, Jefferson reacted badly to that by screaming and shouting and threatening that he would **7) get his own back!** Anyway, basically I think you should offer the position to Smith instead.

Boss: Smith! But he's such **8) a wet blanket!** Don't you remember him refusing to come to last year's Christmas party because he thought it was silly?

Peter: Ah, but he's **9) as straight as a die** sir, and you know we need someone reliable for this position.

Boss: Yes, I **10) take your point**, but how are we going to give Jefferson the bad news?...

**Exercise 11. Match the items with the idioms from Ex. 10**

<b>a</b> completely honest/fair	<b>f</b> sb who is curious about other people's business
<b>b</b> to accept/appreciate what sb has said	<b>g</b> to have a tendency to get angry quickly /easily
<b>c</b> to talk about worries/problems in order to gain relief	<b>h</b> sb whose character is unknown
<b>d</b> a miserable person who doesn't like others to have fun	<b>i</b> sense of anger /bitterness because of unfair treatment
<b>e</b> to take revenge	<b>j</b> to lose control due to panic/anger, etc

**Exercise 12. Rewrite the following sentences using the words in bold. Do not change these words in any way.**

1. Fiona never wants to do anything exciting; she's such a miserable person.

**blanket** .....

2. Our neighbours are such curious people, they're always peeking through their curtains to see what we're doing.

**Parkers** .....

3. I appreciate what you're saying, Jo, but we just can't afford a car right now.

**point** .....

4. Watch what you say to the director, he loses his temper very easily.

**fuse** .....

5 My mother became furious when my brother told her that he had been suspended from school.

**lost** .....

**Exercise 13. Choose the word which best completes each sentence.**

1. Charles has had a ..... on his shoulder ever since he lost the bet with Mike.

A dimple B chip C hole D dent

2. Angry and upset, Harry called his sister to get a few things off his.....

A lungs B heart C neck D chest

3 Bill is a bit of a dark .....; I had no idea he used to be an Olympic swimmer.

A horse B stallion C donkey D steed

4. The newly-appointed Minister is as ..... as a die, he's very honest and reliable.

A square B straight C vertical D horizontal

5. When Tim stole my doll. I ..... my own back by stealing his favourite toy car.

A retrieved B got C fetched D regained

**Exercise 14. Fill in the gaps with phrases from the list:**

*nosy Parkers, stab you in the back, short fuse, rough diamond, golden boy, lost his head, wet blanket, pulling my leg, behind her back, take your point*

1. Elmer may seem ungracious and blunt but in fact he's a .....

2. I thought Karen was being serious when she told me she was going to quit her job, but she was just .....

3. Whatever you do, don't trust Ken – he'll .....  
..... given half the chance.

4. Susan let Richard read her diary and then he went ..... and told everyone what she had written.

5. In the '20s and '30s, Charlie Chaplin was the .....  
..... of the silver screen.

6. «Yes, yes, I ..... but if we don't have any financial backing, we can't go ahead with the project.»

7. As soon as Doreen came out of the director's office, all the ..... wanted to know what he had wanted.

8. Excuse me, I don't mean to be a .....but I'd rather you didn't tell that joke.

9. Mr Dithers ..... when his employees threatened to go on strike.

10. Although James loves children, I don't think he should become a teacher because he has such a .....

**Exercise 15. Say whether the idioms in the sentences below are used correctly or incorrectly. Then replace the incorrect idioms with a suitable alternative.**

1. When William wasn't accepted by any university, he **put on a brave face** and said he'd try again next year.

2. My sister is such a **dark horse** – she's always interfering in other people's business.

3. David is a bit of a **wet blanket** but, despite his gruffness, he's a very nice man.

4. Richard is always **pulling my leg**; I never know when he's being serious or not.

5. Pete Sampras is considered the **golden boy** of the tennis world. He's an outstanding player.

6. Mary got **hot under the collar** when she was told she hadn't got the promotion.

7. Alex has had a **short fuse** ever since his brother was given their father's old car.

8. In order for Arthur to **get his problems off his chest**, he went to see a psychologist.

9. Robert **kept his cool** when someone crashed into the back of his car because he jumped out of his car and started screaming at the other driver.

10. The behaviour of impatient **drivers takes my point**.

### **On your own**

**Work with the partner. Choose three idioms. Write a short conversation for each idiom. Then act out your conversations**

#### **Answer key:**

*p. 75, ex. 2*

1t, 2c, 3k, 4i, 5j, 6o, 7f, 8p, 9b, 10q, 11 a, 12h, 13m, 14n, 15e, 16s, 17g, 18l, 19d, 20r.

*p. 75, ex. 3*

1b, 2c, 3d, 4b, 5a, 6b, 7b, 8a, 9a, 10c, 11b, 12c, 13b, 14c, 15b.

## **CONTENT**

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A GOOD TURN OF PHRASE

ТАКОЙ НЕОЖИДААННЫЙ АНГЛИЙСКИЙ...

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