

11

IDIOMS

Look at the pictures. Can you guess what the topic idiom is about?



EXERCISE A: Match the idioms in column A with their meanings in column B.

A

1. burn the candle at both ends
2. on the house
3. under the knife
4. big picture
5. born with a silver spoon in one's mouth

B

- a. born into a very rich family
- b. is offered free of charge, usually in a bar or restaurant
- c. to exhaust yourself by doing too much, especially going to bed late and getting up early
- d. have surgery
- e. refers to the overall situation, or the project as a whole rather than the details

EXERCISE B: Complete the following sentences by filling in the appropriate idioms.

born with a silver spoon in her mouth	under the knife
big picture	burning the candle at both ends on the house

1. Andy looks exhausted - I'll bet he's been _____ lately.
2. The new owner offered us a drink _____.
3. I'm not worried about the anesthetic. I've been _____ several times.
4. While each aspect is important, try not to forget the _____.
5. She never has to worry about money; she was _____.

EXERCISE C: Make sentences using the learned idioms.

1. _____.
2. _____.
3. _____.
4. _____.
5. _____.

EXERCISE D: Answer your teacher's questions.

1. Do you like spending time at home?
2. Would you rather live in a house or an apartment?
3. Do you have a lot of decorations in your home or is it bare?
4. What is your favorite appliance, electronic device, or piece of furniture in your home?
5. What would you say the decoration style of your home is?
6. What household chores do you hate doing?
7. What would your ideal house or apartment look like?
8. If you had \$3,000 to improve your home, what would you spend it on?
9. Which room is the most important for you in your home?
10. Do you collect a lot of things?

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EXERCISE A: Match the idioms in column A with their meanings in column B.

A

1. all ears
2. lips are sealed
3. all in your head
4. stand on your own feet
5. get out of hand

B

- a. can't be controlled any longer
- b. not real, in one's imagination
- c. to promise not to reveal a secret
- d. listening attentively
- e. being independent and need no help from anyone

EXERCISE B: Complete the following sentences by filling in the appropriate idioms.

all ears	all in your head	got out of hand
stand on their own two feet		lips are sealed

1. When young people leave home, they learn to _____.
2. Of course I want to know - I'm _____!
3. Don't be silly. Nobody is trying to harm you. It's _____!
4. During the student demonstration, things _____ and several shop windows were broken.
5. I promise I won't tell anyone. My _____.

EXERCISE C: Make sentences using the learned idioms.

1. _____.
2. _____.
3. _____.
4. _____.
5. _____.

EXERCISE D: Answer your teacher's questions.

1. What are some important things about your body?
2. In what ways are mind and body connected?
3. What are the most useful parts of our body?
4. Would you rather have the perfect body or be super intelligent?
5. Would you sell your body to science?
6. What part of your body would you like to change?
7. What three adjectives would you use to describe the human body?
8. What's the best and worst thing ever to happen to your body?
9. What will our body look like after another million years of evolution?
10. What can you do to help your body be healthier?

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EXERCISE A: Match the idioms in column A with their meanings in column B.

A

1. last resort
2. cross to bear
3. cross that bridge when we come to it
4. (see) light at end of tunnel
5. saved by the bell

B

- a. something happens at the last minute to rescue you from a difficult situation
- b. see signs of hope for the future after a long period of difficulty
- c. someone who has a serious problem or heavy responsibility that he/she must accept because he/she cannot change it
- d. the last thing you would do if you were desperate and all other courses of action had failed
- e. another way of saying 'we will deal with that problem when it occurs and not worry about it before

EXERCISE B: Complete the following sentences by filling in the appropriate idioms.

cross that bridge when we come to it	saved by the bell
cross to bear	last resort see light at the end of the tunnel

1. "What will happen if we can't repay the loan?" "We'll _____."
2. Alzheimer's is a _____ for the whole family.
3. I still haven't found a hotel for the night; I can always sleep in the car as a _____!
4. Sales dropped heavily last year but we're beginning to _____.
5. _____! A friend arrived just when I realized I had no money for the parking meter.

EXERCISE C: Make sentences using the learned idioms.

1. _____.
2. _____.
3. _____.
4. _____.
5. _____.

EXERCISE D: Answer your teacher's questions.

1. Whenever you have problems, are you waiting for someone else to step in and fix things for you?
2. How much of your stress comes from the problem itself and how much of it has to do with how (and how often) you're thinking about it?
3. If you're feeling defeated, can you see this is a test of your strength and impress yourself by rising to the occasion?
4. Have you successfully addressed similar problems in the past?
5. If you're feeling overwhelmed, can you break the problem into smaller, more manageable parts?
6. Are you more worried about doing things right, or doing the right things?
7. Would you rather have less work to do, or more work you actually enjoy doing?
8. Which is worse, failing or never trying?
9. Which problems are easy to deal with, emotional, mental or physical?
10. If you were to advise a friend on how to deal and overcome difficulties, what advice would it be?

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EXERCISE A: Match the idioms in column A with their meanings in column B.

A

1. put pen to paper
2. pencil pusher
3. red tape
4. to put the seal on (something)
5. to rubber-stamp something

B

- a. to give something (a plan or decision) the official approval
- b. to start writing (something)
- c. official rules which do not seem necessary and make things happen very slowly
- d. someone who has a boring job in an office
- e. to make something certain or complete

EXERCISE B: Complete the following sentences by filling in the appropriate idioms.

rubber-stamp	pencil pusher	put pen to paper
put the seal on	red tape	

1. I want to write a novel but I just don't have time to _____.
2. She is a bored, frustrated _____ in a small office. She wants to quit her job and travel around the world.
3. President Bush was hopeful that the United Nations would _____ a war against Iraq.
4. My application for a visa to enter China was held up by _____.
5. The Prime Minister's visit has _____ the free trade agreement between the two countries.

EXERCISE C: Make sentences using the learned idioms.

1. _____.
2. _____.
3. _____.
4. _____.
5. _____.

EXERCISE D: Answer your teacher's questions.

1. Have you tried collecting special type of paper like stationery?
2. During your childhood years, do you used to write letters in stationery?
3. Do you use scented stationery or just the ordinary one?
4. If you are going to customize your own stationery, what design will it have?
5. What are three things (books, technical gadgets, communication devices) that every student needs at college? Are these things more wants than needs?
6. Emails are using variety of stationery. Do you use them when sending emails?
7. Do you think stationery designs are for young ones only?
8. Nowadays, people rely on the internet in almost any task they do. Do you think stationery companies should continue making them? Why?
9. What's the biggest stationery manufacturer you have in your country?
10. Would it affect your country's economy if it closed?

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EXERCISE A: Match the idioms in column A with their meanings in column B.

A

1. the ball is in your court
2. give it your best shot
3. no sweat
4. on target
5. time out

B

- a. no problem
- b. try your hardest
- c. doing the right thing to succeed
- d. your decision or responsibility to do something now
- e. break

EXERCISE B: Complete the following sentences by filling in the appropriate idioms.

time out	the ball is in your court	give it your best shot
blow the competition away	no sweat	

1. Let's take some _____ and grab a coffee.
2. We are _____ to meet our budget this month.
3. I told Lily it was _____ for us to babysit next weekend.
4. _____ and you may just make it to the finals.
5. "Do you think I should accept the job offer?" "Don't ask me. _____ now".

EXERCISE C: Make sentences using the learned idioms.

1. _____.
2. _____.
3. _____.
4. _____.
5. _____.

EXERCISE D: Answer your teacher's questions.

1. Do you play any sports?
2. Are /Were you a member of any sports team?
3. What do you think are the top five most watched sports in the world?
4. Who's your favorite athlete? What sport does he play?
5. Do you think athletes earn enough money, not enough money or too much money?
6. Have you tried any dangerous sports?
7. Does it bother you that people gamble on sporting events?
8. Is fishing viewed as a sport in your culture or solely a way of making a living?
9. If you had the opportunity to do away with any sport, what sport would you do away with? Why?
10. If you can bring back a famous athlete to life, who would it be? Why?