

**МІНІСТЕРСТВО ОСВІТИ І НАУКИ УКРАЇНИ  
БІЛОЦЕРКІВСЬКИЙ НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ АГРАРНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ**

**СОЦІАЛЬНО – ГУМАНІТАРНИЙ ФАКУЛЬТЕТ**

Кафедра романо-германської філології та перекладу

Практикум

**«ENGLISH IDIOMS IN USE»**

з дисципліни «Практичний курс першої іноземної  
МОВИ»

для здобувачів першого (бакалаврського) рівня вищої освіти  
спеціальності 035 «Філологія», ОП «Германські мови та літератури  
(переклад включно), перша – англійська»

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Практикум з англійської мови укладено відповідно до програми навчальної дисципліни «Практичний курс першої іноземної мови» для підготовки фахівців спеціальності 035 «Філологія» ОП Германські мови та літератури (переклад включно), перша – англійська. Практикум складається з 32 розділів, кожен з яких містить фразеологізми на запропоновану певну тематику та розроблені завдання лексичного характеру.

Практикум призначений для аудиторної, самостійної та індивідуальної роботи здобувачів вищої освіти I та II курсів філологічних спеціальностей.

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## ПЕРЕДМОВА

Практикум призначений для аудиторної, самостійної та індивідуальної роботи здобувачів вищої освіти I та II курсів філологічних спеціальностей.

Основною метою практикума є засвоєння фразеологічної лексики за допомогою вправ та завдань, формування усномовленнєвих компетентностей.

Новий стандарт зумовлює нові підходи до викладання, тому цей практикум, відповідно до освітньо-професійної програми (ОПП) зі спеціальності 035 «Філологія» ОП Германські мови та літератури (переклад включно), перша – англійська, навчання дисципліни «Практичний курс першої іноземної мови», передбачають формування наступних загальних та спеціальних компетентностей:

### **Загальні компетентності:**

- ЗК 04** Здатність бути критичним і самокритичним.
- ЗК 05** Здатність учитися й оволодівати сучасними знаннями.
- ЗК 06** Здатність до пошуку, опрацювання та аналізу інформації з різних джерел.
- ЗК 07** Уміння виявляти, ставити та вирішувати проблеми.
- ЗК 08** Здатність працювати в команді та автономно.
- ЗК 09** Здатність спілкуватися іноземною мовою.
- ЗК 10** Здатність до абстрактного мислення, аналізу та синтезу.
- ЗК 11** Здатність застосовувати знання у практичних ситуаціях.

### **Спеціальні компетентності:**

- СК 06** Здатність вільно, гнучко й ефективно використовувати мови, що вивчаються, в усній та письмовій формі, у різних жанрово-стильових різновидах і реєстрах спілкування (офіційному, неофіційному, нейтральному), для розв'язання комунікативних завдань у різних сферах життя.
- СК 09** Усвідомлення засад і технологій створення текстів різних жанрів і стилів державною та іноземними мовами.
- СК 11** Здатність до надання консультацій з дотримання норм літературної мови та культури мовлення.

Формування вищезазначених компетентностей передбачає досягнення

низки програмних результатів навчання (ПРН):

- РН 01** Вільно спілкуватися з професійних питань із фахівцями та нефахівцями державною та іноземними мовами усно й письмово, використовувати їх для організації ефективної міжкультурної комунікації.
- РН 02** Ефективно працювати з інформацією: добирати необхідну інформацію з різних джерел, зокрема з фахової літератури та електронних баз, критично аналізувати й інтерпретувати її, впорядковувати, класифікувати й систематизувати.
- РН 03** Організовувати процес свого навчання й самоосвіти.
- РН 10** Знати норми літературної мови та вміти їх застосовувати у практичній діяльності.
- РН 11** Знати принципи, технології і прийоми створення усних і письмових текстів різних жанрів і стилів державною та іноземними мовами.
- РН 14** Використовувати мови, що вивчаються, в усній та письмовій формі, у різних жанрово-стильових різновидах і регістрах спілкування (офіційному, неофіційному, нейтральному), для розв'язання комунікативних завдань у побутовій, суспільній, навчальній, професійній, науковій сферах життя.

Практикум має чітку організаційну структуру і нараховує 32 розділів, кожен з яких містить фразеологізми на запропоновану певну тематику та розроблені завдання лексичного характеру.

Крім того, наприкінці посібника, здобувачам запропоновані ключі до усіх вправ, які допоможуть перевірити правильність їх виконання та звернути увагу на навчальний матеріал, що потребує доопрацювання.

Автори сподіваються, що завдання практикуму допоможуть викладачам організувати індивідуальну та самостійну роботу здобувачів, сприятимуть підвищенню об'єктивності контролю та оцінювання знань.

# Unit 1

## Animal Idioms

### Exercise 1.

Fill in the following words in the definitions below.

bonnet                  bull                  swing                  straw                  pants  
chase                  horns                  hind                  sty                  bees

1. A male cow is called a . . . . . They usually have .....
2. The back legs of horses are called their .. . . . . legs.
3. A .....is a type of hat with strings which you tie under your chin. Babies sometimes wear them.
4. Trousers are sometimes called . . . . .
5. If you run after someone to try to catch them, you . . . . . them.
6. Honey is made by . . . . .
7. . . . . is dried grass, used for packing things or for animals to sleep on.
8. Farmers keep pigs in a pig- .....
9. If you . . . . . something, you hold it and wave it around.

### Exercise 2.

Put the following pairs of words into the sentences below.

bee - bonnet  
sheep - family  
bull - horns  
ants - pants  
fish - water  
fish - sea  
cat - bag  
cows - home

1. He's got a . . . . . in his . . . . . about only using recycled goods.

2. Pete's girlfriend has just left him. I told him not to worry. There are plenty more  
..... in the .....
3. I've arranged a surprise party for my husband's birthday. I just hope nobody lets  
out of the ..... by accident.
4. I went to a disco for the first time in ten years last night. I looked and felt like  
...out of .....
5. If you think Jack's not doing his job properly, you're going to have to take the  
... by the .....and tell him.
6. Billy just won't sit still in class. I think he's got .....
7. I never liked school. I was always getting into trouble. I suppose I was the black  
...of the .....
8. I love soaps. I could sit and watch them till the ..... come.....

***Exercise 3.***

***Complete the dialogues with these idioms.***

swing a cat

gone to the dogs

monkeying around

smell a rat

1. What sort of flat are you looking for?

> Somewhere with a bit more space. There's not enough room to ..... in my living room.

2. Mick told me he was working late tonight.

> But there were no lights on when I passed. I .....

3. Would you please stop ..... You'll break something!

> Oh, come on! We're just having fun.

4. This shopping centre used to be quite good but look at it now.

> I know. It's really ..... in the last few years.

***Now add these nouns to the following.***

donkey (3)

chicken

horse

pig

camel

goose

wolf

foxed



5. Did you buy that CD I asked you to?

> No. You sent me on a wild ..... chase. I must have tried three shops before someone told me it doesn't come out till November.

6. Bill! What a surprise!

> Duncan! How are you? I haven't seen you for ..... 's years!

7. You can get between twenty and thirty thousand pounds a year as an office manager now.

> That's ..... feed compared to what you can get in the States.

8. Are you sure we're getting a pay rise next month? Who told you?

> I got it straight from the ..... 's mouth. The manager himself told me.

9. You get a company pension, don't you?

> Yes, it's not very much but it helps to keep the ..... from the door.

10. Robert likes the sound of his own voice, doesn't he?

> Yes. He can talk the hind legs off a .....

11. And when they took my company car from me, I just had to resign!

> That must have been the straw that broke the ..... 's back.

12. If you do the digging, I'll go and get the seeds.

> Not likely! I don't see why I should do all the ..... work!

13. I wish you'd tidy your flat up! It's like a ..... -sty !

14. I just didn't understand. I didn't know what to do. I was totally ..... !

**Exercise 4.**

**Revision. Look back at the idioms in this unit and add the missing verbs.**

1. let the ..... out of the bag	6. got a .... in his/her bonnet
2. take the ..... by the horns	7. smell a .....
3. send him on a wild .... chase	8. feel like a ..... out of water
4. not enough room to swing a .....	9. haven't seen you for ..... 's years
5. talk the hind legs off a .....	10. keep the ..... from the door

# Unit 2

## Bird Idioms

### Exercise 1.

Fill in the following words in the definitions below.

nest	boo	swoop
wings	flap	peck

- Birds and planes both have .....
- Birds make a ..... in which to lay their eggs.
- When birds suddenly fly down to the ground to catch something to eat, they .....
- Birds hop around and ..... the ground to pick up bits of food.
- In order to fly, birds have to ..... their wings.
- ..... is the noise you make to surprise or shock someone.

### Exercise 2.

What's the idea? In many languages different birds bring different ideas to mind. Can you match these six birds and the ideas?

1. ostrich	a. thief
2. dodo	b. good eyesight
3. hawk	c. waterproof
4. magpie	d. dead or extinct
5. swan	e. pretends problems don't exist
6. duck	f. head in the air looking superior

### Exercise 3.

Put these birds into the correct space below.

duck	crow	goose	chicken
dodo	hawk	parrot	sparrow

1. It's only forty miles from here to Bristol as the .....flies, but it takes an hour by car because the roads are so bad.
2. You have to get used to criticism in this job. It doesn't bother me now. It's like water off a ..... 's back.
3. I'm supposed to be going on holiday tomorrow. I've been running round like a headless..... all day trying to get ready.
4. I made a personal phone call from the office and my boss found out about it. She's watching me like a ..... now to make sure I don't do it again.
5. Really? I can't believe Carol would say anything to upset you. She wouldn't say
6. I'm not surprised Andrea's so thin. She eats like a ... ..
7. Do you know anything about computers? I've just switched mine on and nothing happened. It's as dead as a..... .
8. I've got tickets for the Cup Final on Saturday. Mark has to work and there's no way he's going to manage to get off. He's as sick as a ..... about it.

**Exercise 4.**

**Fill in the following words and expressions in the sentences below.**

a. in one fell swoop	h. an early bird
b. flown the nest	i. with one stone
c. birds of a feather	j. spring chicken
d. in a flap	k. the pecking order
e. their own nest	l. a little bird
f. under her wing	m swan around
g. parrot fashion	n. nest egg

1. Calm down. Why are you .....? Everything will be all right.
2. At school, we used to learn French verbs .....
3. He's not even a junior manager. He's way down .....
4. My new boss has taken a special interest in my career. She's taken me .....

5. All my children have grown up and .....
6. One stupid comment to the media and your reputation can be destroyed.....
7. My husband really is ..... He gets up at six every morning.
8. I'm saving carefully. I'll have a nice little ..... by the time I retire.
9. I don't like people who return to their home town and ..... in expensive clothes and big cars.
10. Let's check the timetable and pick up the tickets at the same time. We might as well kill two birds .....
11. .... told me you had got engaged. Is it true?
12. I would sack all politicians who feather ..... - and I would make sure they were banned from public life!
13. I know Sheila looks young, but I can tell you she's no ..... I should know! I was in her class at school.
14. Did you see Jane having lunch with Mary? Two dreadful gossips! I suppose ..... flock together!

**Exercise 5.**

**Revision. Look back at the idioms in this unit and complete these phrases.**

1. like water off a ..... 's back	9. as the ..... flies
2. kill two ..... with one stone	10. in one fell .....
3. watching me like a .....	11. as dead as a .....
4. took me under his .....	12. as sick as a .....
5. running round like a headless .....	13. flown the .....
6. in a .....	14 ..... around
7. .... fashion	15..... order
8. wouldn't say boo to a .....	16 .....egg

# Unit 3

## Body Idioms

### Exercise 1.

Match these five parts of the body with the non-literal ideas on the right.

- |          |                  |
|----------|------------------|
| 1. heart | a. confrontation |
| 2. nose  | b. skillful      |
| 3. hand  | c. curiosity     |
| 4. face  | d. emotions      |
| 5. head  | e. top           |

### Exercise 2.

Complete the idioms with the following expressions.

- |                      |                     |                   |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| a. an old hand       | e. my hands         | i. came to a head |
| b. behind my back    | f. on its last legs | j. hand it to him |
| c. couldn't face     | g. face the fact    | k. a good head    |
| d. gone to your head | h. a brave face     | l. your head      |

1. I love my old car, but I'm having more and more problems with it. I think it's .....
2. My boyfriend and I have always argued quite a lot, but the situation ..... last week when he accused me of lying.
3. I'm sorry, John, but we have to ..... that we are not getting on.
4. I can't trust you any more. You've been talking about me .....
5. What's the matter with you? You've changed since your promotion. I think power's .....
6. Bob's an excellent chairman. He's ..... at controlling difficult people.
7. Ask Marianne to help you. She's got ..... for figures.
8. There's nothing I can do to help, I'm afraid ..... are tied.

9. I'm afraid I'm not coming to the concert. You know I'm not keen on classical music and I ..... three hours of it!
10. I know Jane's in a lot of pain, but she puts ..... on it.
11. Richard's businesses just go from strength to strength. You know, you've got to .....
12. We'll have to go to the bank and ask for another loan. You just can't go on burying ..... in the sand any longer.

**Exercise 3.**

**Match these idioms with their definitions.**

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| If you foot the bill,              | you really don't feel like doing it.         |
| If somebody got your back up,      | you are trying something for the first time. |
| If something gets on your nerves,  | it irritates you.                            |
| If your heart is not in something, | you pay for it.                              |
| If you dip your toe in the water,  | they annoyed you.                            |

**Exercise 4.**

**Choose the correct word in the dialogues below.**

1. Do you get phone calls from companies trying to sell you things?  
> All the time. They're a pain in the **neck/back**.
2. Did you know that Alan and Moira have stopped seeing each other?  
> Yes, I do now, but I put my **foot/fist** in it yesterday when I asked when they were getting married.
3. I'm really worried about my economics course. I don't know what to do.  
> Do you want to talk about it? It might help to get it off your **back/chest**.
4. Jane's a bit strange, isn't she?  
> Ye, but I'm not sure what it is. I can't quite put my **finger /hand** on it.
5. Jill's not her usual self at the moment. Is there something wrong?

- > I think it's pressure of work. She has to **elbow/ shoulder** a lot of responsibility.
6. You need to be more ambitious. You could be a senior manager if you wanted to.
- > No thanks. I don't want to **elbow/shoulder** my way to the top like you did and lose all my friends on the way.
7. Who was that man I saw you with last night?  
Don't be so **nosey/cheeky!** It's none of your business.
8. It was nice to meet your girlfriend last night.  
> Don't be so **nosey/cheeky!**
9. Look at that Ferrari!  
> Fantastic! I'd give my right **leg/ arm** for a car like that.
10. I've just bought the latest mini-disc walkman.  
> Really? That must have cost you **a leg and an arm/an arm and a leg.**
11. Tony thinks I've got no taste in clothes. He says I'm twenty years out of date.  
Don't take him too seriously. He's only pulling your **arm/leg.**
12. How's your new job going?  
> Not bad, but I've only been there four days so I'm still finding my **feet/hands.**

**Exercise 5.**

**Revision. Put the missing verbs into these expressions.**

1. I'd ..... my right arm for it.	6. Power's ... to his head.
2. I ..... my foot in it.	7. It ..... an arm and a leg.
3. I'm only ..... your leg.	8. I'm still ..... my feet.
4. I can't ..... my finger on it.	9. He just ..... his head in the sand.
5. The situation .....to a head.	10. Come on, ..... it off your chest!

**Exercise 1. Fill in the following words in the definitions below.**

kid	crack	handle	crushed	snapped
fragile	chip	shattered	smashed	mend

1. My car windscreen just ..... when the stone hit it.
2. The crystal glasses I sent to John and Mary arrived in pieces although I had clearly marked the parcel “.....”.
3. I didn't see the lights change and just ..... straight into the back of a brand new Porsche!
4. A ..... is a small piece broken off a cup or a piece of china.
5. My key ..... in two when I tried to open the door.
6. When I opened the box, there was a ..... in one of the cups.
7. Please don't ..... the goods. All breakages must be paid for?'
8. The driver of the Renault had no hope. His car was ..... between two huge lorries.
9. I tried to ..... the plug in the kitchen, and almost got electrocuted.
10. A ..... is a baby goat.

**Exercise 2.**

**Match the following idioms with the meanings below.**

1. He's *feeling fragile* this morning. He had a late night.
2. He *went to pieces* when he heard of his mother's death.
3. He's *a smashing person* and a really wonderful friend.
4. He's *at breaking-point*. You should see how much work he has!
5. He *needs careful handling*. He's brilliant, but he's a bit sensitive to criticism.
6. "Do it yourself, if you think you can do it better!" he *snapped* back.
7. After two days of interrogation, his son *cracked* and confessed to the murder.
8. He *comes from a broken home*.



a. He's under too much pressure.	e. He's not very well.
b. You've got to be careful how you treat him.	f. He's very nice.
c. He started to cry.	g. He started to tell the truth.
d. His parents divorced, and he was brought up by his mother.	h. He replied angrily.

**Exercise 3. Fill in the following words and expressions in the sentences below.**

- |                               |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. shattered my confidence    | f. mend the relationship          |
| b. a chip on his shoulder     | g. pick up the pieces             |
| c. put his life back together | h. a crushing blow                |
| d. broke up                   | i. knocked me down with a feather |
| e. handle him with kid gloves | j. broke her heart                |

- John's got ..... about his background.
- Losing your job can be ..... to anyone - no matter how strong you are.
- Be very careful what you say to Richard. You've got to .....
- When Mrs Jones' youngest son was killed in the war, it .....
- Failing my driving test for the second time totally .....
- Diane wants a divorce, but Justin is trying to .....
- When I heard the news, you could have .....
- Didn't you know that Harry and Jane ..... last year?
- It was terrible losing Mary, but I'm doing my best to .....
- After Ron's wife died, it took him a long time to ..... !

**Exercise 4. Revision. Look back at the idioms in this unit and add the missing words.**

1. It..... my heart.	6. He's from a ..... home.
2. He's got a ..... on his shoulder.	7. I just went to .....
2. It ..... my confidence.	8. They ..... up after 20 years!
4. Please ..... her with .....gloves!	9. He'll ..... under the pressure.
5. I'm feeling a bit ..... today.	10. She's trying to pick up the .....

# Unit 5

## Building Idioms

### Exercise 1.

Fill in the following words in the definitions below.

foundations      cement      chimney      ceiling      corridor  
bricks      doorstep      roof      tiles

1. Smoke from your fire goes up through the .....
2. Before building a house, you have to have good, dry .....
3. The ..... of a house must be watertight.
4. If you are in a room now, look up and you'll see the .....
5. ....are one of the commonest building materials. They are often red. is used to hold them together.
6. Your ..... is just outside your door.
7. Most houses in Mediterranean countries have roofs made of red .....
8. A long narrow passage with doors and rooms on either side is a .....

### Exercise 2.

Fill in the following idiomatic expressions in the situations below.

a. against a brick wall	e. a foot in the door
b. on your doorstep	f. hit the roof
c. on the tiles	g. through the back door
d. laid the foundations	h. like a ton of bricks

1. Why are you taking such a low-paid job? I'm sure you could find something better.  
> I know, but it's a good company. I just want to get .....and with any luck I can work my way up.

2. I think the business is ready to expand now.  
> I agree, we've ..... and it's time to build on them.
3. Diana looks cross about something. What's happened?  
> I just asked if I could leave early tonight and she came down on me .....
4. I've just told my dad about my exam results. He wasn't very pleased.  
> Neither was mine. He ..... when I told him I'd failed maths.
5. I don't know how you can live in the middle of town. It must be awful.  
> It's all right once you're used to it. You've got everything right .....
6. How did you manage to get a job with the bank?  
> Well, I got in ....., really. My dad plays golf with one of the directors.
7. You still haven't got a job, then?  
> No, I'm afraid not. I've applied for maybe thirty and I haven't had one interview. I feel as if I'm banging my head .....
8. You look as if you had a late night last night.  
> Yes. It was my brother's birthday so we went out for a night .....

***Exercise 3.***

***Put these parts of buildings into the sentences below.***

chimney	corridors	window
cement	brick wall	door
closed doors	roof	wall

1. I was so ill with flu last week I thought I was at death's .....
2. The European Union needs to do more to ..... its relationship with the old Eastern Bloc countries.
3. They say smoking's bad for you but my grandfather's ninety-seven and he's always smoked like a .....
4. After the discovery of the new cancer drug, shares in Blonow Corporation have gone through the .....

5. The management and union bosses are having talks behind .....
5. Our business is not going too well at the moment. Financially, we've got our backs to the .....
6. I'm supposed to be on a diet at the moment. Whenever I have dinner with friends, it just goes out of the .....
7. Politicians soon discover that the ..... of power are not very safe places!
9. You never listen to me. It's like talking to a .....

**Exercise 4.**

**Revision. Put these pairs of words into the sentences below.**

night - tiles

talking - brick

bashing - brick

smokes - chimney

meeting - closed

foot - door

1. I'm hoping to get a ..... in the .....
2. I'm .....my head against a ..... wall.
3. She ..... like a .....
4. We're going out for a ..... on the .....
5. They're having a ..... behind ..... doors.
6. It's like ..... to a ..... wall.

**Look back at the idioms in this unit and find the missing words.**

7. at death's.....	12. goes out the .....
8. like a ..... of bricks	13. hit the .....
9. the ..... of power	14. went through the .....
10. behind closed .....	15. on my .....
11. through the back .....	16. ....the relationship

**Exercise 1.**

**Fill in the following words in the definitions below.**

- |          |         |        |        |
|----------|---------|--------|--------|
| whiskers | fur     | rub    | pigeon |
| pussy    | curious | bricks | claws  |

1. Another name for a kind of dove is .....
2. A pet name for a cat is a .....
3. Cats have very sharp .....
4. Some breeds of cat have long ... while others have very short .....
5. If you ..... a cat's ..... one way, it loves it. If you ....., it the other way, it hates it!
6. If you are .....about something, you are interested in knowing more about it.
7. .... are used for building or paving.
8. Cats have very sensitive.....

**Exercise 2.**

**Here are some ideas about cats. Match them with the idioms below.**

a. Cats like to be in charge.	e. Cats can be cruel.
b. Cats are very inquisitive.	f. Some cats are considered unlucky.
c. Stroke cats from front to back.	g. Cats are light on their feet.
d. Cats can be aggressive.	h. Cats can seem sleepy.

1. When the cat's away, the mice will play.
2. Curiosity killed the cat!
3. There isn't a cat in hell's chance.

4. Stop pussyfooting and say what you mean.
5. Don't rub him up the wrong way.
6. I think I'll just have a catnap.
7. That was a very catty thing to say!
8. They fight like cat and dog.

***Exercise 3.***

***Complete these sentences using words from Exercises 1 or 2.***

1. We just caught the train by a ..... - with less than a minute to spare!
2. Mary and her husband get on really well even if sometimes they seem to fight like ..... and dog.
3. Be a bit more careful what you say! Some people might think that was a very ..... remark!
4. You should have been at the meeting yesterday. There was a terrible fight between Jeff and Liz. The ..... was really flying!
5. I suppose now that you've passed your driving test first time you think you're the cat's ..... !
6. Poor Jonathan! At last Miranda has got her ..... into him!

***Exercise 4.***

***Revision. Look back at the idioms in this unit and add the missing words.***

- 1, fight like cat and .....
2. stop .....
3. a cat in ..... chance
4. a ..... remark
5. when the cat's .....
6. put the cat..... the pigeons
7. let the cat out of the .....
8. the cat's .....

# Unit 7

## Clothes Idioms

### Exercise 1.

Fill in the following words in the definitions below.

- |         |         |          |         |
|---------|---------|----------|---------|
| cap     | gloves  | knickers | tighten |
| sleeves | roll up | twist    | belt    |

- If you don't want your hands to get cold, wear your.....
- I don't like wearing T-shirts. I prefer shirts with long .....
- A type of flat hat is called a .....
- I always buy jeans which are a bit too long, then I ..... the bottoms.
- If I didn't wear a ..... my trousers would fall down!
- I've been on a diet for the past month. I've lost quite a lot of weight. I'm having to ..... my belt a bit more every week!
- Lots of beer bottles have got tops you can ..... off, which is very convenient.
- Men wear underpants under their trousers, but women wear .....

### Exercise 2.

Fill in the following sentences in the dialogues below.

a. Don't get your knickers in a twist.	e. It fits like a glove.
b. Don't get shirty with me.	f. I wouldn't like to be in her shoes.
c. I've got something up my sleeve.	g. We do everything on a shoestring.
d. Just speak off the cuff.	h. I'll collar him.

- The colour suits you. How about the size?  
> Perfect.....
- The dinner's not ready. I still haven't washed my hair. The place is a mess. Jo and Lucy will be here any minute. What am I going to do?  
> Just calm down!.....
- We just can't compete with bigger companies.

I know .....

4, It's Stuart's birthday tomorrow and we haven't bought or planned anything, Tim.

> Don't worry.....

5. I've asked Cathy to break the news to the people who are losing their jobs.

> Poor Cathy.....

6, Where have you been? We've been waiting an hour. You're so inconsiderate!

> Hey! .....

The car broke down!

7. I've got to give a short speech tomorrow night at the annual dinner.

> Oh, don't worry! .....

8. I need to speak to John to see if he's free to play golf this Saturday.

I'll see him tonight ..... then and ask him.

### Exercise 3.

Match these meanings with the idioms in bold type in the sentences below.

a. tell nobody	d. old-fashioned, out of date
b. admire	e. do something miraculous
c. he doesn't know what he's talking about	f. now, without planning

1. Don't listen to what Robin is saying. He's talking **through his hat**.

2. I love Italy. If I could get a job there, I'd go **at the drop of a hat**.

3. I'm going to tell you something but you must promise to **keep it under your hat**.

4. Cassettes? Nobody uses them now, They're **old hat**. It's CDs or mini-dises now.

5. Richard's going to replace the heating system in his house all by himself. **I take my hat off to him**. I'd never do it without professional help.

6. So, England are losing 1 - 0 with two minutes to go. They really need to **pull something out of the hat now**.



**Exercise 4.**

**Put the following words into the sentences below.**

- |          |         |       |       |
|----------|---------|-------|-------|
| belts    | sleeves | socks | shoes |
| trousers | coat    | caps  | shirt |

- I've nearly finished decorating the living room. One wall just needs another ..... of paint and that's it finished.
- There's a lot of unemployment in this area. People are having to tighten their ..... just to survive till better times return.
- I'm sorry you're having a difficult time at work but you can't just quit. You just have to roll up your ..... and get on with it like everyone else.
- My boss is going to a new job in New York. We're all going to miss her. It won't be easy to find someone to fill her .....
- Jerry is the most generous man I know. He'd give you the ..... off his back.
- Sorry, Sally, I have to say this. You're going to fail this course unless you pull your ..... up.
- Don't bother asking Steve about coming for dinner, ask Lydia. She's the one who wears the..... in their house.
- Listen, everybody. We need to decide what to do for Joanne's leaving party and what present to get her. So get your thinking .....on!

**Exercise 5.**

**Revision. Look back at the idioms in this unit and add the missing verbs.**

1.....your sleeves up	6. .... your socks up
2. .... it under your hat	7. ....our belts
3. .... something out of the hat	8. .... like a glove
4. .... my hat off to him	9. ....through your hat
5. .... you the shirt off his back	10. ....her/his shoes

# Unit 8

## Colour Idioms: Black / White

### Exercise 1.

Put the following phrases into the dialogues below.

a. black or white	d. white elephant
b. white lie	e. white collar
c. black and white	f. as white as a sheet

1. I thought you didn't like Diane's new flat.

> I don't, but I didn't want to upset her so I told her a little.....

We all have to now and again, don't we?

2. I'd love a coffee if that's possible.

> Certainly - ..... ?

3. I don't feel very well. Have you got an aspirin, Paul?

> Yes, sit down. You look .....

4. Good news, Andy. I've just heard we're finally getting that pay rise we were promised - starting from next month.

> I'll believe it when I see it in .....

5. We should never have bought this table. We never use it. It just takes up space.

> I know. It's a bit of a ..... Let's sell it.

6. What exactly are ..... workers?

> People who work in offices and administrative positions as opposed to manual workers.

### Exercise 2.

Put the following words and expressions in the sentences below.

a. in the black	f. a black look
b. the black market	g. black spot

c. a black picture	h. the blackest day of my life
d. black eye	i. black economy
e. the black sheep of the family	j. black and white

1. I said sorry, but he didn't say a word. He just gave me .....
2. The official exchange rate is terrible, but if you know the right people, you can get a much better deal on .....
3. Be careful driving along here. It's a real ..... Three people were killed in an accident only last week.
4. My brother and sister were always more successful at school than me. I preferred to have fun. I suppose I was .....
5. Things are bad, I'm afraid. We might have to cut 50 jobs this year and another 75 next year. Sorry to paint such ..... but that's the reality.
6. Have you been in a fight? How did you get that ..... ?
7. I'm finally in control of my financial situation. For the first time this year, my account is .....
8. Every country has a ..... Some are bigger than others.
9. The day I heard of that plane crash was .....
10. The issue isn't as ..... as the government pretends.

**Exercise 3.**

**Revision. Look back at the idioms in this unit and add the missing nouns.**

1. I told her a little white .....
2. This is an accident black .....
3. She's the black. .... of the family.
4. Sorry to paint such a black .....
5. Concorde has turned out to be a bit of a white .....
6. It's cheaper on the black .....
7. She gave me a black .....
8. The black ..... means the government loses a lot of tax.

 **Unit 9** **Colour Idioms:  
Red / Blue*****Exercise 1.***

***Choose the colour which completes the idiom - red or blue.***

1. The first time I went skiing was great fun but I fell over every five seconds! I was black and ***red/blue*** all over the next day - bruises everywhere.
2. I got a huge surprise last week. My cousin from Australia just arrived on my doorstep completely out of the ***red/blue***.
3. I've just got back from visiting our Swedish factory. They were incredibly welcoming. They gave me the ***red/blue*** carpet treatment.
4. I used to go the cinema quite a lot but there's not much I want to see these days. I only go once in a ***red/blue*** moon now.
5. I've never been more embarrassed in my life! Just as the priest asked if anyone knew any reason why we should not be married, in walked my ex-boyfriend. I just went as ***red/blue*** as a beetroot. He had come with a present for us!
6. Come on, Steve! It's your birthday. We can't stay in tonight. Let's go out and paint the town ***red/blue***.
7. What really annoys me about getting a visa these days is all the ***red/blue*** tape. You know - the documents, the paperwork, the forms to fill in. It's ridiculous!
8. And then suddenly out of her. Can you believe it? I just saw ***red/blue*** and started shouting at her.
9. I wouldn't use Brian's computer if I were you. He'll scream ***red/blue*** murder if he finds out you've used it.
10. Look, you've asked, but times already and you can keep asking until you're ***red/blue*** in the face, but the answer is still "No"

***Exercise 2.***

***Complete the following dialogues with the word red or blue.***

1. How can you be sure that it was Rob who's been stealing the CDs?  
> Linda saw him putting them in his bag during his lunch break. He was caught **blue-/ red-** handed.
2. George seems to be the boss's favourite. He's always nice to him.  
> Oh, yes. George can do no wrong. He's the **blue-/red-** eyed boy.
3. Do you want to try that new late-night cinema? It might be quite good.  
> No thanks. Somebody told me they show **blue/red** movies. I'm not interested.
4. John gets quite aggressive when you talk about politics, doesn't he?  
> Absolutely. And if you criticise the Labour party it's like a **blue/red** rag to a bull. He can't resist trying to put you right.
5. Sorry to hear about your father. Had he been ill for some time or ...?  
> No, it was a heart attack. Totally unexpected - a complete bolt out of the **blue/red**.
6. You look worried. Is everything OK?  
> Not really. I'm in the **blue/red** again. I'm having real money problems.
7. Why did they spend so long at the meeting talking about the colour of the chairs?  
> It was a complete **blue/red** herring - just a total waste of time!
8. You can drive, can't you, Helen? Was it difficult to learn?  
> Oh, I found it really hard - especially the test. I failed it three times. The day I passed was a **blue-/red-** letter day for me. I remember it like it was yesterday.

**Exercise 3.**

**Revision. Look back at the idioms in this unit and add the missing colour.**

1. There's too much .....tape.	7. I was black and ..... all over.
2. Let's paint the town .....	8. He's the .....-eyed boy.
3. He'll scream ..... murder.	9. She was caught .....-handed.
4. That's like a ..... rag to a bull.	10. It was a ..... -letter day.
5. Ask till you're..... in the face!	11. It was a bolt out of the .
6. I do it once in a ..... moon.	12. I got the ..... carpet treatment.

**Exercise 1.**

*Fill in the following words in the definitions below.*

- |            |          |
|------------|----------|
| steer      | gear     |
| collision  | backseat |
| crossroads | crash    |
| lanes      | dead-end |
| overtake   | bend     |

1. When you pass another car going in the same direction, you ..... it.
2. You .....the car with the steering-wheel.
3. If you drive down a road and the road stops suddenly, it is a ..... .
4. You change ..... by first depressing the clutch pedal.
5. Motorways usually have three ....., the slow lane for lorries, the middle lane for cars, and the fast lane for overtaking and for breaking the law!
6. A ..... involves two or more vehicles.
7. A ..... usually involves more than one vehicle, but not necessarily.
8. Nobody likes a .....driver!
9. A curve in a road is called a ..... .
10. When you come to a ..... you have to decide which direction to go in.

**Exercise 2.**

*Match the idioms in bold type with the meanings below.*

a. keep away from	f. have a serious problem
b. in control	g. replace
c. change for the better	h. have no future
d. leave	i. increase your effort
e. make someone angry	j. hurry

1. Bill used to be boss, but his nephew is *in the driving seat now*.
2. Italy has *overtaken* France as the number two holiday destination.
3. This new computer is *driving me mad!*
4. Last year was a bit difficult, but I think the company's *turned the corner* now.
5. Come on! *Step on it!* We're going to be late.
6. I wonder if you could help me out. Were *in a bit of a jam*.
7. I wish I could leave. This is a *dead-end job*.
8. I'd *steer clear* of Di today, if I were you. She's in a dreadful mood.
9. The team weren't too bad in the first half, but ten minutes into the second half they seemed to *go up a gear*. Then they won 3 nil!
10. Come on! It's time to *hit the road*, Jack.

**Exercise 3.**

**Fill in the following words and expressions in the sentences below.**

a. at a crossroads	f. taking a backseat
b. on the road	g. the green light
c. in the fast lane	h. down the road
d. driving at	i. going round in circles
e. crashes	j. put a brake on

1. Who knows where we will be a couple of years ..... ?
2. Our reps spend about six months ..... every year.
3. If the Stock Market ..... we're all in serious trouble!
4. I'm afraid we'll have to ..... our spending for a while.
5. Life ..... doesn't suit everyone.
6. At last! They've given us ..... Now we can go ahead!
7. You can decide from now on. I'm .....
8. I'm not sure I know what exactly you're .....
9. Let's get to the point! For the past hour we've been .....
10. I think my career is ..... I feel like a change of direction.

**Exercise 4.**

**Complete these short dialogues using the following idioms.**

- a. We're in the slow lane going nowhere.
- b. It's driving me round the bend!
- c. We're on a collision course.
- d. You won't catch me doing a U-turn.

1. Have you got to grips with your new software?

> You must be joking .....

2. Are you going to change your mind?

> Me? Change my mind? .....

3. Do you think you and your head of department are going to agree?

> No, I don't. ....

4. I hear your company's not doing very well.

> You're dead right. ....

**Exercise 5.**

**Revision. Look back at the idioms in this unit and add the missing verbs.**

- 1. ....me mad
- 2. ....him round the bend
- 3. ....us the green light
- 4. ....up a gear
- 5. ....the road
- 6. .... a backseat
- 7. ....round in circles
- 8. .... the corner
- 9. .... a brake on
- 10. .... clear



**Exercise 1.**

**Match the idioms with their meanings.**

1. It's not my taste.	a. I am extremely hungry.
2. I had to eat my words.	b. I don't like it.
3. I've had my fill.	c. It wasn't popular.
4. That didn't go down well.	d. I was proved to be wrong.
5. I bit his head off.	e. I spoke sharply to him.
6. I made a meal of it.	f. I don't want any more.
7. I could eat a horse.	g. I love chocolates and other sweets.
8. I've got a sweet tooth.	h. I took too long to do it.

**Exercise 2. Use the following idiomatic expressions in the situations below.**

- a. left a bad taste in my mouth
- b. bit my head off
- c. digest
- d. have your cake and eat it
- e. swallow your pride
- f. something to get my teeth into
- g. a second bite at the cherry
- h. bite off more than you can chew

1. I can't afford the rent on my flat. My parents have said I can go back and live with them but I'd feel such a failure.

> I think you'll just have to .....and accept their help.

2. Keep away from Christine this morning. She's in a bad mood.

> I know. She ..... for no reason when I arrived.

3. So, Tom apologised for what he'd said to you?  
> Yes, but the whole experience has .....
4. I thought you liked your job. Why do you want a change?  
> I need a fresh challenge - .....
5. I'm going to try to fix the car myself.  
> Well, if it's difficult, don't do it. Don't .....
6. So, what do you think about the new budget proposals, then?  
> I haven't really had time to ..... all the details yet.
7. I feel like a few days off, but I really need the overtime.  
> The problem with you is you always want to .....
8. I've failed my university entrance exam. I'm not sure if I can re-take it.  
> I expect you can. You're allowed ..... surely?

**Exercise 3.**

**Revision. Choose the correct word in the sentences below.**

1. I bit off more than I could *swallow/ chew*.
2. You can't have a second *bite/chew* at the cherry.
3. He had to *eat/swallow* his words.
4. *Bite/Swallow* your pride and say you'll accept.
5. I need something to get my *teeth/ tooth* into.
6. It left a bad *smell/ taste* in my mouth.
7. I said sorry but she just *bit/chewed* my head off.
8. My idea didn't go *up/down* very well.

# Unit 12

# Eye Idioms

**Exercise 1.**

*Fill in the following words in the definitions below.*

- |         |          |
|---------|----------|
| peel    | eyebrows |
| blink   | blind    |
| eyelids | bargain  |

1. If you buy something at much less than the normal price, it's a .....
2. You ..... thousands of times every day.
3. Before you eat an orange, you have to ..... it.
4. A person who cannot see is .....
5. The lines of hair above your eyes are called your .....
6. When you close your eyes, they are covered by your .....

**Exercise 2.**

*Complete the sentences with these expressions containing the word eye.*

a. in the public eye	e. up to my eyes
b. see eye to eye	f. more to him than meets the eye
c. pull the wool over my eyes	g. with my eyes closed
d. eyes in the back of your head	h. out of the corner of my eye

1. I spend a lot of time on the road in my job. I've driven from London to Edinburgh so many times now I could do it .....
2. I've got three young children. You can't sit down and relax for a minute. You need .....
3. I wouldn't want to be famous. You live your life ..... You get

no privacy whatsoever. It would drive me mad.

4. Sorry, but I'm afraid I have to cancel lunch together. I'm ..... in work at the moment. How about next week?

5. I get on very well with my father. We ..... on most things.

6. I was lying in bed when I noticed something moving ..... I jumped up and turned the light on to see a massive spider on my pillow.

7. I discovered yesterday that Boring Bob' at work is a black belt in karate and has a Japanese wife. There's obviously .....

8. Don't try to pretend you've been working late in the office. I rang and they told me you'd left early. You can't .....

*Now write the idiom with the following meanings.*

9. very busy .....

10. agree .....

11. deceive or trick .....

12. be watchful .....

**Exercise 3.**

*Match the sentences below to make two-line dialogue.*

1. I'm sure this can't be the right way to get on to the motorway.

2. They offered you double your salary? What did you do? Fall off your chair?

3. Malcolm was rather rude to you yesterday, wasn't he? Have you spoken to him?

4. You must spend a lot of money on clothes, Sarah. You always look so smart.

5. Shall we have another bottle? The waiter's just over there.

6. I think Steve rather likes Andrea, don't you? He spent the whole evening talking to her and ignoring everyone else.

7. Are you coming in for a swim? The water looks lovely.

8. What did you think of the best man's speech?

9. I'd like your opinion on this report as soon as you've got a minute.
- a. No, I decided to **turn a blind eye** to it. He's under a lot of pressure at work.
- b. You can say that again! He **couldn't take his eyes off** her.
- c. No. I **didn't bat an eyelid**. I looked straight at them and said it wasn't enough.
- d. Good idea. Try and **catch his eye**.
- e. Just leave it with me and **I'll run my eye over it**.
- f. It **raised a few eyebrows!** I think he should have kept quiet about the baby!
- g. No, I'll stay here and **keep an eye on** our things.
- h. Well, just **keep your eyes peeled** for a sign. There must be one somewhere.
- i. I don't really spend that much. I've just **got an eye for** a bargain.

**Exercise 4.**

**Revision. Look back at the idioms in this unit and add the missing verbs.**

1. didn't ..... an eyelid	5. .... eye to eye
2. .... a blind eye to it	6. .... your eyes peeled
3. .... eyes in the back of your head	7. .... an eye on things
4. ....your eye over something	8. more than ..... the eye

**Now add the missing prepositions.**

9. .... the public eye	12. turn a blind eye ..... it
10. ....to my eyes in work	13. see eye ..... eye
11. do it ..... my eyes closed	14. keep an eye ..... my things

# Unit 13

# Face Idioms

**Exercise 1.** *In these examples face is used as a verb. Use these words to complete the idioms.*

a full meal	work	the fact
the consequences	the music	

1. I suppose it's time I faced ..... that Lydia isn't interested in me because I'm old enough to be her father!
2. Did you hear that Joe didn't back up his computer last night and it crashed this morning? He's with the boss at the moment - no doubt facing ..... !
3. I couldn't face ..... A sandwich is enough for me.
4. I just can't face ..... at the moment - not so soon after the funeral.
5. I'll take the decision. I'm not afraid to face ..... if things go wrong.

**In these examples face is used as a noun. Add the following verbs.**

save	putting	got
keep	lose	put

6. People won't give their opinions during meetings in case they are wrong. They don't want to ..... face.
7. When Di fell off her chair, it was all I could do to ..... a straight face.
8. Why have you ..... such a long face today? Has something happened I don't know about?
9. You've no doubt heard that Frank's mother was in a car accident this morning. I think it's fairly serious, but he seems to be ..... a brave face on it.
10. It's nice to meet you at last. Mr Lee. It's good to be able to .. a face to a name.
11. I think the government is just trying to ..... face.

**Exercise 2.** *Fill in the following expressions in the sentences below.*

a. off the face of the earth	e. all over your face
b. blue in the face	f. face to face

c. staring us in the face	g. flat on his face
d. at face value	h. to his face

1. You can keep asking till you're ..... - T'm not going to change my mind.
2. Maureen always has an ulterior motive. You can never take what she says ... .
3. Everybody knows that Andy is the wrong person for the new post, but nobody is prepared to say so .....
4. Has anyone seen my car keys? I put them down five minutes ago and now they've disappeared ..... !
5. I've just come back from a holiday in Borneo. It was amazing. I actually came ..... with a real gorilla!
6. Come on, Pete, somebody's been eating my biscuits. It must've been you. It's written .....
7. We've spent ages trying to decide who to send to the conference in Tokyo. The answer's been ..... . Let's ask Ray. He studied Japanese at university!
8. The President was a bit accident-prone. He once ..... fell as he was getting up to give a major speech.

**Exercise 3. Revision. Put the following pairs of words into the sentences below.**

a. written - face	e. putting - brave
b. blue - face	f. disappeared - earth
c. face - name	g. flat - face
d. say - face	h. keeping - straight

1. .... a .....face was never one of my talents!
2. You can ask till you're ..... in the .....
3. My pen has .....off the face of the .....
4. I know what's going on. It's ..... all over your .....
5. I fell. .... on my ..... and hurt my arm.
6. If you want to say something, ..... it to my .....
7. It's nice to put a ..... to a .....
8. She's very upset, but she's ..... a ..... face on it.

**Exercise 1.**

*Match the literal ideas on the left with their non-literal meanings on the right.*

1. If you twiddle your thumbs	a. you accuse someone of something.
2. If you never lift a finger	b. you are good at gardening.
3. If you point the finger	c. you believe in luck.
4. If you get your fingers burnt	d. you see the problem.
5. If you get your finger out	e. you are lazy.
6. If you have green fingers	f. you lose money.
7. If you are all fingers and thumbs	g. you try harder.
8. If you keep your fingers crossed	h. you are wasting time.
9. If you put your finger on something	i. you are not good with your hands.

**Exercise 2.**

*Use finger (s) or thumbs) to complete the idioms in these sentences.*

1. There's something strange about Graham, but I'm not sure what it is. I can't put my ..... on it.
2. I was miles from the nearest garage when I ran out of petrol, so I just stood at the side of the road and tried to ..... a lift.
3. If you want to pass this exam you really need to get your .....out and start some serious study.
4. I invested some money in stocks and shares a couple of years ago but I got my ..... badly burnt. I lost about £10,000. Never again!
5. My dental appointment was supposed to be for four o'clock but I had to sit in the waiting room twiddling my ..... for an hour.

**Exercise 3.**

*Fill in the following words and expressions in the sentences below.*



a. under her thumb	e. green fingers
b. the fingers of one hand	l. fingers crossed
c. round her little finger	g. fingers and thumbs
d. at your fingertips	h. finger on the pulse

1. I've got my final exam tomorrow.

> Good luck! I'll keep my ..... for you.

2. Danny and Jane have a strange relationship. She gets her own way all the time.

> Oh yes. She can twist him .....

3. I see. So, you can put all the data onto the computer network.

> That's right. Then any information you need is ..... immediately.

4. You've dropped something, Sandra. Here you are.

> Thanks. I keep dropping things this morning. I'm all .....

5. Look at these plants, Viv. They're all dying. I don't know what I'm doing wrong.

> Speak to Nina. She's the one with .....

6. I'm going to ask Tony if he wants to come away with us on the golf weekend.

> He won't come. His wife won't let him. He's totally .....

7. Does anybody know who the new Personnel Manager is going to be?

> I have no idea. Ask Chris. He's got his .....

8. My boyfriend took me out to a lovely Italian restaurant last night.

> Lucky you. I can count on ..... the number of times my husband's taken me out for a meal recently.

**Exercise 4. Look back at the idioms in this unit and add the missing verbs.**

1. .... out like a sore thumb	6. .... your fingers crossed
2. .... him round her little finger	7. .... it the thumbs down
3. .... your finger out	8. .... your thumbs
4. .... my finger on it	9. .... a lift
5. .... on the fingers of one hand	10. .... my fingers burnt

**Exercise 1.**

*Fill in the following words in the definitions below.*

sparks	flames	temper	ambitions
row	baptism	fuel	blaze

1. Gas, coal and oil are all types of .....
2. A large, dangerous fire is called a .....
3. Another word for a serious argument is a .....
4. People who want to improve their lives or achieve something have .....
5. The Christian ceremony when a person is dipped in water or is sprinkled with drops of water is called .....
6. Fred has a very bad ..... .He gets annoyed about nothing sometimes.
7. When you hit two stones together, you can make ..... fly.
8. The ..... were jumping 100 feet into the air and it took the fire brigade over three hours to bring them under control.

**Exercise 2. Use these nouns to complete the idioms in the sentences below.**

fire	sparks	blazing	heated
flames	burning	smoke	fiery

1. I want to be an actor. I've got a ..... ambition to play Hamlet at the Globe Theatre in London.
2. She's got a lot of potential as a jazz singer, but she's not going to set the world on .....
3. I had a .....row with my girlfriend last night. I'm beginning to think we don't have that much in common.
4. Be careful what you say to Martin. He's got a ..... temper.
5. I wouldn't say we had an argument. It was just a ..... discussion.
6. I was planning a quiet weekend, but Sally and Richard invited themselves

round on Saturday, so all my plans went up in .....

7. Every time I have a new idea you just shoot me down in ..... without really listening to what I have to say.

8. Have you ever heard Kate and Tina discussing politics? They really fly when they disagree about something.

**Exercise 3. Use the following idiomatic expressions in the sentences below.**

a. an old flame	d. a blaze of publicity
b. fired my imagination	e. no smoke without fire
c. adds more fuel to the fire	f. burn my bridges

1. I didn't know Carol knew Chris.

> Oh yes. She's ..... of his from their time at university.

2. Have you seen the new Bond film yet?

> Yes, but despite. .... when it came out, it didn't live up to expectations - at least not mine.

3. There's a rumour that the P. Minister is going to resign, but I can't believe it.

> Well, you know what they say - there's .....

4. So what made you decide to go to Uganda on holiday?

> Well, I saw this film a couple of years ago and it just .....

5. Did I hear you're resigning?

> Well, I'm looking for a change, but I'm not leaving this job till I've got something fixed up. I don't want to .....

6. That's the third government minister who's resigned this week.

> There's been something funny going on for a long time. This just .....

**Exercise 4.**

**Revision. Look back at the idioms in this unit and add the missing verbs.**

1. .... the world on fire	5. .... fuel to the fire
2. .... a blazing row	6. .... the imagination
3. .... with fire	7. .... up in smoke
4. .... on like a house on fire	8. .... your bridges

**Exercise 1.**

Use these 10 common idiomatic expressions in the situations below.

a. There's plenty more fish in the sea.	f. I'm hooked!
b. He's a big fish in a small pond.	g. He's a cold fish.
c. We've landed a big contract in Japan.	h. He's quite a catch.
d. Are you fishing for compliments?	i. She's angling for promotion.
e. They've spawned several new companies.	j. There's something fishy going on.

1. He's good-looking. He's got a big house. He's powerful.

> Yes, ..... by anybody's standards!

2. Do you play squash every day of the week?

Yes, I'm afraid .....

3. You can never get the tiniest smile out of him. I've never seen him laugh.

> No .....

4. Prime Minister of Luxembourg! And he thinks he's important!

> Well, I suppose .....

5. He just phoned me and told me he didn't want to see me again!

> Oh, don't worry! .....

6. Why are they having all those secret meetings behind closed doors?

> .....

7. What do you think of my hair?

> .....

8. Why are we thinking of opening an office in Osaka?

> .....

9. This is the third time this week that Lucy has had lunch with the MD!

> It wouldn't surprise me if .....

10. Impex's move to the North has been really successful, hasn't it?

> Yes, It's been good news for the local economy.....

**Exercise 2. Fill in the following idiomatic expressions in the sentences below.**

a. trawl through	d. rise to the bait
b. hook, line, and sinker	e. let him off the hook
c. slipping through the net	f. cast our net wider

1. We've got the deal and on our terms! They believed our story about not being able to afford the extra 10%. They swallowed it .....

2. We spend a fortune training people, then before we know it, they've moved on to one of our competitors. We must look after them better so that they stay with us. There's too many .....

3. This is the first time John's made a mistake. It was a one-off. Trust him. He'll be more careful in future. I think we should ..... this time.

4. Look, the unions want a strike. If we ....., we'll be playing right into their hands.

5. The police are looking for a man in his thirties who has probably been in prison already. They're having to ..... their computer records.

6. This job is too important to advertise in the local papers. If we want to attract a top sales manager, we need to ..... and advertise nationally.

**3. The following idioms mention five different kinds of fish: the flounder, minnow, herring, whale, and shark. Match them with their meanings.**

1. They're just floundering about.

2. They're just minnows.

3. That's a red herring.

4. They had a whale of a time.

5. They're sharks.
  - a. They are unscrupulous and dishonest.
  - b. It has nothing to do with what we're discussing.
  - c. They don't know what they're doing.
  - d. They are very small and unimportant.
  - e. They had a wonderful time.

**4. Revision. Try to remember which idioms these pairs of words come from. Then put them into the spaces below.**

whale - time

landed - contract

plenty - sea

let - hook

rise - bait

cast - wider

1. Congratulations! I heard you ..... the Japanese .....
2. You're better off without him. He was totally unreliable. There are ..... more fish in the .....
3. Brian is usually very shy, but if you want to get him talking, start talking about politics. He'll soon ..... to the .....
4. I was late again but my boss ..... me off the ..... as long as it doesn't happen again.
5. You'll never find a job if you limit yourself to this area. You really must ..... your net a bit.
6. What a party! We had a ..... of a .....

**Exercise 1.**

*Fill in the following words in the definitions below.*

- |        |       |         |        |
|--------|-------|---------|--------|
| sliced | pinch | pickle  | stew   |
| couch  | icing | variety | spices |

1. A ..... is another word for sofa.
2. Some people prefer to buy uncut bread. Some prefer to buy it already .....
3. If you .....meat, you cook it slowly in liquid in a pan with the lid on.
4. Wedding cakes are usually covered in thick sweet white .....
5. Ginger, cinnamon, pepper and cloves are all examples of .....
6. My job is not the same every day. There's plenty of .....
7. A ..... of salt is the amount you can pick up between your finger and thumb.
8. If you ..... onions, you preserve them in vinegar.

**Exercise 2.**

*Complete the idioms in the following sentences with these expressions.*

a. a piece of cake	f. in a pickle
b. couch potato	g. cucumber
c. food for thought	h. went pear-shaped
d. not my cup of tea	i. salt of the earth
e. hot cakes	j. bread and butter

1. Most of my colleagues go for a drink after work on Fridays but I don't normally go. Going to the pub is .....
2. My brother works hard during the week but at the weekends he spends most of his time lying on the sofa watching TV. He can be a real .....
3. The whole peace settlement ..... when the terrorists planted a bomb in the main railway station.

4. I went windsurfing for the first time on Saturday. I thought it was going to be ....., but I soon realised it was a lot more difficult than I'd expected.
5. So you write novels and poetry, do you?  
 > Yes, but sports journalism's my..... .
6. Did you see the way Sandra handled that aggressive customer? She was as cool as a .....
7. It would only take the cost of a few fighter planes to get rid of leprosy from the world. That's ....., isn't it?
8. I really like Janet. She's uncomplicated and honest. What you see is what you get. She's always helping people. She's the .....
9. This is the new Nintendo football game. We've only got two left in the shop. They've been selling like .....
10. I'm ..... I've got to be at the dentist's in 10 minutes and I'm expecting an important phone call. Could you answer my phone and say I'll be back in about an hour's time?

**Exercise 3.**

**Fill in the following words and expressions in the dialogues below.**

a. stew in his own juice	d. egg on our face
b. butter him up	e. on the breadline
c. cheesed off	f. take that with a pinch of salt

1. It says in the paper that our financial situation has never been better.  
 > Try telling that to the people who are living .....
2. What's the matter with you? You look totally fed up.  
 > I am. I was supposed to have a day off on Friday but I've just been told I can't because there's too much work. I'm really .....
3. A few days before we ask our boss for anything, we start being extra nice to her.  
 > We do the same with our boss! We just .....a bit. It's never failed yet!



4. There's a story going about that we're being sold to the Koreans.

> I'd ..... I don't know where nonsense like that starts!

5. I'm going to phone Mike to see if he's ready to say sorry about that argument.

> No, don't do that. It's his fault, so let him ..... for a while.

6. We ended up with .....

> How come?

Well, after we had insisted on everyone else doing things correctly, we discovered that we were the ones who had been breaking the rules!

**Exercise 4.**

**Finish the idioms below with the following phrases.**

a. since sliced bread	c. eggs in one basket
b. the icing on the cake	d. the spice of life

1. I can't understand people who go on holiday to the same place year after year.

I go somewhere different every year. For me, variety is .....

2. The golden rule with investments is to put your money in a variety of different companies. Don't put all your .....

3. My new software is the best thing ..... It's made my job so much easier.

4. I love my new job - the people, the work, the money. The fact they've given me the car of my dreams is just .....

**Exercise 5.**

**Revision. Look back at the idioms in this unit and add the final words.**

1. stew in his own .....	6. with egg on my .....
2. take that with a pinch of .....	7. the icing on the .....
3. best thing since sliced .....	8. salt of the .....
4. variety is the spice of .....	9. as cool as a .....
5. selling like hot .....	10. not really my cup of .....

**Exercise 1.**

*Use foot or feet to complete the idiomatic expressions in these sentences.*

1. When I get home from work, the first thing I do is make a cup of tea, put my *foot/feet* up and relax in front of the TV.
2. I'm having my flat decorated at the moment. They're supposed to finish it today but they've been dragging their *foot/feet* so it'll probably be Friday now.
3. You can't live with your parents for ever, Victor. You're twenty-six. It's time you were standing on your own two *foot/feet*.
4. The French goalkeeper played brilliantly. He didn't put a *foot/feet* wrong.
5. I don't mind my son going to discos and clubs but I had to put my *foot/feet* down when he started coming home as late as two or three in the morning.

**Exercise 2.**

*Look back at the exercise and find the idioms with these meanings.*

1. think quickly .....	4. make no mistakes .....
2. work slowly .....	5. object to something .....
3. be independent .....	6. pay .....

**Exercise 3.**

*Put the following verbs into the dialogues below.*

a. got cold feet	e. set foot
b. get itchy feet	f. find my feet
c. landed on her feet	g. put my foot in it
d. rushed off our feet	h. keep your feet on the ground

1. Have you had a busy day? You look exhausted.
  - > Yes, it was the first day of the sale. We were .....
2. You've lived in lots of different countries, haven't you, Ian?
  - > Yes, I can't stay in one place for too long. After about a year I ..... and I

need to move on somewhere new.

3. Well, Andy, did you go out with Jill over the weekend? Did you ask her?

> I wanted to phone her but I ..... at the last minute so I didn't.

4. Has your sister found a job yet?

> Didn't I tell you? She's got a wonderful job in the city - company car, incentives, bonuses - she's really .....

5. Oh dear, I think I've just .....

> Why? What have you done? I've just asked Jane about her holiday in Africa.

> Oh, no! And you didn't know that the airline had gone bust!

6. So, you had a good time in Paris, then?

> Yes, but I hope I never ..... in another art gallery! We spent hours walking round them because of the rain!

7. How's the new job going, Sam?

> It's all very new. I think it'll take me a couple of weeks to .....

8. It's my first job, and they're giving me a company car! And the salary is twice what I expected. What do you think of that, then?

> Just ....., son! That's all I can say!

#### **Exercise 4.**

**Revision. Choose the correct word to complete the idiom.**

1. You have to think ..... your feet in this job.	with/on
2. Somebody has to ..... the bill.	foot/feet
3. You need time to find ..... feet.	your/ the
4. I was ..... on my feet when I got home.	dead/alive
5. I was rushed ..... my feet.	from/of
6. Oh dear. I think I've just put my foot ..... it.	on/ in
7. I got ..... feet and changed my mind.	hot/cold
8. We got off on the ..... foot.	right/ wrong
9. I'll never ..... foot in that place again.	set/put
10. He didn't ..... a foot wrong.	put/get

# Unit 19

# Hand Idioms

### Exercise 1.

Fill in the following verbs in the sentences below.

fell	give	turn	hand
take	count	keep	know

1. That looks heavy. Let me ..... you a hand.
2. I love it here. It's so peaceful. You can ..... the number of cars you see here in a week on the fingers of one hand.
3. Martin's one of those annoying people who can ..... their hand to almost anything - sport, painting, music - he's good at everything.
4. This report is strictly confidential. If it ..... into the wrong hands, we would all be in serious trouble.
5. I don't care if you know who did this to your car, you shouldn't deal with it yourself. Call the police. You can't ..... the law into your own hands.
6. You might not like his style or methods but you've got to ..... . It to him - he's a brilliant salesman.
7. The problem with this company is communication. Half the time the right hand doesn't ..... what the left hand is doing.
8. I used to play squash three or four times a week, but I just don't have the time now. I still ..... my hand in by playing occasionally.

### Exercise 2.

Complete these dialogues using one of the idioms.

things get out of hand	I've got my hands full	living from hand to mouth	get my hands on
time on my hands	changed hands	out of hand	had a big hand

1. Let's go to that Greek restaurant we went to last year. It was nice.

- > It's a Chinese restaurant now. It ..... last September.
- 2. Is there any chance you could work on Saturday? Mark's still ill.
- › Normally I would, but ..... this weekend. I have to look after the children because Mary's visiting her parents.
- 3. Did you show your ideas to the rest of your department?
- > They didn't even bother to read them. They rejected them .....
- 4. I hope these drunks aren't going to cause trouble.
- > Don't worry. I'll call the police if .....
- 5. We're decorating the house at the moment. It's taking ages.
- > I could give you a hand. I've got a bit of .....at the moment.
- 6. How do you become a successful writer? Where do you get your ideas from?
- > I read very widely. In fact, I read everything I can .....
- 7. How are you managing since you lost your job?
- > We're just ..... We aren't able to save anything, but we manage.
- 8. Thank you for organising such an excellent meeting.
- > Thank you, but don't forget Maria. She ..... in all the planning as well.

***Exercise 3.***

***Revision. Complete each idiom with hand or hands.***

- 1. We're living from ... .... to mouth at the moment.
- 2. She can turn her ..... to almost anything.
- 3. I've got a lot of time on my ..... at the moment.
- 4. You can't take the law into your own .....
- 5. I still keep my ..... in.
- 6. That shop has changed ..... again.
- 7. This information must not fall into the wrong .....
- 8. I've got my ..... full at the moment.
- 9. I called the police when things started to get out of .....
- 10. They rejected my idea out of .....

**Exercise 1.**

Use the following words in the definitions below.

- |          |       |      |
|----------|-------|------|
| screw    | tail  | roll |
| examines | block | bury |

1. When you are ill, you go to the doctor who .....you.
2. Centuries ago, if your head was on the ....., it was about to be cut off!
3. Our cat died last week. We decided to ..... it in the garden.
4. In ten-pin bowling, you have to ..... the ball down a narrow lane and try to knock over the ten pins.
5. When my dog's happy, he wags his .....
6. Make sure you ..... the top on properly! You don't want the bottle to leak in your luggage.

**Exercise 2.**

Complete these dialogues using one of these idioms.

a. It's my head that's on the block.	e. I can't make head nor tail of it.
b. A lot of it went right over my head.	f. Not off the top of my head.
c. She's head and shoulders above the rest.	g. Two heads are better than one.
d. I could do it standing on my head.	h. He's got his head in the clouds.

1. Do you know Bill's phone number?  
> ..... I've got it in my address book.
2. Sorry about the mistakes, but none of them was very serious.  
> That's easy for you to say, but ....., not yours!

3. He's a typical teenager. No sense of responsibility. He thinks he'll walk into a job.

> I know..... most of the time.

4. Is it difficult to make a homepage or a website?

> Not really, I've done so many now .....

5. I've read the instruction booklet, but I couldn't understand it.

> I've looked at it too, and ..... either!

6. Could you give me a hand with these month-end figures?

> Good idea ..... !

7. Karen Smith is still top of the class this year, isn't she?

> Yes .....

8. I see you're reading Stephen King's new book.

> I've just finished it. It's interesting but .....

### ***Exercise 3.***

***Complete these sentences using the correct form of these verbs.***

examine

screw

laugh

roll

bury

put

keep

go

1. I'm sure we can find a solution to this problem if we all ..... our heads together.

2. The first two years of running this business were very hard. We just about managed to ..... our heads above water.

3. This is a problem we have to face. We can't ..... our heads in the sand and hope it will go away.

4. If you think I'm going to lend you money again, you need your head .....

5. The trouble with some politicians is, after a while power..... to their heads and they think they can do anything.

6. It's the funniest film I've seen for ages. I .....my head off.

7. When I find out who is responsible for this mistake, heads will .....
8. You don't need to worry about Marco travelling alone. He's only sixteen but he's got his head ..... on. He'll be OK.

**Exercise 4.**

**Rewrite these sentences using an idiom from this unit.**

1. I can do it very, very easily.

---

2. He's sensible.

---

3. Stop ignoring the problem.

---

4. I couldn't understand it.

---

5. We're surviving.

---

6. You're stupid.

---

**Exercise 5.**

**Revision. Look back at the idioms in this unit and complete these expressions.**

1. keep our heads ..... water	6. went right. .... my head
2. power has gone ..... her head	7. got his head screwed .....
3. can't make head nor tail . ..... it	8. laughed my head .....
4. head and shoulders ..... the rest	9. .... the top of my head
5. bury your head ..... the sand	10. my head's ..... the block



# Unit 21

## Heart Idioms

### Exercise 1.

Use these verbs to complete the following.

take	sank	break
set	lose	have

1. My heart kitchen ..... when I saw how much washing up there was in the
2. My English teacher is awful. She corrects every little mistake I make and she gets very impatient if I don't know the answers. I'm starting to ..... heart.
3. My sister's only six but she's ..... her heart on becoming a ballet dancer.
4. I know you're disappointed but you can ..... heart from the fact that most people in Britain fail their driving test first time.
5. Simon asked if he could play the piano at the wedding. I know he's not very good but I didn't ..... the heart to say no.
6. My car has finally come to the end of its life. I've had it for 20 years. It'll ..... my heart to say goodbye to it.

### Exercise 2.

Use the following idiomatic expressions in the sentences below.

a. in my heart of hearts	f. heart's in the right place
b. close to my heart	g. got a heart of gold
c. had a change of heart	h. heart's not in it
d. after my own heart	i. learn things by heart
e. best interests at heart	j. heart-to-heart

1. John, you're interested in Third World problems, aren't you?  
> Yes, it's a subject which has always been .....
2. My mother is a great help to us. And she does so much for her neighbours as

well.

> Yes, people are always saying she's .....

3. I've decided to give up my piano lessons. I just don't seem to be getting anywhere.

> Well, there's no point continuing if your .....

4. So, the job in America came to nothing. Are you disappointed?

> Not really. ...., I didn't really want to leave Britain.

5. Why are Tom and Julie going back to Australia? I thought they were going to stay for another six months.

> That was the plan but they've ..... They're homesick.

6. I don't know about you, but I find Terry difficult, to say the least!

> Well, he can be a bit rude, but basically his .....

7. What languages did you study at school?

> Only French. It was so boring. We just had to .....verb tables and stuff like that.

8. I like most sports really - especially rugby.

> Ah! A man .....! I really love rugby!

9. Where's Lisa? She's not at her desk.

> No, she's in David's office. They're having a ..... about her future.

10. I don't know if you realise how demanding you can be.

> Yes, I know I'm tough, but please believe I have your .....

**Exercise 3.**

**Prepositions. Look back at the idioms in this unit and add the missing prepositions.**

1. learn something ..... heart	5. a man ..... my own heart
2. .... my heart of hearts	6. a change ..... heart
3. a heart ..... gold	7. a subject close ..... my heart
4. my heart wasn't ..... it	8. his heart's ..... the right place

**Exercise 1.**

**Fill in the following words in the definitions below.**

- |        |       |         |
|--------|-------|---------|
| saddle | cart  | hooves  |
| bit    | reins | hurdles |

1. A farm vehicle pulled by a horse is a .....
2. Cats and dogs have paws; horses have .....
3. You control a horse by using the .....
4. A horse's reins are attached to a ..... - a small metal bar which goes through the horse's mouth and is used to control it.
5. The fences which horses jump over are called .....
6. A horse rider sits on a .....

**Exercise 2.**

**Use the following idiomatic expressions in the sentences below.**

a. put the cart before the horse	e. keep a tight rein
b. on the hoof	f. get saddled with
c. the bit between my teeth	g. horses for courses
d. straight from the horse's mouth	h. put it through its paces

1. What I don't like about this government is the way it makes up policy ..... There isn't enough planning.
2. I started a new job last month. It was all a bit strange at first but I've got ..... now and I'm starting to enjoy it.
3. You can buy a computer for as little as £600 or as much as £3000. It depends what you need it for. It's a case of .....
4. I hate going to the airport to meet international clients but I always .....it because I'm the one who can speak three foreign languages.

5. Listen, Jane, do you really think buying a wedding dress is a good idea? I mean, why not wait till he asks you? Aren't you .....
6. I've just got my credit card bill. It's enormous. I'm going to have to ..... on my spending for a while.
7. Believe it or not, we're all getting a pay rise next month. And it's not just a rumour. I got it ..... . Kate told me herself.
8. I hear you've just splashed out on a new car. Have you been out on the motorway yet to .....

***Exercise 3.***

***Put the following words in the sentences below.***

one                  dark                  high                  wrong                  wild                  dead

1. Manchester United are now nine points clear at the top of the Premier League. It's turning into a ..... -horse race.
2. There's no point asking the finance department to extend our budget. You're flogging a ..... horse. They'll never change their minds.
3. Just because you've been to university and I haven't, you think you can get on your ..... horse every time we discuss something. Well, you're wrong!
4. Nobody really knows a lot about the Polish team. They are the ..... horse in this World Cup.
5. I don't know why you go to discos. You can't have a conversation and they're full of smoke and sweaty bodies. .... horses couldn't drag me into one of those places.
6. If you think Johnson is going to become Director General, you're backing the .....horse. I reckon it's going to be Robert Newman.

***Exercise 4.***

***Complete the dialogues by adding these expressions.***

a. horsing around

b. eat a horse

c. hold your horses

d. hand the reins over

e. fell at the first hurdle

1. Look at these blank videos. Ten for 65! Let's get twenty of them.

> .....! They might be useless.

2. So, you've decided to take early retirement, Jim?

> Yes, I've been manager here for twenty years now. It's time to ..... to someone younger.

3. Are you hungry?

> Yes. I could ..... !

4. Was your idea accepted by the meeting?

> No, there was a legal objection. I'm afraid it .....

5. Jane, put these eggs in the fridge, will you. Here.....catch!

> Stop ....., Jim. You're going to break something.

**Exercise 5.**

**Revision. Look back at the idioms in this unit and add the missing prepositions.**

1. keep a tight rein ..... costs	6. straight ..... the horse's mouth
2. got the bit ..... my teeth	7. get saddled .....a job
3. horses ..... courses	8. fall ..... the first hurdle
4. putting the cart ..... the horse	9. put it ..... its paces
5. .... the hoof	10. don't get .....your high horse

Idioms

*Exercise 1.*

*Match the idiomatic expressions on the left with the non-idiomatic equivalent on the right.*

1. We got on like a house on fire.	a. Sort out your own problems first.
2. She's nothing to write home about.	b. We liked each other a lot.
3. It's as safe as houses.	c. The audience applauded a lot.
4. It really brought it home to me.	d. It made me realise.
5. He brought the house down.	e. We had no food left.
6. We did it in-house.	f. She's not specially good-looking,
7. They ate us out of house and home	g. It's very safe.
8. Put your own house in order.	h. We did it ourselves.

*Exercise 2.*

*Decide which word - house or home - correctly completes the idioms below.*

1. Hello, Alex. Come in. Make yourself at **house/home**.
2. I met my boyfriend's parents last night for the first time. We spent the evening talking about our love of horses. We got on like a **house/home** on fire.
3. The number one priority of the new Party Leader must be to put his party's **house/home** in order after all the scandals of last year.
4. It wasn't until I got home and sat down that the news about my job really hit **house/home**. Twenty-five years in the same factory and now it's closing.
5. What are we going to do with all these old files? We've got to keep them for legal reasons. Where are we going to find a **house/home** for them in the office?

*Exercise 3. Fill in the following words and expressions in the dialogues below.*

a. house and home	e. no-one at home
b. write home	f. come home

c. home from home	g. brought home
d. a good home	h. the home straight

1. You always stay in the same place when you go on holiday, don't you?  
> Yes. The same hotel in Venice every year. It's a real ..... for us.
2. My brother and his family came to stay with us at Christmas. They nearly ate us out of ..... We spent a fortune on food.
3. Larry likes to talk, doesn't he? It's sometimes difficult to shut him up.  
> Yes. He'll sit and talk until the cows ..... if you let him.
4. Pam can be a bit slow sometimes. I often have to explain things three times.  
> I know what you mean. I don't like saying this, but sometimes it seems as if the lights are on but there's .....
5. Have you seen Christine's new boyfriend? What's he like?  
> Well, he's OK, I suppose. But nothing to ..... about.
6. We must've picked enough strawberries by now - surely?  
> Come on. We only need a few more kilos. We're on ..... now.
7. I wish I knew somebody who would give my old music centre .....
8. I didn't use to worry about having a beer or two, but last year a friend of mine had the most terrible car accident. It really ..... to me the reality of drinking and driving.

**Exercise 4.**

**Revision. Look back at the idioms in this unit and add the final words.**

1. We got on like a house on .....	6. He's eating us out of house and ...
2. He'll stay chatting till the cows come .....	7. Her last song brought the house ...
3. I told him a few home .....	8. It was nothing to write home .....
4. He needs to put his house in .....	9. The lights are on but no-one's at ...
5. It took a few days for the news to really hit.....	10. We're on the home .....

**Idioms****Exercise 1.**

*Fill in the following words in the definitions below.*

soul	warm up	lease	fate
misery	kiss	dice	

1. In some countries, it is normal to ..... friends and family members on both cheeks when you meet.
2. If you rent a house or flat, the contract you sign is called a .....
3. The spiritual part of a person is sometimes called the .....
4. The power which some people believe controls destiny is called .....
5. Suffering and discomfort cause .....
6. A small wooden or plastic cube with dots, used in games, is called a .....
7. You need to ..... your food, if it goes cold before you have finished it.

**Exercise 2.**

*Choose which word, life or death and complete the idioms below.*

- a. sick to .....
- b. frightened the ..... out of me
- c. a new lease of .....
- d. for the ..... of me
- e. a fate worse than .....
- f. the ..... and soul of the party
- g. dicing with .....
- h. bored to .....
- i. like ..... warmed up
- j. to save his .....



*Now use the expressions in these sentences.*

1. All Mark talked about the whole evening was football! I was .....
2. Please be quiet. I'm ... .. of your constant complaining.
3. Taking up golf since I retired has given me .....
4. I hope I don't have to sit next to Nigel at the wedding. That would be .....  
He's the most boring person I know.
5. You should get the brakes fixed on your car. You're ..... every time you go out on the road.
6. I remember his face but ... .. I can't remember his name.
7. Are you ill? You look .....
8. Hello? Who's there? Is someone there? Oh, it's you, Joe. You ..... I thought you were a burglar.
9. My husband? Cook? You must be joking. He can't cook .....
10. My sister is normally quite shy but when she has a couple of drinks she's ....

***Exercise 3.***

***Put life or death into the conversations below.***

1. We've decided to have the picnic on Sunday. The weather forecast is good for then.  
> The weather forecast is good? Well, that's the kiss of ..... The forecast is always wrong.
2. Why did you leave your last job? Did you just want a change?  
> No, it was my boss. For some reason she didn't like me. She made my ..... a misery.
3. Right, I'm off. See you later.  
> Why aren't you wearing a coat? It's freezing out there. You'll catch your ..... of cold.
4. So, you met my colleague Tony yesterday.  
> Yes, he was a lot of fun. He's a real larger than ..... character, isn't he?

5. Did you know that Alan collects cigarette packets? He's got hundreds of them.

> Yes, I know. It's sad, isn't it? He really needs to get a .....

6. I'm pleased to hear your father's out of hospital. That's good news.

> Yes, considering he was at ..... 's door only last month he's made a remarkable recovery.

**Exercise 4.**

**Rewrite. What expression would you use in the following situations? Use the words in brackets.**

1. Your friend looks very ill. (You, warmed up)

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Your friend is taking a dangerous risk. (You're dicing)

\_\_\_\_\_

3. A friend of yours can't sing at all. (She, save)

\_\_\_\_\_

4. A new hobby has made your life better. (It's, lease)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 5.**

**Revision. Look back at the idioms in this unit and add the missing words.**

1. a ..... worse than death	6. at death's .....
2. like death ..... up	7. larger than .....
3. to . ..... his life	8. the ..... of death
4. ..... my life a misery	9. you'll ..... your death
5. the life and ..... of the party	10. ..... the life out of me

**Exercise 1.**

*Use the following expressions in the situations below.*

a golden handshake	d. the golden age	g. the golden boy
b. worth her weight in gold	e. the golden rule	h. struck gold
c. a golden opportunity	f. like gold dust	i. as good as gold

1. I wish I had a secretary like yours, Jeff. She's got everything so well organised.

> I know. She's .....

2. Thanks for looking after the children. It's been such a help. Have they behaved?

> No problem at all. They were .....

3. Do you know if there are any tickets for the England-France match?

> I doubt it. They're .....

4. I sometimes wonder if I have any idea how to run a business!

> Well, you know ..... - delegate!

5. For six years he could do no wrong - successful, popular, and in the papers almost every day.

He was ..... of British athletics.

6. I've got a chance to go on a training course in the States.

> Take it. You won't get the chance again. It's .....

7. Did they organise a big party when you retired?

No party, not even ....., nothing! Never work for the state!

8. Hitchcock, the Marx Brothers, Charlie Chaplin, 'Gone with the Wind' - I don't think there's much doubt that ..... of the cinema was before the days of television.

9. Sandra's been a terrific success. We really .....when we recruited her.

**Note:** When gold is found, the small pieces are called 'nuggets'. We also talk about a nugget of (valuable) information.

**Exercise 2.**

**Choose the explanation which best fits these two idioms.**

1. Every cloud has a silver lining.

a. There's always a good side to a bad situation.

b. When the weather is bad, there's usually good weather on the way.

2. He was born with a silver spoon in his mouth.

a. He has a very peculiar accent.

b. He's always had everything he wanted.

**Note:** A silver tongued' person can persuade you to do almost anything. To stars are sometimes called 'stars of the silver screen'.

**Exercise 3.**

**Choose one of the above metals in these expressions.**

a. rule with an ..... fist
b. get down to ..... tacks
c. have nerves of .....
d. pump .....
e. rule with a rod of .....
f. go down like a ..... balloon
g. as bold as .....
h. had the ..... neck

**Now use the expressions in these sentences.**

1. Look at that man working up there on that roof. I can't even bear to look at him!

- › He must ..... to do a job like that.
2. The thing about Tito was he ruled Yugoslavia with an .....  
That's how he kept the country together.
3. What's your boss like? I've heard he's quite tough.  
› Not half! He rules the whole place with a .....
4. Let's .....! How much money are you offering?
5. I don't know how he ..... to ask for a rise after the mistakes he's made this year.
6. What did your colleagues think of your idea of giving up a day's pay for charity?  
› Not much. It went ....., to be honest.
7. I couldn't believe my ears! Sheila just walked straight up to the boss, ....., and said, "OK, I saw you dent my car in the car park. What are you going to do about it?"
8. He goes down the gym at least twice a week to .....
- Note:** The best kind of guarantee you can get is a 'copper-bottomed' guarantee. A 'tin-pot' dictator thinks he is very important, but isn't.

**Exercise 4.**

**Revision. Fill in the metal in these phrases.**

1. .... dust	6. an ..... fist
2. the ..... rule	7..... tacks
3. a ..... spoon	8. the ..... neck
4. a ..... opportunity	9. nerves of .....
5. a ..... of iron	10. a ..... handshake

**Exercise 1.**

*Put the following words and expressions into the dialogues below.*

a. I've got a good mind to	e. something on his mind
b. peace of mind	f. give her a piece of my mind
c. springs to mind	g. take your mind off things
d. I'll bear that in mind	h. the thought never crossed my mind

1. If the Johnsons invite you for dinner, don't take any wine. They're teetotal.

> Are they? Thanks. ....

2. Do you think I really need holiday insurance? It's only a weekend in Brussels.

> I would get it if I were you. If only for .....

3. The service in that shop was terrible. The way that assistant talked to you!

> Yes, ..... write and complain.

4. Jim seems to be very quiet today. He's not his usual self.

> No, I think he's got .....

5. Sorry, Paul, I'm not very good company this evening. I can't stop thinking about that argument I had with Sally at work.

> Well, why don't we go out? It'll .....

6. Did you see that woman hit that little girl?

> Hang on! I'm going to ..... !

Just be careful what you say! You could make things worse.

7. Why didn't you go to university? You had the qualifications, after all.

> ..... I just wanted to get a job.

8. Now, who could we get to chair the new committee?

> Nobody ....., I'm sorry to say.

**Exercise 2.**

**Complete these short dialogues using the following lines.**

- a. Never mind.
- b. Are you out of your mind?
- c. I'm in two minds about it.
- d. Mind your own business!

1. I couldn't get your paper. The shops were closed.

> .....

2. Who was that letter from?

> .....

3. I'm fed up with the rat race! I'm giving up my job and going to live in India.

> .....

4. I see they're advertising the Head's job. Are you thinking of applying?

> .....

**Exercise 3.**

**Fill in the following idiomatic expressions in the sentences below.**

a. mind over matter	f. bored out of my mind
b. it's all in his mind	g. put your mind to it
c. a weight off my mind	h. with an open mind
d. put your mind at rest	i. in their right mind
e. slipped my mind	j. make up my mind

1. I've finally finished paying back my car loan. That's .....

2. Of course you can get a grade A - if you .....

3. Strawberry? No, vanilla! Wait! Oh dear! I can't .....

4. Before you read this report, I'm going to tell you there are things in it which you are going to disagree with. All I ask is that you read it .....

5. Giving up smoking is just a question of .....

6. I'm sure she's arrived safely, but why not phone her to .....
7. She talked about nothing but her family all evening. I was .....
8. Stuart thinks there's something serious wrong with him, but if you want my opinion, .....
9. I'm sorry, I forgot to give you a message. It completely .....
10. Marry Karl? She's mad. Nobody ..... would marry Karl.

**Exercise 4.**

**Revision. Look back over the exercises in this unit and find 6 idioms with these meanings.**

1. forgot	..... my .....
2. concentrate	put your mind ..... something
3. not sane	not ..... your ..... mind
4. decide	..... your .....
5. say exactly what you think	..... someone a ..... your mind
6. be worried	have something ..... your mind

**Now add the missing prepositions.**

7. peace ..... mind	13. got a lot ..... my mind
8. take your mind ..... things	14. give him a piece ..... my mind
9. bored ..... of my mind	15. it's all ... .. the mind
10. in two minds .....something	16. a weight ..... my mind
11. put your mind ..... rest	17. springs ..... mind
12. nobody..... their right mind	18. can't make ..... my mind



**Exercise 1.**

*There are some idioms where the numbers are obvious. Can you complete these expressions?*

- a. Two's company, ..... a crowd!
- b. Two heads are better than . . . . .
- c. You've got a .....-track mind!
- d. Might as well kill birds with . . . . . stone.
- e. I'm in . . . . . minds about it.
- f. I put two and ..... together.
- g. It takes ..... to tango.
- h. It's first come, ..... served.
- i. It was ..... of one and half a dozen of the other.
- j. Once bitten, ..... shy.

*Use the above as responses in the following situations.*

1. How did you know I sent the valentine?  
> .....
2. I'll pick the dry-cleaning up when I take your mother home.  
Yes, .....
3. Why don't I come with you and Mary?  
No, no, .....
4. So, are you going to buy that flat?  
I'm not sure yet .....
5. I've been trying all morning to find the mistake in the figures.  
Perhaps I can help .....
6. Can members get tickets before the general public?  
No, I'm afraid .....

7. I thought you would be desperate to find another boyfriend?

Not at the moment .....

8. Who was to blame - John or Ken?

.....

9. I'm hungry. Shall we stop for something to eat?

> Already! It's less than two hours since we finished lunch .....

10. Mary blames John and he blames her, and I must say I think he's right. Well, these things are never one person's fault .....

**Exercise 2.**

**Complete these four sentences with million or thousand(s).**

1. I wouldn't have thought he would have behaved so badly - not him - not in a ..... years!

2. I believe you! .....wouldn't!

3. Thank you for the flowers. You're one in a ..... !

4. Now, who is going to replace him? That is the 64- ..... dollar question!

**Exercise 3.**

**Use the following idiomatic expressions in the sentences below.**

a. I'm all at sixes and sevens.	f. Third time lucky!
b. It knocked me for six.	g. ten a penny
c. at the eleventh hour	h. It's second to none.
d. I was in seventh heaven!	i. I'm having second thoughts.
e. He's on cloud nine.	j. We're back to square one.

1. I've failed twice before, but my driving instructor's sure I can do it next time. You know what they say: .....

2. Are you ready? The taxi will be here in five minutes.

> No. I've lost my keys and I can't find my credit card .....

3. I split up with my boyfriend last night. He was so selfish. I hope I never see

him again.

> I never liked him. Men like him, are ..... anyway.

4. I'm so sorry to hear about your job. When did they tell you?

> Only last week. I just wasn't expecting it. It completely .....

5. At first I was sure it was a good idea, but now .....

6. I've just phoned some shops and nobody sells that colour of paint any more so we'll have to find another colour. We're .....

7. His book's going to be made into a film, so he's on ..... at the moment.

8. Where's James? We're due to leave in 10 minutes. Oh, don't worry. He'll be here at one minute to 9. He always arrives .....

9. She's been invited over to Hollywood, so you can imagine she's in .....

10. Have you tried this 50-year-old malt? .....

#### ***Exercise 4.***

***All the following phrases contain once. Put the words in the correct order.***

1. lifetime a in once \_\_\_\_\_

2. once all and for \_\_\_\_\_

3. twice or once \_\_\_\_\_

4. enough is once \_\_\_\_\_

5. blue once moon a in \_\_\_\_\_

6. once while a in \_\_\_\_\_

#### ***Exercise 5.***

***Look back at the idioms in this unit and add the missing numbers.***

1. Back to square .....	6. I'm all at ..... and .....
2. I put ..... and ..... together.	7. It knocked me for .....
3. .... 's company, ..... 's a crowd.	8. They're. .... a penny.
4. .... come, ..... served.	9. I'm on cloud .....
5. .... bitten, ..... shy.	10. It takes ..... to tango.

# Unit 28

## Sports Idioms

### Exercise 1.

*There are lots of idioms based on boxing. Use each of these nouns to complete the expressions below.*

bell                      ropes                      towel                      punches                      belt

1. If I take an unfair advantage of you, you could say: That was below the ... .
2. If I tell you what I think very directly, I won't pull my .....
3. If you are in a difficult situation, you can say you are on the .....
4. If you are in a difficult situation but you get out of it at the last minute, you can say: Saved by the .....
5. If you keep trying to do something but don't succeed and decide it's not worth continuing, you can throw in the .....

### Exercise 2.

*Use the following idiomatic expressions in the situations below.*

a. keep moving the goalposts	f. touch base
b. a level playing field	g. neck and neck
c. back the wrong horse	h. a major player
d. par for the course	i. keep (people) onside
e. horses for courses	j. heavyweight

1. Joining the European Union was supposed to guarantee a ..... for us. But lower taxes in some continental countries still make it difficult for us to compete.
2. You've been saying Arsenal all season, but United are champions. It looks as if you ....., this time.

3. Hello, Dolly. I haven't seen you for a while and I'm going to be in Cambridge on Thursday so I thought I might look in and..... Is that convenient?
  4. We can't just use one lawyer. It's ..... We need somebody to do our own contracts of employment and a specialist to deal with the European contracts.
  5. The BBC hope to become a ..... in digital television.
  6. Arsenal and Manchester United are still ..... at the top of the league with only two games to go.
  7. Head Office told us we had to achieve an 8% increase. We do what they ask and, guess what, they ..... . Now they want 12%.
  8. The British, Americans and the French are all in agreement, but in a situation like this, everyone knows how important it is to keep the Chinese .....
  9. There is strong opposition to the policy from a number of ..... politicians, including the former Prime Minister.
  10. I see Jeffs off ill again.
- > Well, that's ..... isn't it? Two Fridays every month on average.

**Note:** In an informal meeting you can say: *Shall we kick off by looking at this month's figures?* If Tony wins an argument you can say: *Game, set and match to Tony!*

**Exercise 3.**

**Use these expressions containing the word ball in the situations below.**

a. drop the ball
b. on the ball
c. play ball
d. we're in a whole new ball game
e. the ball's in your court
f. run with the ball

1. I think we should go ahead; I've done everything I promised I would, so now  
.....
2. Bob seems to know everything that's going on round here. He's ..... isn't he?
3. This is a fantastic opportunity. If the sales team ....., we'll make a lot of money.
4. If the Sales Director had dealt with it himself, everything would probably have been all right but he sent his assistant instead and he .....
5. We want to expand the business and take on more staff but we need the help of the bank and they are refusing to .....
6. Since the collapse of communism, there have been major changes in the political situation ....., in fact.

**Note:** If someone asks, "What's the score?" they mean, What's the present situation? It is difficult to play cricket if the pitch (wicket) is wet (sticky), so if someone talks about a sticky wicket, they mean a difficult situation.

***Exercise 4.***

***Revision. Look back at the idioms in this unit and add the missing words.***

1. the ball's in your .....	6. touch .....
2. keep moving the .....	7. neck and .....
3. throw in the .....	8. .... for courses
4. a ..... new ball game	9. .... your punches
5. .... for the course	10. saved by the .....

# Unit 29

# Swimming Idioms

**Exercise 1.**

*Fill in the following words in the definitions below.*

- |         |       |
|---------|-------|
| deep    | sank  |
| tide    | tread |
| crest   | drown |
| sorrows | depth |

1. The Titanic..... after hitting an iceberg.
2. The ..... comes in and goes out twice every day.
3. If something is very ....., it is of great .....
4. The top of a wave is its .....
5. If you fall into the sea and you cannot swim, don't panic, just do your best to ..... water. Otherwise, you might ..... !
6. Things you feel sad about are your .....

**Exercise 2.**

*Put the following expressions into the sentences below.*

a. thrown in at the deep end	e. out of my depth
b. swimming against the tide	f. in deep water
c. keep our heads above water	g. on the crest of a wave
d. going under	h. drowned our sorrows

1. The French class I'm going to is far too difficult for me. I'm completely ...  
..... I think I need to go down a level.
2. With their new album going straight to number one in the US charts, Oasis have been ..... for a while now.

3. I didn't get any training when I started work here. I was just ..... and expected to get on with it.
4. My wife's just lost her job. If we're careful with money, we should just about be able to .....
5. You'll have to agree in the end. You can't go on ..... for much longer.
6. If the recession continues for much longer, a lot of small businesses are in real danger of .....
7. When we lost to Brazil, we just found the nearest pub and .....
8. I've got some terrible news. inlis son has just been arrested. He's been involved with some pretty shady business deals. He's ..... and he's in right up to his neck.

***Exercise 3.***

***Add the following verbs in the correct form in the sentences below.***

drown out	throw
make	dive
sink	test
swim	tread

1. If you really want to ..... a splash with your new book, you'll have to throw a few parties and give away a few thousand copies to the right people.
2. You said you rang five minutes ago. I'm afraid there's a lot of workmen around the office this morning. The noise they're making must've ..... the sound of the phone.
3. I wish someone would ..... me a lifeline! With a loan of a couple of thousand pounds I could just about get myself out of trouble.
4. I think it would be a good idea to ..... the waters first before we spend any more money on the project.
5. We've been told we've got six months to turn the company around and make a



profit. If things haven't improved, the whole thing is being closed down. So, it's a ..... or ..... situation.

6. Don't you think too many young people today ..... straight into relationships without really thinking about what they are doing?

7. I don't think I'm ever going to get promoted here. My job hasn't changed for three years and I'm bored. I feel as if I've been ..... water.

**Exercise 4.**

**Revision. Look back at the idioms in this unit and add the missing words.**

1. in at the deep .....	6. in deep .....
2. keeping our heads above .....	7. out of my .....
3. throw someone a .....	8. .... your sorrows
4. .... or swim	9. .... a splash
5. swimming against the .....	10. on the crest of a .....

**Exercise 1.**

**Complete these idiomatic expressions with the words given.**

- |           |       |      |       |       |
|-----------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| reception | water | out  | light | blood |
| cucumber  | feet  | lost | left  | cool  |

a. got cold .....	f. as cool as a .....
b. .... me cold	g. in the cold .....of day
c. .... my cool	h. poured cold..... on it
d. frosty .....	i. .... in the cold
e. in cold .....	j. keep .....

**Put the above idioms into these dialogues.**

- During the apartheid years South African sportsmen were left ..... because most countries refused to have anything to do with their teams.
- Now that you've had time to think about it, what are you going to do?  
Well, I suppose ....., I ought to go back home and try and find a job there. There's nothing here for me.
- I'll murder him! How dare he talk to me like that!  
> ..... ! Losing your temper won't help. Now tell me what the problem is.
- You don't look very happy. What's wrong?  
> I just presented my plan for the new office to the rest of the staff, but they all ..... They didn't like it at all.
- Did you hear the news? A policeman has been murdered in the town centre.  
> Yes, he was killed ..... in front of a crowd of shoppers.
- I see that play you went to see got a marvellous review in the paper.  
> You're joking! I'm amazed. I'm afraid it .....

7. Katy's amazing. She always seems calm and in control. The exact opposite of me.

> I know what you mean. She's always .....

8. So, you've met Brian's parents at last! How did you get on?

> Well, her mother gave me a fairly ..... at first, but I think she warmed to me. She's just a bit worried that I'm twelve years older than him.

9. Why did you have a fight with Robert?

→ Well, he started saying really stupid things about the Irish. I just got so angry with him. I suppose I .....

10. The poor girl was left standing there at the altar! Why didn't you come?

> I thought about it and decided I just wasn't ready to get married. I .....

**Note:** A liquid which is neither hot nor cold is 'lukewarm' or 'tepid'. If you visit somebody or make a suggestion and other people are not enthusiastic, you can talk about a lukewarm reception or a tepid response.

### **Exercise 2.**

**Fill in the following words and expressions in the sentences below.**

a. a heated discussion	f. in the heat of the moment
b. a hot potato	g. warmed to him
c. hot under the collar	h. hot off the press
d. into hot water	i. selling like hot cakes
e. in the hot seat	j. a hot-bed

1. Does anybody know when our contracts are going to be renewed?

> Nothing's been said. Nobody wants to ask. It's a bit of a .....

2. What you said yesterday was unfair and unkind. In fact, it really hurt. I've been very upset about it and couldn't sleep.

> I'm really sorry. I didn't mean it. I just said it .....

3. Were you and Jo having an argument last night? It seemed a bit aggressive!

> Oh no. We were just having ..... about politics. That's all.

4. I'm thinking of getting one of the VWs.  
> I hear they're .....
5. I've just been made chairman.  
> Well, rather you than me .....
6. I'm glad I don't work at Reception.  
> No, from what I've heard it's ..... of gossip!
7. Hey John, I hear you met my brother on Friday. He seemed to approve of you!  
> Yes, he's really nice. I ..... straightaway.
8. That's the third person trying to sell me insurance on the phone this week!  
> That's nothing to get so ..... about. Just hang up.
9. What I like about Kirsty is she's not afraid to say what she thinks.  
> That's very true. But she gets herself ..... sometimes!
10. Have our new catalogues arrived yet?  
> Here's the first one .....

**Note:** If your English is 'not all that hot', it is not very good. Someone who is 'hot-tempered' gets angry very easily. Spicy food, for example curry or chilli, is called 'hot' - "This vindaloo is too hot for my taste."

### ***Exercise 3.***

***Revision. Choose the correct word in the sentences below.***

1. He's as ***cool/warm*** as a cucumber. Nothing upsets him.
2. His speech got a very ***lukewarm/tepid*** reception.
3. My views occasionally get me into ***hot/cold*** water but it doesn't bother me.
4. They poured ***hot/cold*** water on my idea. Naturally I was very disappointed.
5. I got ***cold/warm*** feet at the last minute. I just wasn't ready to do it.
6. Stop getting so ***warm/hot*** under the collar. We've got plenty of time.
7. Contracts are a ***hot/warm*** potato around here at the moment.
8. In the ***warm/cold*** light of day, I can see it was a mistake. Sorry.

**Exercise 1.**

***Underline the words in the following which are used to talk about railway trains.***

Trains run on railway tracks which are made up of rails. Trains cannot climb hills easily. so in the past tunnels had to be built through hills and mountains. If a train is derailed. it comes off the rails. At the end of a railway line, usually in a station, are buffers. Sometimes, if a train does not stop in time, it hits the buffers. The first trains were steam trains, but today they are more likely to be diesel or electric. Very fast trains are called express trains.

**Exercise 2.**

***Use some of the words you have underlined above to complete these idioms.***

- a. light at the end of the .....
- b. a one- ..... mind
- c. under my own .....
- d. hit the .....
- e. ran out of .....
- f. right off the .....
- g. back on .....
- h. let off .....
- i. on the right .....
- j. like an ..... train

***Now use these idioms in the following situations which show their meaning.***

1. The Government's first two years were very successful, but then everything

- seemed to hit .....
2. I don't need a lift, thanks. I'll get there .....
  3. We want to design an affordable, eco-friendly car. There are one or two serious problems, but basically we're .....
  4. Our business has had a very difficult two years but things are slowly beginning to improve. There's .....
  5. The Conservatives lost the election. Their campaign started well enough, but it just ran ..... a week before the actual election.
  6. Since his wife left him. Mark's lost his job and he's drinking heavily. He's really gone .....
  7. How was your night out with Jerry?
    - > Terrible! All he talked about was steam trains. He's got a ..... mind!
  8. Do you fancy a game of squash tonight, Tim?
    - > Good idea. I need to do something to ..... I'm really tense. I've had a very difficult week at work.
  9. How are things at work after the fire?
    - > It's taken us three months to sort things out, but everything's ..... now.
  10. Did you see the match last night? What about that goal just before half-time?
    - > He's incredible. He's ..... When he gets the ball there's no stopping him!
- Note:** When two groups are negotiating and something goes badly wrong, we often say that the talks were derailed.

***Exercise 3.***

***Line is a common word in several idioms. Use these expressions in the situations below.***

- a. down the line
- b. the end of the line
- c. somewhere along the line
- d. all along the line

1. So, are we going to give Roger another chance?  
 > He's already had 5 warnings about being late. I think we've reached .....  
 We'll have to ask him to leave.
2. I'm afraid we've never received your cheque.  
 > It's obviously got lost .....
3. If you're going to build your own house, make sure you've got the finance organised from the start.  
 > Yes, we don't want to have financial problems a couple of months .....
4. We've got no alternative but to cancel the new project.  
 > I suppose so. We've had so many problems .....- since the word go, in fact.

**Exercise 4.**

**Revision. Look back at the idioms in this unit and add the missing words.**

1. ran ..... of steam	6. let ..... steam
2. gone ..... the rails	7. .... my own steam
3. back ..... track	8. somewhere ..... the line
4. the end ..... the line	9. two months ..... the line
5. light ..... the end of the tunnel	10. .... the right track

**Exercise 1.**

**Match the following idioms containing water with the meanings on the right.**

1. like a fish out of water	a. get into trouble
2. water under the bridge	b. is not credible
3. keeping our heads above water	c. no effect on me
4. spend money like water	d. just surviving financially
5. land him in hot water	e. feeling strange and out of place
6. like water off a duck's back	f. made less forceful
7. watered down	g. past and forgotten
8. doesn't hold water	h. spend without thinking

**Now use these idioms in the following situations.**

9. John says the two of you had a serious argument last week.

> Yes, but that's all ..... now. We're friends again.

10. Have you found a better job yet, Gary?

> No, not yet. Money's a bit tight, but we're just about .....

11. Why haven't you got a credit card?

> I know it would just make me .....

12. What I like about Philip is he's not afraid to express his opinions.

> That's all very well, but his opinions often ..... at work.

13. Were you not upset by all the criticism you got at the meeting?

> Oh no, I'm used to it. It's just .....

14. I thought the Prime Minister's speech was very weak.

> Yes, I think it had been ..... to avoid upsetting some people in his party.

15. The only thing which will help the economy is to raise interest rates.



> But that argument ..... . Higher interest rates are bad for business, not good for it. Listen to the big companies!

16. After the meeting we were taken to one of those big London clubs.

> I bet you felt ..... !

### ***Exercise 2.***

***Fill in the following idioms.***

my heart sank

sink or swim

floated the idea

floating voters

1. Right in the middle of the coffee break, Jim ..... that we should sell the company.

2. Elections aren't decided by people who vote for the same party. It's actually the..... who make the difference and elect the Government.

3. When I left school, I got no help from anyone. You just had to ..... in those days.

4. When I heard about her murder on the evening news, .....

### ***Exercise 3.***

The following idioms all refer in some way to the sea. Use them in the sentences below.

a. left high and dry

e. a drop in the ocean

b. a sea change

f. a wave of protests

c. make waves

g. all at sea

d. the tide is turning

h. come hell or high water

1. The worldwide web. The Internet. Shopping from home. Chat rooms. I'm ..... with all this new technology!

2. When all the redundancies were announced, there was ..... in hospitals

throughout the country.

3. I can see public opinion is coming round to our way of thinking. At last,  
.....

4. I don't care if I can't afford to go to the match in Helsinki. I'm going -  
.....

5. No planes, no trains, no buses! When the strike started, we were .....  
in our hotel.

6. There's been ..... in the way we teach languages during the past 20 years.

7. Spending €10,000 on a trip to the Bahamas is just .....for the  
Government.

8. In private, people are telling you they agree with you, but they won't support  
you in public! ..... and you'll regret it!

**Note:** A container with a small hole is not watertight. In the same way, if your  
argument is weak, it is not watertight. Something which is not watertight leaks.  
Politicians try out ideas on the general public by 'leaking' them to the press before  
they are published officially.

**Exercise 4.**

**Revision. Look back at the idioms in this unit and add the missing  
prepositions.**

1. land ..... hot water	5. water ..... the bridge
2. all ..... sea	6. keep your head ..... water
3. like water ..... a duck's back	7. like a fish..... of water
4. a drop ..... the ocean	8. a wave .....protests

# Answer Key

## Unit 1

**Ex 1:** 1 bull, horns, 2 hind, 3 bonnet, 4 pants, 5 chase, 6 bees, 7 Straw, 8 sty, 9 swing

**Ex 2:** 1 bee, bonnet, 2 fish, sea, 3 cat, bag, 4 fish, water, 5 bull, horns, 6 ants, pants, 7 sheep, family, 8 cows, home

**Ex 3:** 1a, 2d, 3b, 4c, 5 goose, 6 donkey, 7 chicken, 8 horse, 9 wolf, 10 donkey, 11 camel, 12 donkey, 13 pig, 14 foxed

**Ex 4:** 1 cat, 2 bull, 3 goose, 4 cat, 5 donkey, 6 bee, 7 rat, 8 fish, 9 donkey, 10 wolf

## Unit 2

**Ex 1:** 1 wings, 2 nest, 3 swoop, 4 peck, 5 flap, 6 Boo

**Ex 2:** 1e, 2d, 3b, 4a, 5f, 6c

**Ex 3:** 1 crow, 2 duck, 3 chicken, 4 hawk, 5 goose, 6 sparrow, 7 dodo, 8 parrot

**Ex 4:** 1d, 2g, 3k, 4f, 5b, 6a, 7h, 8n, 9m, 10i, 11l, 12e, 13j, 14c

**Ex 5:** 1 duck, 2 birds, 3 hawk, 4 wing, 5 chicken, 6 flap, 7 parrot, 8 goose, 9 crow, 10 swoop, 11 dodo, 12 parrot, 13 nest,

14 swan, 15 pecking, 16 nest

## Unit 3

**Ex 1:** 1d, 2c, 3b, 4a, 5e

**Ex 2:** 1f, 2i, 3g, 4b, 5d, 6a, 7k, 8e, 9c, 10h, 11j, 12l

**Ex 3:** 1d, 2e, 3c, 4a, 5b

**Ex 4:** 1 neck, 2 foot, 3 chest, 4 finger, 5 shoulder, 6 elbow, 7 nose, 8 cheeky, 9 arm, 10 an arm and a leg, 11 leg, 12 feet

**Ex 5:** 1 give, 2 put, 3 pulling, 4 put, 5 came,

6 gone, 7 cost, 8 finding, 9 buries, 10 get

## Unit 4

**Ex 1:** 1 shattered, 2 Fragile, 3 smashed, 4 chip, 5 snapped, 6 crack, 7 handle, 8 crushed, 9 mend,

10 kid

**Ex 2:** 1e, 2c, 3f, 4a, 5b, 6h, 7g, 8d

**Ex 3:** 1b, 2h, 3e, 4j, 5a, 6f, 7i, 8d, 9g, 10c

**Ex 4:** 1 broke, 2 chip, 3 shattered, 4 treat, kid, 5 fragile, 6 broken, 7 pieces,

8 broke, 9 crack, 10 pieces

### **Unit 5**

**Ex 1:** 1 chimney, 2 foundations, 3 roof, 4 ceiling, 5 Bricks, Cement, 6 doorstep, 7 tiles, 8 corridor

**Ex 2:** 1e, 2d, 3h, 4f, 5b, 6g, 7a, 8c

**Ex 3:** 1 door, 2 cement, 3 chimney, 4 roof, 5 closed doors, 6 wall, 7 window, 8 corridors,

9 brick wall

**Ex 4:** 1 foot, door, 2 banging, brick,

3 smokes, chimney, 4 night, tiles, 5 meeting, closed, 6 talking, brick, 7 door, 8 ton, 9 corridors,  
10 doors, 11 door, 12 window, 13 roof, 14 roof, 15 doorstep, 16 cement.

### **Unit 6**

**Ex 1:** 1 pigeon, 2 pussy, 3 claws, 4 fur, fur, 5 rub, fur, rub, 6 curious, 7 Bricks,

8 whiskers

**Ex 2:** 1a, 2b, 3f, 4g, 5c, 6h, 7e, 8d

**Ex 3:** 1 whisker, 2 cat, 3 catty, 4 fur, 5 whiskers, 6 claws

**Ex 4:** 1 dog, 2 pussyfooting around, 3 hell's, 4 catty, 5 away, the mice will play, 6 among, 7 bag, 8  
whiskers

### **Unit 7**

**Ex 1:** 1 gloves, 2 sleeves, 3 cap, 4 roll up, 5 belt, 6 tighten, 7 twist, 8 knickers

**Ex 2:** 1e, 2a, 3g, 4c, 5f, 6b, 7d, 8h

**Ex 3:** 1c, 2f, 3a, 4d, 5b, 6e

**Ex 4:** 1 coat, 2 belts, 3 sleeves, 4 shoes, 5 shirt, 6 socks, 7 trousers, 8 caps

**Ex 5:** 1 roll, 2 keep, 3 pull, 4 take, 5 give, 6 pull, 7 tighten, 8 fits, 9 talk, 10 be in

## **Unit 8**

**Ex 1:** 1b, 2a, 3f, 4c, 5d, 6e

**Ex 2:** 1f, 2b, 3g, 4e, 5c, 6d, 7a, 8i, 9h, 10j

**Ex 3:** 1 lie, 2 spot, 3 sheep, 4 picture, 5 elephant, 6 market, 7 look, 8 economy.

## **Unit 9**

**Ex 1:** 1 blue, 2 blue, 3 red, 4 blue, 5 red, 6 red, 7 red, 8 red, 9 blue, 10 blue

**Ex 2:** 1 red, 2 blue, 3 blue, 4 red, 5 blue, 6 red, 7 red, 8 red

**Ex 3:** 1 red, 2 red, 3 blue, 4 red, 5 blue, 6 blue, 7 blue, 8 blue, 9 red, 10 red, 11 blue, 12 red

## **Unit 10**

**Ex 1:** 1 overtake, 2 steer, 3 dead-end, 4 gear, 5 lanes, 6 collision, 7 crash, 8 backseat, 9 bend, 10 crossroads

**Ex 2:** 1b, 2g, 3e, 4c, 5j, 6f, 7h, 8a, 9i, 10d

**Ex 3:** 1h, 2b, 3e, 4j, 5c, 6g, 7f, 8d, 9i, 10a

**Ex 4:** 1b, 2d, 3c, 4a

**Ex 5:** 1 drive, 2 drive, 3 give, 4 go, 5 hit, 6 take, 7 go, 8 turn, 9 put, 10 steer

## **Unit 11**

**Ex 1:** 1b, 2d, 3f, 4c, 5e, 6h, 7a, 8g

**Ex 2:** 1e, 2b, 3a, 4f, 5h, 6c, 7d, 8g

**Ex 3:** 1 chew, 2 bite, 3 eat, 4 Swallow, 5 teeth, 6 taste, 7 bit, 8 down

## **Unit 12**

**Ex 1:** 1 bargain, 2 blink, 3 peel, 4 blind, 5 eyebrows, 6 eyelids

**Ex 2:** 1g, 2d, 3a, 4e, 5b, 6h, 7f, 8c, 9 up to my eyes in work, 10 see eye to eye, 11 pull the wool over my eyes, 12 need eyes in the back of my head

**Ex 3:** 1h, 2c, 3a, 4i, 5d, 6b, 7g, 8f, 9e

**Ex 4:** 1 bat, 2 turn, 3 need, 4 run, 5 see, 6 keep, 7 keep, 8 meets, 9 in, 10 up, 11 with, 12 to, 13 to, 14 on

### **Unit 13**

**Ex 1:** 1 the fact, 2 the music, 3 a full meal, 4 work, 5 the consequences, 6 lose, 7 keep,

8 got, 9 putting, 10 put, 11 save

**Ex 2:** 1b, 2d, 3h, 4a, 5f, 6e, 7c, 8g

**Ex 3:** 1h, 2b, 3f, 4a, 5g, 6d, 7c, 8e

### **Unit 14**

**Ex 1:** 1h, 2e, 3a, 4f, 5g, 6b, 7i, 8c, 9d

**Ex 2:** 1 finger, 2 thumb, 3 finger, 4 fingers, 5 thumbs

**Ex 3:** 1f, 2c, 3d, 4g, 5e, 6a, 7h, 8b

**Ex 4:** 1 stick, 2 twist, 3 pull, 4 put, 5 count, 6 keep, 7 give, 8 twiddle, 9 thumb, 10 get

### **Unit 15**

**Ex 1:** 1 fuel, 2 blaze, 3 row, 4 ambition, 5 baptism, 6 temper, 7 sparks, 8 flames

**Ex 2:** 1 burning, 2 fire, 3 blazing, 4 fiery, 5 heated, 6 smoke, 7 flames, 8 sparks

**Ex 3:** 1a, 2d, 3e, 4b, 5f, 6c

**Ex 4:** 1 set, 2 have, 3 play, 4 get, 5 add, 6 fire, 7 go, 8 burn

### **Unit 16**

**Ex 1:** fish, fishing line, net, line, hook, bait, cod, haddock, rise to the bait, mackerel, trawl, cast nets, trawlers, fresh-water fishing, angling, rod and line, cast, salmon, up river, down river, spawn, tiddlers

**Ex 2:** 1h, 2f, 3g, 4b, 5a, 6j, 7d, 8c, 9i, 10e

**Ex 3:** 1b, 2c, 3e, 4d, 5a, 6f

**Ex 4:** 1c, 2d, 3b, 4e, 5a

**Ex 5:** 1 landed, contract, 2 plenty, sea, 3 rise, bait, 4 let, hook, 5 cast, wider, 6 whale, time

### **Unit 17**

**Ex 1:** 1 couch, 2 sliced, 3 stew, 4 icing, 5 spices, 6 variety, 7 pinch, 8 pickle

**Ex 2:** 1d, 2b, 3h, 4a, 5j, 6g, 7c, 8i, 9e, 10f

**Ex 3:** 1e, 2c, 3b, 4f, 5a, 6d

**Ex 4:** 1d, 2c, 3a, 4b

**Ex 5:** 1 juice, 2 salt, 3 bread, 4 life, 5 cakes, 6 face, 7 cake, 8 earth, 9 cucumber, 10 tea

### **Unit 18**

**Ex 1:** 1 feet, 2 feet, 3 feet, 4 foot, 5 foot

**Ex 2:** 1 think on your feet, 2 dragging their feet. 3 stand on your own two feet, 4 didn't put a foot wrong, 5 put my foot down, 6 foot the bill

**Ex 3:** 1d, 2b, 3a, 4c, 5g, 6e, 7f, 8h

**Ex 4:** 1 on, 2 foot, 3 your, 4 dead, 5 off, 6 in, 7 cold, 8 wrong, 9 set, 10 put

### **Unit 19**

**Ex 1:** 1 give, 2 count, 3 turn, 4 fell, 5 take, 6 hand, 7 know, 8 keep

**Ex 2:** 1 changed hands, 2 I've got my hands full, 3 out of hand, 4 things get out of hand, 5 time on my hands, 6 get my hands on, 7 hand living from hand to mouth, 8 had a big hand

**Ex 3:** 1 hand, 2 hand, 3 hands, 4 hands, 5 hand, 6 hands, 7 hands, 8 hands, 9 hand, 10 hand

### **Unit 20**

**Ex 1:** 1 examines, 2 block, 3 bury, 4 roll, 5 tail, 6 screw

**Ex 2:** 1f, 2a, 3h, 4d, 5e, 6g, 7c, 8b

**Ex 3:** 1 put, 2 keep, 3 bury, 4 examined/ examining, 5 goes, 6 laughed, 7 roll, 8 screwed

**Ex 4:** 1 I could do it standing on my head, 2 He's got his head screwed on, 3 Don't bury your head in the sand, 4 It went right over my head/I couldn't make head nor tail of it, We're keeping our heads above water, You need your head examined/ examining

**Ex 5:** 1 above, 2 to, 3 of, 4 above, 5 in, 6 over, 7 on, 8 off, 9 off, 10 on

### **Unit 21**

**Ex 1:** 1 sank, 2 lose, 3 set, 4 take, 5 have, 6 break

**Ex 2:** 1b, 2g, 3h, 4a, 5c, 6f, 7i, 8d, 9j, 10e

**Ex 3:** 1 by, 2 in, 3 of, 4 in, 5 after, 6 of, 7 to, 8 in

## **Unit 22**

**Ex 1:** 1 cart, 2 hooves, 3 reins, 4 bit, 5 hurdles, 6 saddle

**Ex 2:** 1b, 2c, 3g, 4f, 5a (putting...), 6e, 7d, 8h  
**Ex 3:** 1 one, 2 dead, 3 high, 4 dark, 5 wild,  
6 wrong

**Ex 4:** 1c, 2d, 3b, 4e, 5a

**Ex 5:** 1 on, 2 between, 3 for, 4 before, 5 on, 6 from, 7 with, 8 at, 9 through, 10 on

## **Unit 23**

**Ex 1:** 1b, 2f, 3g, 4d, 5c, 6h, 7e, 8a

**Ex 2:** 1 home, 2 house, 3 house, 4 home, 5 home

**Ex 3:** 1c, 2a, 3f, 4e, 5b, 6h, 7d, 8g  
**Ex 4:** 1 fire, 2 home, 3 truths, 4 order, 5 home, 6 home, 7 down,  
8 about, 9 home, 10 straight

## **Unit 24**

**Ex 1:** 1 kiss, 2 lease, 3 soul, 4 fate, 5 misery, 6 dice, 7 warm up

**Ex 2:** a death, b life, c life, d life, e death, f life, g death, h death, i death, j life.

1h, 2a, 3c, 4e, 5g, 6d, 7i, 8b, 9j, 10f

**Ex 3:** 1 death, 2 life, 3 death, 4 life, 5 life, 6 death

**Ex 4:** 1 You look like death warmed up, 2 You're dicing with death, 3 She can't sing to save her life, 4 It's given me a new lease of life

**Ex 5:** 1 fate, 2 warmed, 3 save, 4 make, 5 soul, 6 door, 7 life, 8 kiss, 9 catch, 10 frightened

## **Unit 25**

**Ex 1:** 1b, 2i, 3f, 4e, 5g, 6c, 7a, 8d, 9h

**Ex 2:** 1a, 2b

**Ex 3:** a iron, b brass, c steel, d iron, e iron, f lead, g brass, h brass  
1c, 2a, 3e, 4b, 5h, 6f, 7g, 8d

**Ex 4:** 1 gold, 2 golden, 3 silver, 4 golden, 5 rod, 6 iron, 7 brass, 8 brass, 9 steel, 10 golden

## **Unit 26**

**Ex 1:** 1d, 2b, 3a, 4e, 5g, 6f, 7h, 8c



**Ex 2:** 1a, 2d, 3b, 4c

**Ex 3:** 1c, 2g, 3j, 4h, 5a, 6d, 7f, 8b, 9e, 10i

**Ex 4:** 1 slipped my mind, 2 put your mind to, 3 not in your right mind, 4 make up your mind, 5 give someone a piece of your mind, 6 have something on your mind, 7 of, 8 off, 9 out, 10 about, 11 at, 12 in, 13 on, 14 of, 15 in, 16 off, 17 to, 18 up

### **Unit 27**

**Ex 1:** a three's, b one, c one, d two, one, e two, f two, g two, h first, i six, j twice  
1f, 2d, 3a, 4e, 5b, 6h, 7j, 8i, 9c, 10g

**Ex 2:** 1 million, 2 Thousands, 3 million, 4 thousand

**Ex 3:** 1f, 2a, 3g, 4b, 5i, 6j, 7e, 8c, 9d, 10h

**Ex 4:** 1 once in a lifetime, 2 once and for all, 3 once or twice, 4 once is enough, 5 once in a blue moon, 6 once in a while

**Ex 5:** 1 one, 2 two, two, 3 Two, three,

4 First, first, 5 Once, twice, 6 sixes, sevens, 7 six, 8 ten, 9 nine, 10 two

### **Unit 28**

**Ex 1:** 1 belt, 2 punches, 3 ropes, 4 bell, 5 towel

**Ex 2:** 1b, 2c (backed ...), 3f, 4e, 5h, 6g, 7a, 8i, 9j, 10d

**Ex 3:** 1e, 2b, 3f, 4a (dropped...), 5c, 6d

**Ex 4:** 1 court, 2 goalposts, 3 towel, 4 whole, 5 par, 6 base, 7 neck, 8 horses, 9 pull, 10 bell

### **Unit 29**

**Ex 1:** 1 sank, 2 tide, 3 deep, depth, 4 crest, 5 tread, drown, 6 sorrows

**Ex 2:** 1e, 2g, 3a, 4c, 5b, 6d, 7h, 8f

**Ex 3:** 1 make, 2 drowned out, 3 throw, 4 test, 5 sink, swim, 6 dive, 7 treading

**Ex 4:** 1 end, 2 water, 3 lifeline, 4 sink, 5 tide, 6 water, 7 depth, 8 drown, 9 make, 10 wave

### **Unit 30**

**Ex 1:** a feet, b left, c lost, d reception, e blood, f cucumber, g light, h water, i out, j cool, 11, 2g, 3j, 4h, 5e, 6b, 7f, 8d, 9c, 10a

**Ex 2:** 1b, 2f, 3a, 4i, 5e, 6j, 7g, 8c, 9d, 10h

**Ex 3:** 1 cool, 2 lukewarm, 3 hot, 4 cold, 5 cold, 6 hot, 7 hot, 8 cold

### **Unit 31**

**Ex 1:** 1 railway tracks, rails, tunnels, derailed, off the rails, railway line, station, buffers, hits the buffers, steam trains, diesel or electric, express trains

**Ex 2:** a tunnel, b track, c steam, d buffers, e steam, f rails, g track, h steam, i track, j express 1d, 2c, 3i, 4a, 5e, 6f, 7b, 8h, 9g, 10j

**Ex 3:** 1b, 2c, 3a, 4d

**Ex 4:** 1 out, 2 off, 3 on, 4 of, 5 at, 6 off, 7 under, 8 along, 9 down, 10 on

### **Unit 32**

**Ex 1:** 1e, 2g, 3d, 4h, 5a, 6c, 7f, 8b, 9 water under the bridge, 10 keeping our heads above water, 11 spend money like water, 12 land him in hot water, 13 like water off a duck's back, 14 watered down, 15 doesn't hold water, 16 like a fish out of water

**Ex 2:** 1 floated the idea, 2 floating voters, 3 sink or swim, 4 my heart sank

**Ex 3:** 1g, 2f, 3d, 4h, 5a, 6b, 7e, 8c

**Ex 4:** 1 in, 2 at, 3 off, 4 in, 5 under, 6 above, 7 out, 8 of

## **СПИСОК ВИКОРИСТАНИХ ДЖЕРЕЛ**

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*Навчальне видання*

## **Практикум «English Idioms in Use»**

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