

16 Underline the correct word and then explain the phrases.

- 1 John does nothing all day but watch soap operas. He's such a couch potato/*tomato*.
- 2 When Alex realises that I have broken his new camera he will hit the *floor*/roof.
- 3 My mother always says that too many cooks spoil the *stew*/broth.

1 Since my older brother got his own flat, I have been using his old bedroom as a study.

coop When my brother ,
I turned his bedroom into a study.

2 Sometimes things can go wrong if too many people try to help you.

cooks Sometimes it's true that
..... the broth.

3 When Paul finds out you have broken his DVD player, he's going to be extremely angry.

roof Paul is going
when he finds out you've broken his DVD player.

4 Ever since Lily lost her job, she does nothing all day but watch TV.

couch Lily has become such
..... ever since she lost her job.

5 My Aunt Rose is so easy-going that I feel comfortable whenever I stay with her.

home I I stay
with my Aunt Rose because she's so easy-going.

- 1 Despite the teacher's best efforts, the students were **all in a fog/cloud** at the end of the lesson.
- 2 Come **snow/rain** or **shine**, you can always depend on Tim to be on time.
- 3 I'm afraid I have to **cast a cloud/fog** over the celebration and give you some bad news.
- 4 This is a sad time for everyone, but if we pull together we will **weather the storm/snow**.
- 5 We should be safe here. After all, **thunder/lightning** never strikes in the same place twice.
- 6 It's a beautiful day! We might as well **make hay while the sun shines/brightens** and go to the beach for a picnic.
- 7 The boss is furious but hasn't said anything. I'm afraid it's the **calm/peace** before the storm.

1 I really don't understand how computers work even though I've taken a course.

fog Although I've taken a course, I'm
 when it comes to computers.

2 Sarah goes to the gym every evening no matter what.

shine Every evening,
, Sarah goes to the gym.

3 The teacher hasn't said anything about our bad test results, but I'm sure she will.

calm Although the teacher hasn't said anything about our bad test results, I'm sure it's just
 the storm.

4 I really don't want to spoil your holiday plans, but there may be an airline strike in August.

cloud I don't mean to
 over your holiday plans, but there may be an airline strike in August.

- 1 She's got a big *body/head* since she won the beauty contest.
- 2 You can argue until you're blue in the *face/ears* and you still won't make her change her mind.
- 3 He's got his *head/brain* in the clouds if he thinks a plan like that has any chance of succeeding.
- 4 They kept their *chin/nose* up even though they had lost everything.
- 5 His promotion has gone to his *head/hair* – he suddenly thinks he's really important.

Complete the sentences below.

A	B
flesh	free
black	after
second	the moon
skin	hand
named	and blue
feel	deep
over	and blood

- 1 Please, to call me if you need more information.
- 2 Bob was when he found out he had won the lottery.
- 3 He played rugby yesterday and he's all over.
- 4 She couldn't afford a new bike so she bought a one.
- 5 I would never turn my back on my family. After all, they're my own
- 6 I was my grandmother. We are both called Sarah.
- 7 Despite being very handsome, John isn't a nice person. But you know what they say – beauty is only

- 1 Everyone tried to **keep their *chin/head*** during the earthquake.
- 2 I felt ill yesterday but today I'm **as right as *rain/fog***.
- 3 Bill had a bad cold, and he's still **feeling a bit under the *weather/climate***.
- 4 You are the ***picture/painting* of health** after your holiday!
- 5 There's nothing wrong with Sue, she's ***as fit as a fiddle/flute!***

- be as right as rain • a bit under the weather
- the picture of health • kept his head

- 1 John was the only one who
when we were stuck in the lift.
- 2 Ever since Sarah returned from her holiday, she's
been feeling
- 3 Don't worry, as soon as you start taking the
medication, you'll
- 4 You are ever since you had
your baby.

- fish • beaver • horses • dogs • cat
- crocodile

- 1 He is such a(n) **eager** that he springs out of bed every morning, ready for work.
- 2 She told him to **let sleeping** **lie** and not to mention the problem to Jack.
- 3 They want to choose a new leader, but I told them they shouldn't **change** **in midstream**.
- 4 She **let the** **out of the bag** when she started talking about the plans for the surprise party.
- 5 Those were just **tears**. She wasn't really upset at all.
- 6 I **felt like a** **out of water** at the party because I didn't know anyone.

- 1 During my first term at university, I felt lost and unsure of myself.
fish I felt like
..... during my first term at university.
- 2 He is so enthusiastic about his job that he even works at the weekends.
beaver He is such
..... he even works at the weekends.
- 3 Things could get worse if we interfere, so I think we should just stay out of it.
sleeping I think we should just
..... lie, or things could get worse.
- 4 I begged Peter not to say anything but he told everyone about my secret.
cat Peter let the
..... even though
I begged him not to say anything.
- 5 He might look harmless but in fact he is a very dangerous person.
clothing He is a
..... although he looks harmless.

1	b	a cog in	a plug on sth
2		throw a spanner	b the machine
3		get one's	c the mould
4		press	d wires crossed
5		pull the	e in the works
6		break	f the right button

- 1 Factory workers often feel like they are a cog in the machine. They rarely see the end results of their work.
- 2 The young people of today are eager and willing to take risks and of the work place.
- 3 That child is her dad's favourite and knows exactly how to
- 4 They wanted to buy a house, but when the bank refused to give them a mortgage, that really
- 5 Due to lack of money, the school is plans to build a new library.
- 6 We must I'm sure I told you the meeting was at two.

1 Although Mr Hill has an important job, he's still only a part of the company.

cog Mr Hill's job is important, but he's still just
..... the machine.

2 Changing the director in the middle of the film will cause problems with the production.

spanner If you change the director in the middle of the film, it is sure to
..... the works with the production.

3 They put an end to my favourite TV show after only three episodes.

plug They
..... my favourite TV show after only three episodes.

4 John knows exactly how to get what he wants from Mary.

press John knows exactly how to
..... buttons.

5 That new computerised car is one-of-a-kind.

mould They
..... when they made that new computerised car.

6 We must have been confused, because I thought you said the meeting was tomorrow.

wires We must have
..... because I thought you said the meeting was tomorrow.

12 Fill in: *glove, hat, belt, shirt, pocket or shoes*. Then explain the idioms in bold.

- 1 You have to **take your**
off to Joe, he has really made the business a success.
- 2 I think it's **hitting below the**
to criticise me when I'm not there.
- 3 He's always spending. It's like **money burns a hole in his**
- 4 Poor Sally, she **lost her**
when she had to close her shop.
- 5 Ted can't wait to **step into the manager's**
when he retires.
- 6 That dress fits like a **.....**,
and the colour is perfect, too.

1 My new jeans are really comfortable and they are exactly the right size.

glove My new jeans
.....
and they are really comfortable.

2 I have a lot of respect for working mothers. I don't know how they find the energy to work all day and look after their families.

hat I
to working mothers. I don't know how they find the energy to work all day and look after their families.

3 Unfortunately, I invested all my money in technology stocks and now I'm broke.

shirt I
when I invested in technology stocks.

4 I suppose Tom spends his money extravagantly and that's why he never has any.

burns It seems
..... in Tom's pocket and that's why he never has any.

5 When her father retired she took control of the company.

stepped She
..... as soon as he retired.

13 a) Fill in: *tea, apple, butter, horse*. Then explain the idioms in bold.

- 1 One serving of food is never enough for him because he **eats like a**
- 2 He won't have any problem with the competition for him it's **like a hot knife through**
- 3 She adores her baby brother, Mark. He's the of her eye.
- 4 Horror films aren't his cup of
He prefers comedies.

1 My brother eats a lot but he never puts on weight.

horse My brother
..... but he never puts on weight.

2 Her son is the most important person in her life, and she is very proud of him.

apple Her son is
..... her eye.

3 I don't like heavy metal music.

cup Heavy metal music isn't
..... tea.

4 It took only a few minutes for the tornado to demolish the house.


knife The tornado demolished the house
like
..... butter.

12 Fill in: *throw, jumped, ball, swing, skating, swims*. Then explain the idioms in bold.

- 1 The is in your court, now. You'll have to decide what to do.
- 2 His behaviour is going to get him into serious trouble; he is really on thin ice.
- 3 Don't in the towel there's still time to score two goals and draw the match.
- 4 John always against the tide and never does what everyone else does.
- 5 Jill the gun and started eating before everyone was seated.
- 6 Working here isn't easy, but once you get into the of it you'll really start to enjoy it.

9 Match column A to column B, then use the idioms to complete the sentences below, as in the example.

A	B
skate	into the swing of sth
throw	is in someone's court
jump	in the towel
get	against the tide
swim	on thin ice
the ball	the gun



- 1 Your teachers have already warned you that you are skating on thin ice so you had better improve your behaviour soon.
 - 2 I know your first day at a new school can be nerve-racking, but you will soon of things and make lots of new friends.
 - 3 We made him an offer and now He must decide whether to accept or not.
 - 4 After trying for years to become an actor, he finally and got a job as a car salesman.
 - 5 The whole family agrees except you. Why must you always ?
 - 6 Make sure you have got the job before you hand in your notice. Don't
-
- 1 I asked her to call if she ran into any trouble. She hasn't been in touch since, so I guess no news is *good/great news*.
 - 2 I already knew you were coming. It was all over town. I *heard/saw* it on the grapevine.
 - 3 I have to babysit for my sister tonight. Anyway, to *make/cut* a long story short, I'm not going to be able to come to the party.
 - 4 Everyone knows that the company is in trouble. I suppose *bad news travels slow/fast*.
 - 5 When acting out a part, you have to try to *read between the words/lines* to figure out the author's hidden purpose.

1 I heard Martha telling Susan that Julie's sister said that Colin and Tracey are going to get engaged.

grapevine I heard
.....
that Colin and Tracey are going to get engaged.

2 My grandmother loves sitting by the living room window watching what's going on outside.

world My grandmother loves sitting by the living room window
..... by.

3 We were looking forward to coming to your dinner party but, unfortunately, our babysitter is busy, my mother-in-law has gone away for the weekend and my parents are visiting my aunt in London.

cut To
.....short,
we can't come to your dinner party.

4 Don't worry, I'm sure your sister got back home safely. If something had happened, we would have heard about it by now.

news Don't worry about your sister, no
.....
I'm sure she got back home safely.

5 Sally says she's enjoying her first semester at university but she sounded a bit depressed to me.

lines Sally says she's enjoying her first semester at university but reading
.....,
I think she's a bit depressed.