

Complete the sentences with the correct idiom in the correct form.

have something on the tip of one's tongue

hold one's tongue

bite one's tongue off

have got a sweet tooth

fight tooth and nail

cut one's teeth on something

get one's teeth into something

118 tongue, tooth, teeth (EI 230-1)

He asked me the name of the shop. I _____ but I didn't remember it until he'd gone.

had it on the tip of my tongue

- 1 There are times when it's wiser to _____ than to say what one thinks.
- 2 'How do you manage to keep so slim?' 'Well, I (not) _____, so it isn't really difficult.'
- 3 I thought Paul knew that Sarah had gone to Glasgow with Mark. I could have _____ when I realized that he didn't. How tactless of me to mention it!
- 4 Bill would like me to give him an easy computer program to write. He did well on the programming course, so now he needs something to _____.
- 5 We're all against the plans for the new motorway and local politicians are prepared to _____ to get them stopped.
- 6 The job seemed difficult at first, but as soon as I _____ it, I realized that it wasn't so bad after all.

Time

119 day (EI 231-3)

Complete the sentences by choosing the correct idiom.

- 1 It's late. We ought to _____ and continue with the work tomorrow.
make a day of it make our day call it a day
- 2 It's twenty years _____ that we came to live here.
the other day to the day this day week
- 3 Mother had a telephone call from my brother in Australia this morning. She was very pleased, of course. It really _____.
made her day was her day won the day
- 4 We visited Sheila this morning and she suggested _____ and staying for lunch and afternoon tea. So we did.
having a field day calling it a day making a day of it
- 5 The language course was excellent. I found that my English improved _____.
day in day out to a day day by day

120 hour, minute, moment, night

(EI 233-4)

Complete the conversation with the correct idioms in the correct form.

keep regular hours

an unearthly hour

the small hours

a night owl

have a night out

at any moment

have one's moments

have a minute to call one's own

a night on the town

on the spur of the moment

'Morning, Paul! You look tired.'

'Yes, I am. I had a late night last night. I'm not usually 1, but I 2 with some friends yesterday. I've been so busy all week that I've hardly 3, so I really enjoyed 4. I start work early, so I usually 5, but yesterday was an exception. I didn't come home until 6. It was about two thirty, I think. I got into bed and must have fallen asleep, because the next thing I knew my landlady was shaking me, saying she was sorry to wake me at such 7, but she thought there was a burglar in the kitchen. She had heard noises and wanted me to take a look.'

'Well, where was her husband?'

'Mr Pearson's working on the night-shift, and since their son's on holiday I was the only man in the house. I'm usually a coward, but I do 8, so I grabbed my tennis racket, which was the only thing I could think of 9, and crept downstairs.'

'And then?'

'I saw a dark figure in the kitchen with a knife in his hand, ready to strike 10. I was just about to hit him with the racket when a voice shouted out, "Hey! It's me!" It was Mr Pearson. He had forgotten his sandwiches.'

121 time (EI 234-6)

Complete the sentences by choosing the correct idiom.

That clock is unreliable. It's been _____ recently.
behind the times *keeping bad time* *taking its time*
keeping bad time

- If you want to make a really good job of laying the carpet, you'll have to _____.
take your time *bide your time* *keep good time*
- I've asked Mike _____ not to leave his car in front of my gates, but he always forgets.
time and again *at times* *in the nick of time*
- I'm sorry I can't stop for a chat, but I'm _____ at the moment.
behind the times *in no time* *pressed for time* *buying time*

- 4 'What's Sarah doing these days?' 'She's starting college in October, so _____ she's helping her father in the shop.'
from time to time for the time being at times
- 5 'It's December already. This year has passed so quickly.'
'Indeed, _____.'
time's up there's no time like the present time flies
- 6 Sorry I'm late. Am I still _____ for some coffee or has it all gone?
in the nick of time on time in time at the time
- 7 The police thought Jerry McGregor was behind the bank robbery, until they realized that he was still _____.
biding time doing time having the time of his life
- 8 I arrived late at the station and almost missed my train. I just managed to jump on it _____.
at the best of times in no time in the nick of time
- 9 Jim's very good and quick at repairing things. He'll fix your leaking tap _____.
in good time in no time in his own good time
- 10 Penny's waiting for a vacancy in the legal department. Until then, she's _____ in the sales department.
doing time playing for time biding her time

