



IDIOM

UNIT 11

Exercise 1

Complete the sentences. Choose the best answers.

- 1 I never know if he's serious or if he's pulling my _____.
a leg b teeth c hat
- 2 It's obvious that she's lying through her _____.
a hat b teeth c back
- 3 This information is too important, you can't sweep it under the _____.
a tracks b carpet c back
- 4 Please keep this story under your _____.
a leg b carpet c hat
- 5 They made careful plans and carefully covered their _____.
a tracks b back c carpet
- 6 I was surprised to find he'd gone behind my _____.
a hat b back c leg

Exercise 2

Match idioms 1–6 with situations A–F.

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|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 She wasn't enjoying herself so she said she was too tired to stay. | A She was on the fiddle. |
| 2 He hated parties but he went anyway. | B She gave the game away. |
| 3 We found out after she left that she'd been taking money from the till. | C She blew the whistle on them. |
| 4 The company offered him a 'free' holiday weekend and then tried to sell him the apartment. | D He went through the motions. |
| 5 We knew she was guilty when she started to cry. | E She told a white lie. |
| 6 They stole some cash and she told the manager. | F They had a hidden agenda. |

Exercise 3

Match sentence halves 1–6 with A–F to make complete sentences.

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|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 When you mentioned seeing her at the surprise party | A good at covering his tracks. |
| 2 I'm not really enthusiastic about the trip – | B you really gave the game away! |
| 3 They thought they'd get away with it but someone | C leading me up the garden path. |
| 4 He never seems to get caught for his dishonesty – he's | D lying through their teeth. |
| 5 I can see they're not telling the truth – they're | E blew the whistle on them. |
| 6 When mentioned a pay rise they were | F I'm just going through the motions. |

Exercise 4

Correct the idioms in these sentences.

- 1 Many of the politicians were found to be pulling the fiddle.
- 2 She looks twenty years younger than she really is. Only the skin on her hands blows the game away.
- 3 Look, if I tell you something will you promise to cover it under your hat?
- 4 The week he died, the Foreign Minister was planning to blow the fiddle on corrupt top-level officials.
- 5 The killer may return to the scene of the crime to brush away his tracks.
- 6 Ministers and heads of industry are going under the motions of negotiating with the unions.

Exercise 5

Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

keep it under your hat | pulling your leg | economical with the truth | on the fiddle | a white lie
led us up the garden path | a hidden agenda | go behind my back

- 1 His business was closed down after it was discovered that he hadn't been declaring all his earnings – he'd been _____.
- 2 I wonder what the real purpose of this meeting is? I suspect there's _____.
- 3 When she asked me what I thought of her new hairstyle, I decided not to hurt her feelings and told _____.
- 4 Don't take him seriously – he's only _____.
- 5 It was very dishonest of you to _____ and gossip about me to others.
- 6 Please don't tell anyone about my new job just yet – _____.
- 7 The newspapers have _____ on this matter.
- 8 He said there was no point being honest when you could make so much more money being _____.

Exercise 6

Complete the table. Put the idioms in the correct groups.

blow the whistle on someone | a white lie | a hidden agenda | give the game away
pull someone's leg | go through the motions | be economical with the truth
sweep something under the carpet

lying	1 _____
	2 _____
pretending	1 _____
	2 _____
hiding the truth	1 _____
	2 _____
telling the truth	1 _____
	2 _____

Your turn!

Have you heard, seen, or been involved in any kind of deception recently? Use the idioms in this unit to describe your experience. For example:

I told a white lie when I said I didn't mind that my friend forgot my birthday.

It was clear that Pablo was lying through his teeth when he said he'd left his homework on the kitchen table.

