APPENDIX C: **Idioms**

DIRECTIONS: Each of the following sentences contains an idiom in italics. Read the sentence and try to understand the idiom. Then find the meaning of the idiom in the list that follows, and write the letter of the answer on the line.

EXERCISE C1

____ 1. He's holding down two jobs and attending school. He's really ***burning the candle at both ends.***

____ 2. She's buying a lot of new furniture before she even has a job. She's ***putting the cart before the horse.***

____ 3. Every time he opens his mouth, he immediately regrets what he said. He's always ***putting his foot in his mouth.***

____ 4. He's not telling me exactly what happened. He's ***beating around the bush.***

____ 5. She wanted to get that man's phone number, but she wasn't sure of his last name or where he lived. It was like ***looking for a needle in a haystack.***

____ 6. He's always too fast and out of control on his motorcycle. He's ***playing with fire.***

____ 7. She keeps asking if I was the one who was spreading rumors about her, but I wasn't. She's ***barking up the wrong tree.***

____ 8. He took the best portions for himself and didn't leave enough for the others. He's just ***looking out for number one.***

____ 9. She's been working on that assignment for over two months, and I don't think she's ever going to finish it. She's ***taking forever and a day.***

____ 10. She has to go to the bank, and while she's out she'll stop and visit her friend. She's ***killing two birds with one stone.***

____ 11. He was admitted to Harvard, and he would have gone there but he forgot to send in the appropriate form in time. He has really ***missed the boat.***

____ 12. I know that you thought that this part of the program was difficult, but wait until you see the next part. You're ***jumping out of the frying pan and into the fire.***

DEFINITIONS—Exercise C1	
A. making a mistake	G. missed an opportunity
B. accomplishing two things at once	H. saying embarrassing things
C. doing something dangerous	I. speaking indirectly
D. doing things in the wrong order	J. doing something difficult
E. going from bad to worse	K. taking a really long time
F. doing too much	L. thinking only about himself

LIVEWORKSHEETS