

TOEFL

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 C3

- ____ 1. Do you think you could help me out with the math homework? *Two heads are better than one.*
- ____ 2. What was it like when the announcement of the disaster came over the radio? *You could have heard a pin drop.*
- ____ 3. We could either go out to dinner tonight or stay home and cook. *Six of one, half dozen of the other.*
- ____ 4. I know you like the food at this restaurant, but I just don't care for it. *To each his own.*
- ____ 5. I got to the bank just one minute after closing time. *Just my luck.*
- ____ 6. My boss has asked me to respond immediately to this fax. *No sooner said than done.*
- ____ 7. Don't worry about what the boss just said to you. *His bark is worse than his bite.*
- ____ 8. It seems impossible for me to go to graduate school because I just can't afford it. But I'm going to try. *Where there's a will, there's a way!*
- ____ 9. Everything seems to be going the way that it should. *So far, so good!*
- ____ 10. Just think that because you locked your keys in the car, you got to meet that nice, handsome, young locksmith. *Every cloud has a silver lining!*
- ____ 11. I've got to accept the fact that it's going to take more than seven years of school if I want to become a doctor. After all, *Rome wasn't built in a day.*
- ____ 12. She loves my wardrobe, but I wish I had her clothes. *The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.*

DEFINITIONS—Exercise C3

- A. It was really quiet.
- B. It's good to work together.
- C. It's been going well up to now.
- D. I'm not so fortunate.
- E. It doesn't matter.
- F. It will be done immediately.

- G. Bad things are accompanied by good.
- H. You always want what you don't have.
- I. Everyone has a different opinion.
- J. His words are worse than his actions.
- K. If you want something, you can do it.
- L. Everything takes time.

EXERCISE C4

- 1. He finally got a job; he couldn't continue to sit around doing nothing. He had to *turn over a new leaf*.
- 2. When he told his mother that he didn't need to study for the exam because he knew he would get a good grade, his mother responded, "*Don't count your chickens before they're hatched.*"
- 3. When I asked my friend to do some of my work for me, she replied that I would have to *stand on my own two feet*.
- 4. You've been offered this job, and the offer may not remain on the table for too long, so you'd better take this one while you have the chance. You need to *strike while the iron is hot*.
- 5. When you guessed that I would get the promotion, you *hit the nail right on the head*.
- 6. Before you accept the position, you should find out everything you can about the company. You should *look before you leap*.
- 7. She was appointed to the environmental protection committee, and she's really excited because this is something she's been interested in for some time. This is something she can *sink her teeth into*.
- 8. If you want to be the one who gets noticed at work, you need to *dot all the i's and cross all the t's* on every task that you do.
- 9. You need to learn to relax. Every time there's a lot of work to do, you just *run around like a chicken with its head cut off*.
- 10. I really prepared for that exam. It should *be a piece of cake*.
- 11. She thinks she should confess what she did, but no one really seems interested in knowing. Instead, she decides to *let sleeping dogs lie*.
- 12. He never has to work for anything because his parents will give him anything he asks for. He seems to *have been born with a silver spoon in his mouth*.

DEFINITIONS—Exercise C4

A. start over again	G. were exactly right
B. be extremely easy	H. depend on something you don't have
C. do it myself	I. be spoiled
D. pay attention to every detail	J. get really involved in
E. think before you act	K. take advantage of a good opportunity
F. leave something alone	L. act overly nervous and excited