

# 3.2 IDIOMS

## INT ASO

### What is an idiom?

A group of words that have a special meaning when they are used together: "On top of the world" is an idiom meaning "very happy".  
Longman Active study dictionary

### VOCABULARY PLUS

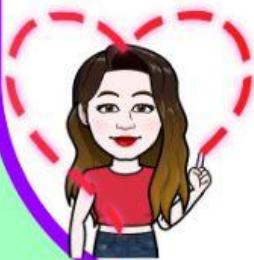
#### IDIOMS

##### 7A Read comments 1–4. V

- 1 "I like that statistic. I teach reading, so it's an issue that's close to my heart."
- 2 "If that statistic is correct, then coastal countries like mine are running out of time."
- 3 "This hits the nail on the head: we will eradicate old illnesses, but new ones will develop."
- 4 "Let's face it: the world will be completely overcrowded."

C Look at the underlined idioms in Exercise 7A and decide if these statements about idioms are true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Idioms are usually formal.
- 2 You cannot usually change the order of words in an idiom.
- 3 You can sometimes change the verb tense and the subject of an idiom.
- 4 You can usually guess the meaning from one word in the idiom.



MATCH THE IDIOMS AND WRITE THE LETTER  
A) NEED TO FINISH SOMETHING IN A SHORT TIME

B) NO TIME TO FINISH SOMETHING

C) IN TROUBLE

D) SAY SOMETHING EMBARRASSING THAT GETS YOU IN TROUBLE

#### Problems

- 1 We forgot to pay our taxes. Now we're in hot water.
- 2 I said the wrong thing again. I always put my foot in my mouth.

#### Time

- 3 We're working against the clock. We have two hours to finish the project.
- 4 I'm sure we can win this match, but we're running out of time.

9 Look at the idioms organized by key words. Match idioms 1–6 with meanings a)–f).

#### Body Parts

- 1 Keep an eye on him. b
- 2 Can you give me a hand?

#### Food and Drinks

- 3 It's not my cup of tea.
- 4 It was a piece of cake.

#### Animals

- 5 You're a dark horse!
- 6 I want to get out of the rat race.

a) I don't like it  
b) watch  
c) help me  
d) the competitive world of work  
e) you have good qualities that are not well-known  
f) easy

10 CORRECT THE IDIOMS AND WRITE ONLY THE IDIOM NEXT TO THE SENTENCE

- 1 When was the last time you gave someone the hand?
- 2 Which student do you think is a horse dark?
- 3 When's the last time you put your feet in your mouth?
- 4 Which issues are close by your heart?
- 5 Do you often have to work against the clocks?
- 6 When were you last in warm water?