1. **Match the idioms with their meanings.**

2. take the plunge	a) when you are in a difficult situation, especially one which tests whether you can trust people
3. go back to square one	b) the best thing you can do to achieve the result you want
4. be wide of the mark	c) be likely to happen
5. do something on the spur of the moment	d) be wrong or miss what you were trying to hit
6. be on the cards	e) do something suddenly, without planning
7. your best bet	f) go back to the beginning of a project, because previous attempts have failed
8. when the chips are down	g) do something important or difficult that you've been thinking of doing for a long time

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Ball games

Right then, I've **started the ball rolling**[1] by telling you what I think our company should do now. I would like anyone who has any comments or questions to speak now. **The ball is in your court**[2]. Don't forget that our rival companies are **on the ball**[3] and if we don't act quickly and do something **off our own bat**[4], they will. And they'd love to **throw us a curveball**[5] and make life difficult for us. I know my proposals will involve people doing overtime, but I hope that the workers may agree to **play ball**[6] given the circumstances we are all in. It's not our fault we are in this situation. Different rates of tax in different countries mean that we are not competing **on a level playing field**[7].

you have to do something now before any progress can be made

started an activity and encouraged others to join in

on our own initiative, without being asked to by anyone else

surprise us with an unexpected problem

co-operate in order to achieve something (usually used in a negative context)

quick to understand and react

in a fair situation

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

LIVEWORKSHEETS