

IDIOM PRACTICE

Idioms with at

I. Fill in the missing words in the sentences below using the following idioms.

at a loose end	at a loss	at a pinch	at a standstill	at all costs
at all hours	at best	at death's door	at fault	at first sight
at least	at loggerheads	at most	at sixes and sevens	at one's wits 'end
at random	at short notice	at once	at the crack of dawn	at will

1. When Richard Burton saw Elizabeth Taylor, it was a classic case of love.....
2. Traffic wasthis morning because of an accident on the A21.
3. I'm afraid everything'sthis week. Both the secretaries are ill and no one knows where anything is.
4. The hotel wasn't that modern, but, it was cheap and reasonably clean.
5. I've got room in the car for three – four
6. Mrs. Smith's daughter is terrible, isn't she? Out.....and never a kind word to anyone.
7. You should be able to sell your stereo equipment for \$200.....\$250.
8. If you don't get outthen I shall have you thrown out.
9. Pamela and David are always..... I really can't imagine why they got married in the first place. They've got absolutely nothing in common.
10. A chameleon is a remarkable creature – it is able to change the colour of its skin
11. You can't expect me to work overtime.....such.....! I need to be told at least two days in advance.
12. I was in a hurry for my train, so I chose a book.....
13. We mustcatch the 7.30 train. Otherwise, we won't get to the meeting in time.
14. It's difficult to know who'sin the matter. Perhaps, we're all to blame.
15. It's late. I think you'd better go to bed now, darling. Remember, you've got to get uptomorrow.
16. Since it's his first offence he'll properly get off with a warning – a small fine.
17. If you're.....this weekend, Joan, why not come over for a meal? It'll give us a chance to catch up on some gossip.
18. I may be getting on a bit, but I'm certainly notyet. I hope to live for at least another ten to fifteen years!
19. When her daughter didn't come home on the last bus with the other girls, Mrs. Jenkins was..... – she was terrified that something dreadful had happened to her.
20. Like you, I'mto explain the sudden fall in share prices. I've absolutely no idea what can have caused it.

II. Choose the right idiomatic expression to the bold word or words in the sentences.

1. It is always difficult for me to select a good present for my wife.
A. pick up B. pick out C. take out D. take on
2. John always works leisurely in everything that he does.
A. spends his time B. takes his time C. works freely D. works slowly
3. It is of little importance to him whether he passed his English examination or not.
A. is not different B. is not important
C. make no difference D. doesn't make no difference
4. We spent the entire day looking for a new apartment.
A. all day long B. day after day C. all long day D. the long day
5. Some old friends of my father's visited us last night.
A. called on B. called down C. called up D. called out
6. I am extremely tired after all that physical exercise today.
A. tired up B. tired away C. tired out D. turn away
7. Since the treasurer had been ill when the annual meeting took place, he later asked the secretary to give him the details of the meeting.
A. fill him out B. fill him on C. fill him full D. fill him in
8. Although Mary had consistently refused to go out with Jack, he pleaded with her to reconsider and give him a chance.
A. give him a break B. give him an appointment
C. give him a place D. give him a space