

Complete the sentences with the correct idiom in the correct form.

*have something on the tip of one's tongue*

*hold one's tongue*

*bite one's tongue off*

*have got a sweet tooth*

*fight tooth and nail*

*cut one's teeth on something*

*get one's teeth into something*

## 118 tongue, tooth, teeth (EI 230-1)

He asked me the name of the shop. I \_\_\_\_\_ but I didn't remember it until he'd gone.

**had it on the tip of my tongue**

- 1 There are times when it's wiser to \_\_\_\_\_ than to say what one thinks.
- 2 'How do you manage to keep so slim?' 'Well, I (not) \_\_\_\_\_, so it isn't really difficult.'
- 3 I thought Paul knew that Sarah had gone to Glasgow with Mark. I could have \_\_\_\_\_ when I realized that he didn't. How tactless of me to mention it!
- 4 Bill would like me to give him an easy computer program to write. He did well on the programming course, so now he needs something to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 We're all against the plans for the new motorway and local politicians are prepared to \_\_\_\_\_ to get them stopped.
- 6 The job seemed difficult at first, but as soon as I \_\_\_\_\_ it, I realized that it wasn't so bad after all.

## Time

## 119 day (EI 231-3)

Complete the sentences by choosing the correct idiom.

- 1 It's late. We ought to \_\_\_\_\_ and continue with the work tomorrow.  
*make a day of it   make our day   call it a day*
- 2 It's twenty years \_\_\_\_\_ that we came to live here.  
*the other day   to the day   this day week*
- 3 Mother had a telephone call from my brother in Australia this morning. She was very pleased, of course. It really \_\_\_\_\_.  
*made her day   was her day   won the day*
- 4 We visited Sheila this morning and she suggested \_\_\_\_\_ and staying for lunch and afternoon tea. So we did.  
*having a field day   calling it a day   making a day of it*
- 5 The language course was excellent. I found that my English improved \_\_\_\_\_.  
*day in day out   to a day   day by day*

## 120 hour, minute, moment, night

(EI 233-4)

Complete the conversation with the correct idioms in the correct form.

*keep regular hours*

*an unearthly hour*

*the small hours*

*a night owl*

*have a night out*

*at any moment*

*have one's moments*

*have a minute to call one's own*

*a night on the town*

*on the spur of the moment*

'Morning, Paul! You look tired.'

'Yes, I am. I had a late night last night. I'm not usually 1, but I 2 with some friends yesterday. I've been so busy all week that I've hardly 3, so I really enjoyed 4. I start work early, so I usually 5, but yesterday was an exception. I didn't come home until 6. It was about two thirty, I think. I got into bed and must have fallen asleep, because the next thing I knew my landlady was shaking me, saying she was sorry to wake me at such 7, but she thought there was a burglar in the kitchen. She had heard noises and wanted me to take a look.'

'Well, where was her husband?'

'Mr Pearson's working on the night-shift, and since their son's on holiday I was the only man in the house. I'm usually a coward, but I do 8, so I grabbed my tennis racket, which was the only thing I could think of 9, and crept downstairs.'

'And then?'

'I saw a dark figure in the kitchen with a knife in his hand, ready to strike 10. I was just about to hit him with the racket when a voice shouted out, "Hey! It's me!" It was Mr Pearson. He had forgotten his sandwiches.'

## 121 time (EI 234-6)

Complete the sentences by choosing the correct idiom.

That clock is unreliable. It's been \_\_\_\_\_ recently.  
*behind the times   keeping bad time   taking its time*  
**keeping bad time**

- If you want to make a really good job of laying the carpet, you'll have to \_\_\_\_\_.  
*take your time   bide your time   keep good time*
- I've asked Mike \_\_\_\_\_ not to leave his car in front of my gates, but he always forgets.  
*time and again   at times   in the nick of time*
- I'm sorry I can't stop for a chat, but I'm \_\_\_\_\_ at the moment.  
*behind the times   in no time   pressed for time   buying time*

- 4 'What's Sarah doing these days?' 'She's starting college in October, so \_\_\_\_\_ she's helping her father in the shop.'  
*from time to time for the time being at times*
- 5 'It's December already. This year has passed so quickly.'  
'Indeed, \_\_\_\_\_.'  
*time's up there's no time like the present time flies*
- 6 Sorry I'm late. Am I still \_\_\_\_\_ for some coffee or has it all gone?  
*in the nick of time on time in time at the time*
- 7 The police thought Jerry McGregor was behind the bank robbery, until they realized that he was still \_\_\_\_\_.  
*biding time doing time having the time of his life*
- 8 I arrived late at the station and almost missed my train. I just managed to jump on it \_\_\_\_\_.  
*at the best of times in no time in the nick of time*
- 9 Jim's very good and quick at repairing things. He'll fix your leaking tap \_\_\_\_\_.  
*in good time in no time in his own good time*
- 10 Penny's waiting for a vacancy in the legal department. Until then, she's \_\_\_\_\_ in the sales department.  
*doing time playing for time biding her time*

