118 tongue, tooth, teeth (EI 230–1)

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

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*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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

1 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*

2 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*

3 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*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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*



LIVEWORKSHEETS