

- 5 We tried to persuade Greg to change his decision, but he wouldn't *budge an inch*.
- 6 Were you speaking to me? Sorry, I was *miles away*.
- 7 Robert says it doesn't matter that he didn't get the scholarship, but you can *see his disappointment a mile off*.
- 8 One of the new trainees is especially bright and quick to learn, but she also *talks a mile a minute*.

## Parts of the body

## 107 arm, back, blood, bone (EI 213-15)

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

*give one's right arm*

*keep someone at arm's length*

*with open arms*

*behind someone's back*

*see the back of something*

*put someone's back up*

*put one's back into something*

get someone's blood up.

*be in someone's blood*

*make no bones about something*

*make no bones about it, we have got a bona fide*

*have got a bone to pick with  
some one.*

*someone*

I wish Barry would stop bragging about his football successes.

His arrogance really \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. annoyed me  
B. annoyed me to the point of anger  
C. annoyed me to the point of anger

**puts my back up**

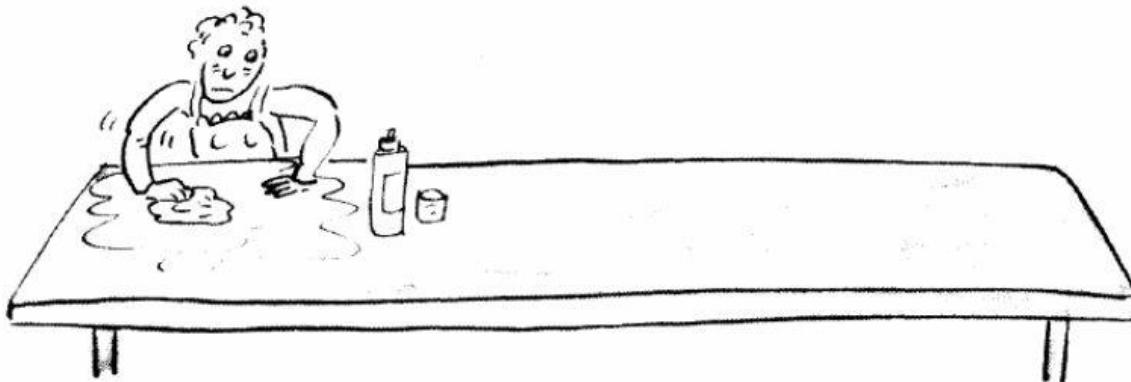
- 1 'Didn't Jim tell his wife that he'd decided to sell the car?' 'No, that's what the big quarrel was about. He did it \_\_\_\_.'
- 2 The fellow in the flat above always wastes my time chatting, so I try to \_\_\_\_.
- 3 You are so lucky to get the chance of going to work in Japan. I'd \_\_\_\_ to be asked to go.
- 4 This report is extremely time consuming. I'll be glad to \_\_\_\_.
- 5 Music must \_\_\_\_\_. She could play the piano and the violin beautifully at the age of six.
- 6 I'll \_\_\_\_\_. I thought the way you handled the situation was inadequate, to say the least.
- 7 We're behind schedule with production. If we still intend to get the order out before the end of the month, we'll have to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 Don't go away. I \_\_\_\_ you. Why did you tell Sue that I don't like her new car? I told you that in confidence.
- 9 Why are some people so greedy? That kind of behaviour really \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10 The children loved the old train set you found in your attic. They welcomed it \_\_\_\_\_.

## 108 brain, chest, ear, elbow (EI 215-17)

Complete the sentences by choosing the correct idiom.

Mary has some very good ideas for English conversation classes. Why don't you    before your new course begins?  
*rack her brain* *pick her brain* *keep your ear to the ground*  
**pick her brain**

- 1 We've got a new junior assistant, fresh from law school. He's very idealistic – still   .  
*out on his ear* *all ears* *wet behind the ears*
- 2 If you want the wood to really shine, you'll have to put a bit more    into it!  
*elbow room* *elbow grease* *brain drain*
- 3 I'm sorry, but I really haven't got time to come with you. You can see that I'm   .  
*all ears* *out on my ear* *up to my ears*
- 4 Roger hasn't decided just how much to tell Jack about the new situation. He's going to wait for Jack's reaction first and then   .  
*play by ear* *play it by ear* *keep his ear close to the ground*
- 5 I've decided to tell Nicole that it was my mistake. She'll find out the truth herself before long, so I'd rather    now.  
*turn a deaf ear to it* *play my cards close to my chest*  
*get it off my chest*
- 6 'Have you found those files yet?' 'No, I've been    for hours but I can't remember where I left them.'  
*having a brainwave* *racking my brains* *picking my brains*



## 109 eye (EI 217-19)

Which idiom describes the picture? Complete the sentences with the correct idiom in the correct form.

*see eye to eye*  
*be up to the eyes*  
*pull the wool over someone's eyes*  
*cry one's eyes out*  
*turn a blind eye to something*  
*catch someone's eye*  
*keep one's eyes peeled*



1 He's \_\_\_\_ in work.

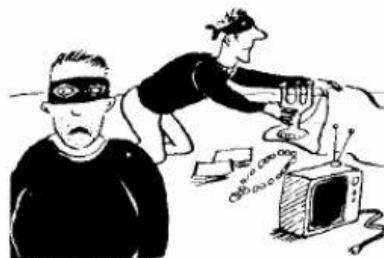
2 She's \_\_\_\_.



He couldn't \_\_\_\_.  
*pull the wool over the judge's eyes*

3 They don't \_\_\_\_.

4 She's trying to \_\_\_\_.



5 He's \_\_\_\_.

6 He's \_\_\_\_ the dirty dishes.