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
have got a bone to pick with someone

I wish Barry would stop bragging about his football successes. His arrogance really ____.
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 ____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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*

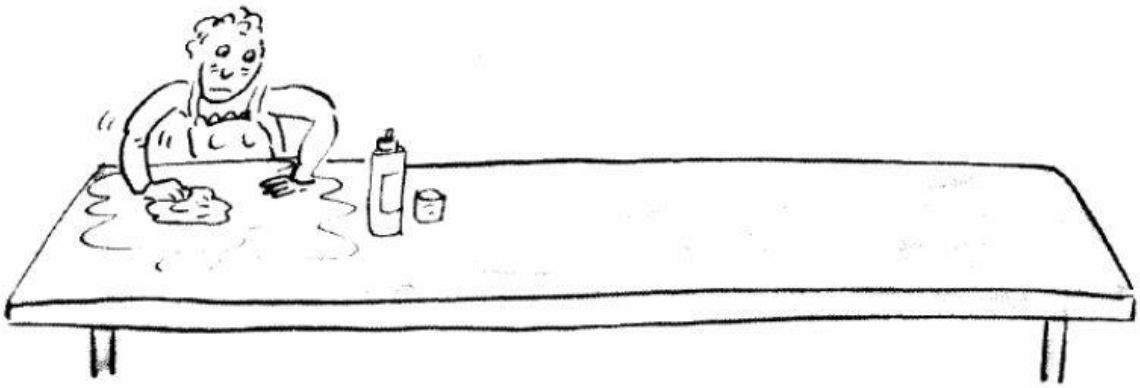
2 If you want the wood to really shine, you'll have to put a bit more _____ into it!
elbow room *elbow grease* *brain drain*

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*



LIVEWORKSHEETS

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



He couldn't ____ .
pull the wool over the judge's eyes



1 He's ____ in work.



2 She's ____ .



3 They don't ____ .



4 She's trying to ____ .



5 He's ____ .



6 He's ____ the dirty dishes.

LIVEWORKSHEETS