110 face, finger (EI 219-21)

Substitute for the phrase in *italics* an idiom from the list with the same meaning.

put a brave face on it
lose face
face the music
let's face it
be staring someone in the face
all fingers and thumbs
keep one's fingers crossed
put one's finger on something
have got a finger in every pie

If you really don't want to *be humiliated* in the office, admit your mistake and apologize to the rest of the staff.
lose face

1 Rob is very worried about his wife's condition, but for the sake of the children, he's *pretending nothing is seriously wrong.*
2 I know that selling the house will be a hard blow to us all, but *let's be truthful*, we need the money.
3 Surely you can see what he wants. *It's very obvious.* He's going to ask you to marry him!
4 Well, Paul, it was your fault and you'll have to *meet the criticism and unpleasantness* some time. So why not now?
5 I'm going for an important interview this afternoon at three, so *wish me luck*!
6 Brewer *is involved in many activities.* He's on every local committee you can mention.
7 Oh, I'm so sorry. I've dropped all your books. I'm *clumsy with my hands* today, I'm afraid.
8 There's something about the way Jason looks at me that makes me feel uneasy, but I can't *identify it.*

111 foot, feet, hair (EI 221-2)

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

fall on one's feet
get off on the wrong foot
put one's best foot forward
put one's foot in it
get back on one's feet
put one's foot down
let one's hair down
not turn a hair
keep your hair on!

Would you believe it! The day after Dave resigned, he had a phone call from Tokyo offering him a job at twice his present salary! Dave always _____.
falls on his feet

1 Father's easygoing and tolerant, but he _____ when Mike asked him if twelve of his friends could camp in the living-room after the party. That was simply too much to ask.
2 I didn't know that Joan and Barry had separated. I'm afraid I _____ when I asked Joan why Barry was away from home so often.
3 If you intend to finish the decorating by this evening, you'll have to _____. The kitchen will take longer than you think.

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4 Jackie and I have never really liked each other. For some reason we _____ because of a misunderstanding, and we never really became friends.
5 When Helen had to close her restaurant she lost quite a lot of money, but it didn't take her long to _____.
6 Thorpe was unmoved by the verdict. When the jury pronounced him guilty, he _____.
7 All right! _____. If it makes you angry I won't do it!
8 When the formalities are over we shall all be able to _____ and have a really good time.

112 hand (EI 222-5)

Complete the sentences by choosing the correct idiom.

1 Bob would repair your car for you. He used to work as a car mechanic and he likes to _____ by doing small repair jobs.
strengthen his hand *keep his hand in* *show his hand*
2 'Can you tell me Joe's new telephone number?' 'No, not _____. But I've got it written down somewhere.'
at hand *to hand* *off hand* *hands off*
3 'Who told you that Jane and Patrick are moving to Exeter?' 'I found out _____. Jane told me herself.'
at hand *at first hand* *off hand* *in hand*
4 I asked Mary if she had time to help with the exhibition, but she says she _____ already.
is putting her hand to the plough *has her hands full*
is forcing her hand
5 I need some help with these boxes. Could you possibly _____?
give me a big hand *give me a free hand* *give me a hand*
6 The new product was a failure and the firm lost orders _____.
cap in hand *hand over fist* *out of hand*

113 head (EI 225-6)

Explain the meaning of the idioms in *italics*.

I was so upset when the accident happened. I don't know how I managed to *keep my head*.
stay calm

1 Janet has *got it into her head* that she's not as physically fit as she ought to be, so she's joined a health club.

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