

Culture: Sports Idioms

A. Match the sports idioms commonly used in business to their correct meaning. Write the correct letter in the Answer box.

Answer	
	1. Across the board
	2. The ball is in your court
	3. Give it your best shot
	4. Go to bat for someone
	5. Hit below the belt
	6. The home stretch
	7. Jump the gun
	8. Level the playing field
	9. Not playing with a full deck
	10. Par for the course
	A. Defend someone
	B. Start too early
	C. An expected circumstance
	D. Equal for everyone
	E. Almost to the end
	F. Not using your complete brain capacity
	G. Try your hardest
	H. Make it so that everyone has an equal chance
	I. Do or say something unfair or cruel
	J. It is your responsibility to do something now.

B. Now use the above expressions to complete the following sentences. If there is a verb in the expression, make sure to put it into the correct tense. Use each idiom only one time.

1. Waiting in line on 23 December to pay for children's presents is _____.
2. I know that this is the first time that you've done this, but _____, that is all that anyone expects.
3. I guess that I _____ by buying Clément and Diane a wedding present because they have just called off their engagement.
4. A \$500 Christmas bonus was given _____ to all the company employees from the lowest position to the highest position.
5. I think that the negotiations between management and the union have entered _____; we should have a final decision tomorrow morning.
6. That new technician in the factory isn't very bright; I think that he is _____.
7. Everyone is looking to you to make the right decision. All eyes are on you; _____.
8. Repeating all of those rumors about the new receptionist is not right; that is _____.



9. If no one believes you about the project findings, I'll stand up for you and _____ for you.

10. At this company, it doesn't matter if your male or female, everyone in this position starts at the exact same rate of pay; here it is a _____.



C. Following are ten incomplete sports idioms (with their meanings) commonly used in business. Complete them correctly with the words in the box.

against	cut	front	left	plate	ropes
shots	upper	wire	wrong		

1. To have the wrong person or idea: bark up the _____ tree.
2. Make the decisions: call the _____.
3. Until the last minute: down to the _____.
4. One who is expected to win: _____ runner.
5. Have a better chance at succeeding: have the _____ hand.
6. Get experience at doing something: learn the _____.
7. Get chosen from the group to do something: make the _____.
8. Strange, unconventional, completely wrong: out in _____ field.
9. Perhaps not enough time left to finish something: a race _____ time.
10. Take responsibility; do the right thing: step up to the _____.

D. Match the correct endings to the beginnings to complete the idioms in the box to the right.

Good luck!! (The first idiom starts with "go", the second with "on the", etc.)

Beginning	Ending	Complete idiom
go	ball	
on the	out	
shot in	overboard	
skate on	rain check	
take a	the dark	
throw in	the game	
three strikes and you're	the horns	
under	the table	
take the bull by	the towel	
at this stage in	thin ice	

(For Live Worksheets DO NOT do the second half of the exercise.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____