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

LIVEWORKSHEETS



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 _____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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. _____

_____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS