Work Idioms.

Task 1. Use these words to complete the following:

rush ***candles*** ***loose*** ***fit*** ***thumbs*** ***burn***

1. We've got eight fingers and two . . . . . .

2. I need a new pair of trousers. These are too . . . . . round the waist.

3. Don't touch that! It's very hot. You'll . . . . . yourself.

4. My car's only small but you can just . . . . . five people in it.

5.Sorry, I haven't got time to talk. I'm in a . . . . . .

6.In Britain, it's traditional to put . . . . . on birthday cakes - one for each year.

Task 2: Up to my eyes Put the following nouns in the idiomatic expressions below:

plate ***end*** ***finger*** ***candle*** ***hands***

thumbs ***feet*** ***eyes***

a. lift a . . . . . .

b. have your . . . . . full

c. burn the . . . . . at both ends

d. on my . . . . . .

e. at a loose . . . . . .

f. twiddle your . . . . . .

g. up to my . . . . . .

h. enough on my . . . . . .

Now use the expressions in these situations:

1. You're late. Did you miss the train?

> Yes, I didn't leave the office till six. I'm . . . . . in work at the moment.

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2. How was your first day at work?

> Really boring. I had nothing to do. I just sat at my desk . . . . . .

3. Bill wants to know if you can spend some time training the new secretary.

> I'm afraid I haven't got a minute - I can't. I've already got . . . . . .

4. You look tired. Are you OK?

> Yes, I just need to get to bed earlier. I've been . . . . . recently - late nights and early starts.

5. Come in. Sit down. make yourself at home.

> Thanks. I need a rest. I've been . . . . . all day.

6. So, I'm going to spend the whole weekend painting the outside of the house.

> Do you want some help? My boyfriend's away so I'm . . . . . this weekend.

7. Do you and Paul share the cooking and cleaning?

> You must be joking. He never . . . . . .

8. My sister's three children are coming to stay with me this weekend.

> You'll . . . . . . Rather you than me!

Task 3: One thing after another! Complete these dialogues using the following idiomatic expressions:

a. It's been dead all day.

b. I'm tied up till after lunch.

c. I've been on the go all day.

d. I can fit you in on Thursday.

e. It's been one thing after another.

f. We've been rushed off our feet!

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1. Everything's gone wrong today, hasn't it?

> Yes. . . . . .

2. Shall we go for a drink after work?

> No thanks. I'm tired. . . . . .

3. So, is Wednesday a good day for you?

> No, but . . . . . .

4. Have you had many customers today?

> No, ...

5. You've had a lot of customers in this morning, haven't you?

> Yes, ...

6. Can I talk to you about a problem that's just come up?

> Sorry, ...

Task 4. Revision. Put the missing words in the idioms below:

1. I'm . . . . . to my ears in work.
2. It's been one thing . . . . . another.
3. I've been . . . . . my feet all day.
4. Are you . . . . . a loose end this evening?
5. I'm tied up . . . . . after lunch.
6. I've been . . . . . the go all day.
7. We've been rushed . . . . . our feet
8. I've already got enough . . . . . my plate.
9. I've been burning the candle . . . . . both ends.
10. I can fit you . . . . . on Monday.

LIVEWORKSHEETS