

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.

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!

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.