IDIOM

UNIT 1

Exercise 1

Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

ear | clue | hang | picture | stick | area

1 I soon began to get the _____ of the new filing system.
2 Anna doesn't have a _____ how to talk to children.
3 The difference between telling a lie and not telling the whole truth is a grey _____.
4 I thought she was paying for dinner but I must have got the wrong end of the _____.
5 Brad tried to remember the directions but they seemed to have gone in one _____ and out the other.
6 The inspector spent a few minutes with the victim and soon began to get the _____.

Exercise 2

Match sentence halves 1–6 with A–F to make complete sentences.

1 We saw them together in the restaurant and it was so easy to	A read between the lines.
2 I've told them I'm a vegetarian many times but they just don't	B take it on board.
3 The real skill of being an agony aunt is being able to	C had put two and two together and made five.
4 I've learnt a lot about the new regulations and I'll run a training day to	D jump to conclusions.
5 The international dateline is an idea I've never been able to	E get my head around.
6 Unfortunately, the children were disappointed; they	F bring you all up to speed.

Exercise 3

Complete the sentences. Choose the best answers.

1 Then you click 'save' and move the file to here. Do you *read between the lines / get the picture / put two and two together*?
2 It's going to take me a couple of days to get *up to speed / the picture / the wrong end of the stick* with the new project.
3 This is a very difficult exercise. I just can't *jump to conclusions / go in one ear and out the other / get my head round it*.
4 Don't worry. You'll soon *get the hang of it / jump to conclusions / get the wrong end of the stick*.
5 Listen to all the evidence and don't *take it on board / jump to conclusions / get your head around it*.
6 Adam shook his head; he didn't *put two and two together / read between the lines / have a clue* how to fix this.

Exercise 4

Replace the <u>underlined</u> words with the correct idioms in the box.

get hold of the wrong end of the stick | get the hang of it | get the picture
go in one ear and out the other | haven't got a clue | read between the lines

1 You don't have to explain it anymore. I <u>understand the situation</u>.
2 He doesn't listen carefully, and tends to <u>misunderstand</u>.
3 I don't think I'll be able to do the accounts. I <u>know nothing</u> about book keeping.
4 They haven't actually said anything is wrong, but I can <u>sense it</u>.
5 It's difficult at first, but after a bit of practice, you <u>learn how to do it</u>.
6 You have to repeat everything to them. Whatever you say will <u>be forgotten immediately afterwards</u>!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

IDIOM

UNIT 1

Exercise 5

Use sentences A–F to answer questions 1–6.

1 Whose company has adopted a new way of working?
2 Who is surprised at how strict his working conditions are becoming?
3 Who thinks he will soon have a new boss?
4 Who is improving his expertise at work?
5 Who is expecting to benefit from recent events?
6 Who wants to work for a different company?

A Veejay feels he hasn't a clue how to find a better employer.
B Nik is getting himself up to speed on the new tax law.
C Khalid leapt to the conclusion that the CEO would now resign.
D Stefan's firm has really taken the idea of teleworking on board.
E Cheng put two and two together and hoped this would mean a promotion for him.
F Xavier can't get his head around all the new rules in the office.

Exercise 6

Complete the table. Put the idioms in the correct groups.

not have a clue | get your head around something | get the wrong end of the stick | a grey area | up to speed | take something on board | read between the lines | jump to conclusions | get the hang of something | get the picture | put two and two together | go in one ear and out the other

understanding correctly	1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____
not understanding	1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____

Your turn!

Think about learning experiences you or people around you have had recently. Use the idioms in this unit to talk about them. For example:

I finally managed to get my head around how a car engine works.

My parents still haven't got the hang of text messaging.



The assistant chef had got the wrong end of the stick

LIVEWORKSHEETS