IDIOM

UNIT 5

Exercise 1

Look at the sentences below. Which three idioms have the same meaning? Which idiom has the opposite meaning to these three?

A Everyone around the table remained silent and I tried to think of a way of breaking the ice.
B It's strange that her two ex-husbands get on like a house on fire!
C Oh yes, we go back a long way – we went to nursery school together.
D I'm afraid we got off on the wrong foot because I got her name wrong.
E They are definitely on the same wavelength – both passionate about green politics.
F We didn't really hit it off – we just aren't interested in the same things.

Same	opposite

Exercise 2

Match sentence halves 1–8 with A–H to make complete sentences.

1 Whenever his mother was in the room,	A definitely on the rocks.
2 It's his stupid loud voice	B I was aware of sparks flying.
3 Their business partnership was now	C treated them like dirt.
4 She took his keys and his coat	D our own flesh and blood.
5 They left because the manager	E and left him in the lurch.
6 He was rude to her so she's decided that in future	F that gets on my nerves.
7 We care about you because you are	G to help them save face.
8 We pretended not to notice them leave,	H she'll give him the cold shoulder.

Exercise 3

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences.

1 You have started _____ by arriving late for our appointment.
a to save face b on the same wavelength c off on the wrong foot

2 He's highly educated and she's got no qualifications at all, but they managed to _____.
a get off on the wrong foot b hit it off c go back a long way

3 Mr Sen invited them all to dinner at his house to _____.
a get off on the wrong foot b get on like a house on fire c break the ice

4 As soon as the prisoners arrive, the guards begin to _____.
a treat them like dirt b get off on the wrong foot c leave them in the lurch

5 Luca's personal assistant quit suddenly and _____ so I'm doing some typing for him.
a left him in the lurch b treated him like dirt c got the cold shoulder

6 They argue all the time now. There's no doubt that their marriage is _____.
a on fire b on the rocks c their own flesh and blood

Exercise 4

Correct the idioms in these sentences.

1 When I saw her at the party, she just gave me the cold hands.
2 We used to argue a lot, but now we're getting on like a house in the lurch.
3 We go back on the rocks. We met when we were just children.
4 As soon as they met, they hit it on.
5 I find him a bit irritating. He really gets on my sparks.
6 We understand each other well. We're on the same foot.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

IDIOM
UNIT 5

Exercise 5

Replace the underlined words with idioms from this unit in the correct form.

1 We get on well, but we have different views on politics. As soon as we start talking about politics, we have an argument – so we tend to avoid the subject.
2 Don't worry – I promised I would help you, and I won't abandon you.
3 Unfortunately when we first met, we had a disagreement which ruined our relationship. But I'm sure that next time we meet, we can become friends.
4 I tried to say something funny just to ease the tension – but I don't think she found it very amusing.
5 Jenny and your brother seem to have enjoyed each other's company right from the start – they've been talking together for ages.
6 I think he should resign. His boss shows no respect for him and he deserves better.
7 Most of the time I was terrified, but trying to appear unaffected, I did my best to stay cool.
8 I was shocked to hear her speaking to a member of her family like that.

Exercise 6

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

treat someone like dirt | go back a long way | get off on the wrong foot | sparks fly
give someone the cold shoulder | get on like a house on fire | get on someone's nerves
hit it off | on the same wavelength | leave someone in the lurch | on the rocks

successful relationships	1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____
bad relationships	1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____

Your turn!

Use the idioms in this unit to describe your relationships with friends, classmates, colleagues and family. For example:

Ramesh and I go back a long way – we went to school together.

My sister left me in the lurch when she borrowed my last £5 and didn't pay it back.



Sometimes unlikely friends can get on like a house on fire.

LIVEWORKSHEETS