IDIOM

UNIT 6

Exercise 1

Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

over | up | together | in | on | under

1 I phoned to give you a pat _____ the back for saving the situation.
2 Let's put our heads _____ and think of some people who could help.
3 As we're both _____ the same boat, it might be sensible to work together.
4 Most parents bend _____ backwards to treat their children equally.
5 Jane took us _____ her wing and showed us around.
6 I try to think positively and keep my chin _____.

Exercise 2

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences.

1 There is usually a fair amount of _____ and take in a trading relationship.
a pat b give c hand

2 They want to negotiate and we're very willing to _____ them halfway.
a meet b bend c hold

3 Hannah was happy to _____ a hand in practical ways if she could.
a pat b lend c take

4 For most of the afternoon, Mum had been _____ Cyril's praises.
a giving b putting c singing

5 I want to be _____ for my kids because my dad wasn't for me.
a there b together c over

6 The government finds it easiest to _____ the other way regarding this issue.
a look b bend c keep

Exercise 3

Answer the questions.

1 If you take someone under your wing, do you ignore or help them?
2 If you keep your chin up, are you being cheerful or miserable?
3 If you give someone a pat on the back, should they be pleased or offended?
4 If you bend over backwards, are you ignoring someone or trying to help them?
5 If someone lends you a hand, are you being helpful, or are they being helpful to you?
6 If you hold someone's hand in a difficult situation, do you need help or do you give help?

Exercise 4

Re-order the phrases to make sentences. Add punctuation where necessary.

1 women candidates / bends over backwards / to attract / the party
2 learn that / girls and boys / give and take / there must be / in all relationships
3 lend a hand with / the whole family / the harvest / has to
4 they must / sensible decision / in order to reach a / put their heads together
5 for you / you know / be there / I'll always
6 choose to / what should we / look the other way / do if our elected representatives

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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Exercise 5

Match idioms 1–8 with definitions A–H.

1 Keep your chin up. I'm sure everything will be alright in the end.
2 If we put our heads together, we'll come up with a solution.
3 You must have made a good impression on the manager – he was singing your praises!
4 The trouble is, so many of us look the other way when we realize there's a problem.
5 I know how you feel. I'm in the same boat as you.
6 His parents bend over backwards for him but they get no thanks.
7 I'll do what I can for him just now but I can't hold his hand forever.
8 My husband has been a tower of strength throughout this ordeal.

A do everything possible to help
B in an identical situation
C stay optimistic
D support him
E being complimentary about you
F deliberately ignore the situation
G someone who is helpful and supportive
H work as a team

Exercise 6

Use sentences A–H to answer questions 1–8.

1 Who was a kind and supportive mother?
2 Who likes to find a compromise?
3 Who was given a generous welcome?
4 Who found someone to help him?
5 Who is rather pleased with what he has done?
6 Who was a kind and supportive father?
7 Who is managing to remain cheerful?
8 Who thinks that other people have similar problems?

A Rakesh gave himself a pat on the back for finishing early.
B Smith and Burnet's policy with customers who complain is to try to meet them halfway.
C Mr Chang took Ewen under his wing and treated him like a son.
D Lisa told herself there were plenty of girls in the same boat as her.
E Sven returned from New York singing the praises of American hospitality.
F Sasha hasn't found a job yet, but she's keeping her chin up.
G Maria was a pillar of strength when her children had so many problems.
H Manuelle held his son's hand throughout his marriage break-up.

Your turn!

Use the idioms in this unit to describe how someone has helped or encouraged you, or how you have helped someone else. For example:

I'm finding the grammar classes really difficult but it helps to know we're all in the same boat.

My colleagues and I put our heads together and submitted the winning proposal.



The chickens were in the same boat.

LIVEWORKSHEETS