



IDIOM

UNIT 12

Exercise 1

Find four idioms that have the same meaning.

- 1 Elisa's parents hit the roof when she crashed their car.
- 2 Our teacher was clearly getting angry, then suddenly she blew a fuse.
- 3 Everyone finds the new student a complete pain in the neck.
- 4 Kenji finally lost it when his laptop crashed again.
- 5 I don't want to tell you because I'm sure you'll throw a fit.
- 6 Don't mention English grades because Jonas has a chip on his shoulder after doing badly last year.

Exercise 2

Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

up | on | in | off | through | off

- 1 His stupid jokes drive me _____ the wall.
- 2 My sister will go _____ the roof when she finds out.
- 3 I was surprised when she bit my head _____.
- 4 Lourdes is always flying _____ the handle at her husband.
- 5 There's a boy in our class who's a real pain _____ the neck.
- 6 I think you've got a bit of a chip _____ your shoulder.

Exercise 3

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

1 Majid gave me a filthy look	A to hear Viktor talking about all his successful business deals.
2 Driving lessons are Paula's sore spot because	B we're understaffed and I'm late for work.
3 Mum always has a fit when	C the way she never thanks me for my help.
4 My boss often snaps my head off when	D so I asked her what was wrong.
5 My friends will give me hell if	E she's failed her test four times.
6 It drives me up the wall	F I keep them waiting yet again.
7 She had a face like thunder,	G we don't clean the kitchen properly.
8 Dora makes my blood boil,	H to shut me up.

Exercise 4

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

- 1 a dirty look for / his brother / Dmitri gave / laughing
- 2 with Cynthia / is a sore point / Virginia's engagement
- 3 gave us hell / what we'd done / the headmaster / when he found out
- 4 if you promise / I'll only tell you / not to blow a fuse
- 5 borrow her bike again / fly off the handle / if you ask to / Clara is likely to
- 6 when / he hit the roof / the mess / Dad discovered
- 7 the knowledge that / of this crime / he is guilty / makes my blood boil
- 8 marching out of the room / I saw / with a face like thunder / Mr Clarke come

Exercise 5

Match words 1–6 with phrases A–F to make idioms from this unit.

1 blow	A your blood boil
2 bite	B off the handle
3 drive	C a fuse
4 fly	D someone up the wall
5 make	E a chip on your shoulder
6 have	F someone's head off



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Exercise 6

Correct the idioms in these sentences.

- 1 It makes my head boil just to think about the way he spoke to me.
- 2 When I arrived he was sitting in the chair with a look like thunder.
- 3 I asked him how he was, and he just bit my neck off!
- 4 She looked really upset when I said that. I must have hit a sore shoulder.
- 5 He's got a fiery temper. He flies off the fuse for the smallest reason.
- 6 I can't stand it when he does that. It drives me up the roof!
- 7 That boy is really irritating. He's a pain in the head.
- 8 When I mentioned the incident, he gave me such a filthy chip.

Exercise 7

Choose the most appropriate thing A–H to say in each situation 1–8.

1 Someone is really annoying you.	A It's a pain in the neck.
2 You think someone has a deep resentment about a family member.	B You're driving me up the wall.
3 You find a particular task really tiresome and annoying.	C Why did you give me a dirty look?
4 You are talking about a teenager you know who really makes his mother's life difficult.	D There's no need to snap my head off.
5 Someone has looked at you in a way to suggest they are angry with you.	E He has a face like thunder.
6 You realize you have reacted strongly to someone because they've mentioned something you feel quite emotional about.	F I think you've got a chip on your shoulder.
7 A teacher is looking angrily at the students in his classroom.	G I'm sorry. It's just that you hit a sore spot when you said that.
8 Your friend tells you to shut up when you enter the room and say hello.	H He gives his mother hell.

Your turn!

Have you been angry or irritated recently? Use the idioms in this unit to describe your experience.

For example:

I think my boss is a pain in the neck.

I lost it when Zul dropped my mobile phone.



Unfortunately, he hadn't noticed the filthy looks he was getting.