

7 Vocabulary | learning: idioms and phrasal verbs

1 a Which subjects do you associate with the sentences below?

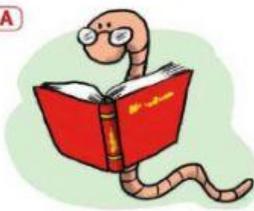
- I read five novels a week. I'm a complete **bookworm**. *Literature*
- I **haven't got a clue** about Algebra.
- The question about bacteria was so difficult. I just **made a wild guess**.
- I **know** Puccini's operas **inside out**.
- Simon always gets good grades for his paintings. He's **the teacher's pet**.
- My teacher **gave me a hand** with my essay about African deserts.
- I **passed** the vocabulary test **with flying colours**.
- Learning the table of elements was **a piece of cake!**

b Match the words and phrases in **bold** in the sentences (1–8) in exercise 1a with the definitions (a–h).

- helped someone
- very easy
- don't know anything about something
- the teacher's favourite student
- know a subject or topic very well
- a person who reads a lot of books
- gave an answer without thinking about it (the answer may be completely wrong)
- did very well indeed in an exam

2 Which idioms from exercise 1 do the pictures illustrate?

A



B



C



D



3 Look at the Lifelong learning box and follow the instructions.

The history of words

Knowing the origin of an idiom can often help you remember it.

Work in pairs.

Student A: look at page 149.

Student B: look at page 150.

Read about the origin of some idioms. Then tell your partner about them.

Lifelong learning

4 a Match the phrasal verbs in **bold** in the sentences (1–5) with their definitions (a–e).

- I **picked up** a lot of new words when I visited Poland last summer.
- I need to **brush up on** the theories of Nietzsche and Sartre.
- I always used to **mess around** in lessons. The teacher got really cross.
- The exam is in a couple of weeks. I must **get down to** some work.
- I found the course really difficult. Luckily I **got through** the exam.

- passed
- learned something without trying
- start doing something which needs time or energy
- do things which are silly or not useful
- practise something so you are as good at it as you used to be

b Complete the phrasal verbs with the correct particle(s).

- I always find it hard to get _____ revising.
- Stop messing _____ and get ready!
- Joe watched how they did it to see if he could pick _____ any tips.
- I must brush _____ my Polish before I go to Warsaw next month.
- You'll never get _____ the exam if you don't work harder.

5 a Choose five of the sentences below and complete them so that they are true for you.

- I know _____ inside out.
- I haven't got a clue about _____.
- I picked up some _____.
- I sometimes make a wild guess if _____.
- I've learned _____ by heart.
- _____ is a piece of cake!
- I need to brush up on _____.
- The teacher's pet in my _____ class was _____.
- The last time I gave someone a hand was _____.

b Work in pairs and discuss your sentences.