Language review

Idioms







A **Complete these idioms with the missing words from the box.**

point	bush	grapevine	stick	wavelength	wires
nutshell	picture	tail	purposes		

a) to put it in a .....
b) to get straight to the .....
c) to hear it on the .....
d) to put you in the .....
e) to get the wrong end of the .....
f) to be on the same .....
g) can't make head or ..... of it
h) to talk at cross .....
i) to beat about the .....
j) to get our ..... crossed

B **Which of the idioms in Exercise A mean the following?**

1 to fail to understand anything
2 to share similar opinions and ideas
3 to summarise briefly
4 to misunderstand
5 to delay talking about something
6 to give the latest information
7 to talk about the most important thing
8 to hear about something passed from one person to another

1. To put it in a nutshell
2. To get straight to the point
3. To hear it on the grapevine
4. To put you in the picture
5. To get the wrong end of the stick
6. To be on the same wavelength
7. Can't make head or tail of it
8. To talk at cross purposes
9. To beat about the bush
10. To get our wires crossed

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C **Complete the sentences with the idioms from Exercise A.**

1 OK, I'll ..... I'm afraid we're going to have to let you go.
2 'You and your boss seem to agree on most things.' 'Yes, we are ..... .'
3 Some important decisions were taken at yesterday's meeting. Let me ..... .
4 I think we are ..... . I mean next month, not this month.
5 He never gives you a straight answer. He's always ..... .
6 I ..... that he's been fired. Is it true?
7 It's a very complicated system, but to ..... it works exactly like a big kettle.
8 If you think our biggest problem is market share then you have ..... .
9 This report makes no sense at all. I ..... .
10 Everyone arrived for the meeting at different times. We must have ..... .

D **Ask your partner the following questions.**

1 What have you heard on the grapevine recently?
2 When was the last time you got the wrong end of the stick?
3 When is it necessary to put someone in the picture?
4 In what situations is it good to beat about the bush?
5 In what situations is it good to get straight to the point?
6 Can you give an example of when you were talking at cross purposes?
7 Is there anything you can't make head or tail of?

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