c



What are Idioms?

Exercises 1. **How much can you guess about the meaning of these idioms just by looking at the context? Tick the boxes according to what you can understand about the words in bold.**

1. I decided I was going to get a place at university **by hook or by crook.** It had always been my dream to study for a degree in history.

	Yes	No	Don't know/ Can't tell
means using illegal methods if necessary			
means nothing will stop me			
means I was very determined			

2 The government and the unions are **at loggerheads**; there may be a general strike.

	Yes	No	Don't know/ Can't tell
means have a good relationship			
means hate each other			
means desagree very strongly			

3. We had to **pay through the nose** to get our visas in five days instead of the usual 30 days.

	Yes	No	Don't know/ Can't tell
means suffer in some way			
means pay a small sum of money			
means pay a large sum of money			

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Exercise 2. Classify the idioms in the sentences below according to their grammatical type (You can see the chart from the video):

Type A verb+ object/complement (and/or adverbial)
Type B prepositional phrase
Type C compound
Type D simile
Type E binomial or trinomial
Type F whole clause or sentence

1 Should we fly or go by train? What are the pros and cons?

Type:

2 I'm having second thoughts about going on holiday with Jean. She can be a bit difficult.

Type:

3 When I had finished all my exams, I felt as free as a bird.

Type:

4 I don't know much about design, so I gave the decorato a free hand in my new flat.

Type:

5 She comes from a rather well-to-do family. She's always had a comfortable life.

Type:

6 My old school friend Harriet arrived out of the blue. I hadn't seen her for 15 yea rs.

Type:

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Exercise 3. **Correct the mistakes in the idioms in these sentences. Use the clues in brackets. Use a good general dictionary or a dictionary of idioms if necessary.**

1 My father's foot was put down when I said I wanted a car for my seventeenth birthday. He said I was too young. (grammar - voice)

2 Her words put the cat among the birds; Sam is furious. (vocabulary)

3 You'll be pleased to hear we arrived sound and safe in Peru. (binomial)

4 He was lying in his teeth when he said he had got a first-class grade in his exam; the truth is he failed. (grammar - small word)

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