

7 Getting the meaning of idiomatic expressions from context In the first reading, Randy Pausch and his coauthor use a number of common idiomatic expressions. Find each idiomatic expression in the text and try to figure out its meaning. (The relevant paragraph number is provided in parentheses.) Then choose the definition that best fits the meaning.

1. got me through (1)
A helped me understand B taught me how to move C helped me survive
2. dragged me, kicking and screaming (2)
A made me behave badly B made me do something I didn't want to do
C made a lot of noise
3. six-foot-four wall-of-a-guy (2)
A very stubborn B very tall and well built C very fat
4. old-school (2)
A he had traditional or old-fashioned ideas and methods
B he was born a long time ago C he was an old student
5. scared to death (3)
A afraid to die B very afraid C very anxious
6. to their detriment (12)
A to their good fortune B in a harmful way for them C by mistake
7. get the fundamentals down (12)
A master the fundamentals B put them on the ground C forget them
8. you owe me (13)
A you have to give me money B you promised me something
C you will do something for me in the future
9. messing up (16)
A making something dirty B doing something incorrectly C making a mess

10. stuck with me (17)
A had to go wherever I went B always remained in my memory
C was in one of my books
11. worked in a no-coddling zone (18)
A had no rules B was unfriendly C didn't protect children too much
12. he just keeps showing up in my head (21)
A he visits me often B he is often on TV shows C I keep on remembering him
13. gave me a feedback loop (21)
A made me do the same thing repeatedly
B I gave away food I didn't like
C motivated me constantly so that I would improve