Vocabulary Ex. > Idioms from the Parts of the Body

Read the text. Based on the context, guess the meaning of the idioms in bold. (Text taken from *Broukal, M. (1994) Idioms from Everyday Use. National Textbook Company. US.)*

What a Group!



Last year my English class was full of characters. That's a polite way of saying it had some unusual people that I'll never forget. One student was such a hard worker that he learned all the idioms in our book **by heart.** He was always saying things like "I'm on cloud nine," or "I'm green with envy." We never knew if he meant what he said or if he was just practicing English. Another student **had a sweet tooth.** She would bake lots of breads and cakes and bring them to every class for us to share during breaks. Two students met in the class and fell **head over heels in love.** We were all invited to their wedding and had a great time. Then there was a student who was always **pulling someone's leg.** For example, one day before class, he put a long homework assignment on the board and made us think that the teacher had given it. We all had **long faces** until the teacher came in. Then we realized that someone had played a joke on us.

Questions

1. What do you do when you learn things *by heart*? **What have you learned by heart?**

2. When someone *pulls your leg*, **is the person telling the truth?**

3. How do you feel when you have a *long face*? **Tell the last time you felt like that.**

Exercise # 1

A. Each example has an idiom using the part of a body. Read the example carefully to find the meaning of the idiom. Then, match the definition with the corresponding idiom.

a big mouth	Danielle has such a **big mouth**. She couldn't keep quiet and told everything.
break a leg	You all will do fine on the talent show. Go **break a leg** out there!
by heart	Some years ago I used to know all my friends' contact numbers **by heart**. Today, I barely remember mine and other two or three numbers.
to cost an arm and a leg	My first time in Paris was amazing. However, everything **cost an arm and a leg**, and I couldn't purchase all what I wanted.
to have a sweet tooth	My wife **has a sweet tooth**. She usually buys a box of dark chocolate or gummy bears in the supermarket.

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head over heels (in love)	Charlie fell **head over heels in love** for her coworker. He only talked about her the whole day.
a long face	Since Mike did not get an invitation to the party, he has had a **long face** all day.
nosey	My **nosey** neighbors spend more time checking what others do than minding their own business.
a pain in the neck	Being self-centered or grumpy is **a** real **pain in the neck** on any date.
on the tip of my tongue	" Oh, what's it called? Don't tell me… It's **on the tip of my tongue**."
to be all thumbs	I am **all thumbs** when it comes to making origami. I can't fold paper properly.
to be all ears	"So, tell me about your new job. I'**m all ears**."
to keep an eye on	"Could you please **keep an eye on** my bag? I'll be back in few minutes."
to make up your mind	My father should **make up his mind** about our holidays. Hotel prices are soaring, and we can't wait forever until he chooses the dates.
to play it by ear	Sometime I don't like to make plans for holidays. I prefer to **play it by ear** and see how the day goes along.
to pull someone's leg	Tomorrow we won't have the English test. Don't believe Thomas. He is just **pulling your leg**.
to see eye to eye	Couples may struggle with the wedding arrangements. Even some may not **see eye to eye** with each other about the venue, the food, or the guests.
to shake a leg	**Shake a leg**, girls! The training starts in one minute and you are not ready!
to speak your mind	Mary isn't afraid **to speak her mind**, even if it upsets people in her own family!
to turn a blind eye	Crimes are increasing day by day, but the local and national authorities seem to have **turned a blind eye** towards them.

IDIOM	DEFINITION
1.	**to pretend not to notice.**
2.	**showing too much curiosity about other people's affairs and what other people are doing.**
3.	**a person who talks too much and does not keep secrets.**
4.	**to have similar views or attitudes towards something; to be in full agreement.**
5.	**to keep under careful observation.**
6.	**from memory; without reading or referring to notes**

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7.	to hurry up, move faster; to make a start.
8.	to be clumsy or awkward in one's actions.
9.	to be listening eagerly and attentively.
10.	to tease someone by leading them to believe something untrue.
11.	something or someone that annoys or bothers a person.
12.	an unhappy or disappointed expression
13.	a great liking for sweet-tasting foods
14.	to be extremely expensive.
15.	madly in love
16.	to say what you think about something directly.
17.	a feeling that you know something but can't remember it (a name, a word, etc.)
18.	to decide.
19.	good luck; all the best
20.	to deal with a situation without planning and decide what to do as it progresses.

Exercise # 2

A. Answer each question with YES / NO.

QUESTIONS	YES	NO
1. Mia and Debora refuse to accept the other's idea. Do they *see eye to eye*?		
2. Do you know why Chloe never says a word in the school meetings? She has *a big mouth,* doesn't she?		
3. Harry tried to fix the chair, but he was *all thumbs*. Is he unskillful?		

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4. Charlie thinks Natalia is the most wonderful person in the world. All he thinks is Natalia. Is he *head over heels***?**		
5. The only problem with my office is the location. It is too far from the city, and it takes me hours to get there. Is the location *a pain in the neck***?**		
6. I got a Gabriel Garcia's novel in the bookstore. It was 80% off and cost almost nothing. Did it *cost an arm and a leg***?**		
7. If you have a suggestion, I'm *all ears***. Am I likely to pay attention?**		
8. Tom told it was his birthday, but it wasn't true. Was he *pulling our leg***?**		
9. I have learned to count from one to ten in French, German, and Greek. Did I learn all this *by heart***?**		
10. Dimitri hurried and had only a quick bite to eat because he wanted to get to the movie on time. Did he *shake a leg***?**		

Exercise # 3

A. Read the sentences below carefully. Write the idiom that corresponds to each situation best. Conjugate the verbs when necessary.

1. Paul keeps coming to our house for no reason. He is being _____.

2. Anne's family told her to _____ right before she went up on stage.

3. Claire loves to eat olives, nuts, and cheese. I think she doesn't _____.

4. Your son continues to _____ when it comes to presentations. He needs more preparation and do a thorough research next time in advance.

5. As a teacher, I always _____ those who are best friends and sit down together during the tests. They might cheat if I get distracted.

6. Don't _____ to what is happening. Things are going wrong, and you know it.

7. My mother hasn't _____ about the design for the garden. She is between ideas related to urban, Mediterranean, and formal gardens.

8. Radhika did not get the job she applied for. She's had _____ the whole day.

9. John had the answer _____, but Claude said it first.

10. Clarise has never been shy about _____, even in front of the boss.

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