

Power and Authority Idioms lesson 10

10.1 Which of these people are in a good situation (from their point of view} and which are in a bad situation? The idioms all come from section B.

1 Jack has been let off the hook.

2 Lily has had to carry the can.

3 Carmen is at everyone's beck and call.

4 Bea has got her own way.

10.2 Complete each of these idioms with a preposition.

1 It's wrong to take the law ..... your own hands.

2 It's time I laid..... . ..... the law and made them do their duty.

3 I would not want to be ..... the receiving end of his bad temper. (Give two answers.)

4 Old Bob seems to have become a law ..... himself at work. He does just what he likes.

5 Nobody tells you what to do. You're just left ..... your own devices.

10.3 Rewrite the underlined part of each sentence with an idiom.

1 I think there is a reason she's not telling us about that letter she sent to the boss.

2 I thought I was going to have to represent my class at the staff-student meeting, but they've told me I don't have to.

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3 She's an awful boss to work for; the secretaries have to do what she wants whenever she wants it, eight hours a day, seven days a week.

4 He has had to take a lot of criticism from the press in recent weeks.

5 They cause all the trouble, and I always have to take the blame.

6 I don't want someone telling me what to do all the time. I'd rather be allowed to make my own decisions about how to do things.

10.4 Write a sentence or a couple of sentences for each of these idioms to show their meaning.

1 a hidden agenda

2 a spin doctor

3 bend the rules

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4 go to the polls

'I think he must be one of those spin doctors.'



Over to you

Read the editorials and/or letters to the Editor in an English-language newspaper or watch / listen to an English-language news broadcast on radio/ TV/ the Internet. Notice how many idioms occur in the political news. Make a note of any idioms that are not in this unit.

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