Parts of the body Idioms

Complete the idioms in **bold** with a word from the box. Note that in some cases you will need to use the word from the box in its plural form.

arm	back	chin	ear	elbow	eye	face	finger	foot	hair	hand	head
heart	leg	lip	neck	nose	shoulder	throat	toe	tongue	tooth		

1. (a) I can't quite remember the name of the restaurant we went to last night, but it's **on the tip of my** _____. (*I know the name of the restaurant, but I can't remember it at this exact moment*)
(b) Helen has a rather **sharp** _____, especially if you do something to upset her. (*Helen has a severe and unkind way of talking to people*)

2. (a) You've won the lottery? I don't believe you! **You're pulling my** _____. (*You are telling me something that is not true, as a joke*)
(b) My new camera **cost me an arm and a** _____. (*My new camera was very expensive*)

3. (a) Do you want to speak to me? Well, go ahead: **I'm all** _____. (*I'm listening carefully*)
(b) Dave works really hard, but he's still a bit **wet behind the** _____. (*Dave is a bit young and lacking knowledge and experience*)

4. (a) I'm sorry, but your explanation **went right over my** _____. (*I didn't understand your explanation*)
(b) I made a small mistake, and my boss **bit my** _____ **off**! (*My boss reacted in a rude and angry way when there was no reason*)

5. (a) I've always wanted to live in Australia. I'd **give my right** _____ to go out there right now. (*I'd do anything to go to Australia*)
(b) There are lots of things wrong with the company I work for. I've got a list **as long as my** _____. (*I've got a very long list of problems with my company*)

6. (a) We caught the train **by the skin of our** _____. (*We caught the train, but we nearly missed it*)
(b) My children are always **fighting** _____ **and nail**. (*My children are always fighting and arguing a lot*)

7. (a) Have I done something to upset Noel? I just said hello to him and he **gave me the cold** _____. (*Noel treated me in an unfriendly way, or refused to speak to me*)
(b) I can't work properly with you **looking over my** _____ all the time. (*I can't work properly because you are always watching me and then criticising my work*)

8. (a) You really **put your** _____ **in it** when you asked Hilary how her husband was: he left her for another woman last week. (*You said something that upset or embarrassed Hilary*)
(b) I was going to ask Sarah to go out with me, but at the last minute I **got cold** _____. (*I suddenly felt nervous about doing something that I had planned to do*)

9. (a) I can't stand Erica. She **gets right up my** _____. (*Erica annoys me a lot*)
(b) I offered Bob a job working in the shop, but he just **turned his** _____ **up** at it. (*Bob refused to accept the job I offered him because he didn't think it was good enough*)

10. (a) Mr Jennings thinks he's a popular teacher, but the children are always making fun of him **behind his** _____. (*The children say things about Mr Jennings without him knowing*)
(b) I'm trying to work. **Get off my** _____! (*Stop criticising me or telling me what to do*)

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11. (A) I can't go out with you tonight. **I'm up to my** _____ in work. (*I've got a lot of work to do*)
(B) I've just lost the company a £10,000 order. I'll probably **get it in the** _____ for that. (*I'll probably be criticised or punished for losing the order*)

12. (A) You're always working so hard. Why don't you **let your** _____ **down** for a change? (*Why don't you relax and enjoy yourself?*)
(B) I thought Heidi would be really angry with me for going out with her boyfriend, but to my surprise she **didn't turn a** _____. (*Heidi didn't seem surprised or shocked that I went out with her boyfriend*)

13. (A) Your secret is safe with me. **My** _____ **are sealed**. (*I won't tell anyone about your secret*)
(B) **Read my** _____: get out, you're fired! (*Listen very carefully to what I'm saying*)

14. (A) I would love to help you, but **my** _____ **are tied**. (*I can't help you because a rule or law is preventing me*)
(B) I can't see you at the moment, I'm afraid: **my** _____ **are full**. (*I'm extremely busy with a difficult job*)

15. (A) When John stood up and started singing in the restaurant, it **made my** _____ **curl**. (*I was extremely embarrassed when John started singing*)
(B) I didn't mean to **tread on your** _____, but I didn't realise it was your job to answer the phone. (*I didn't mean to offend you by doing something that you are responsible for*)

16. (A) Could you **keep an** _____ **on** the children while I go to the shops? (*Could you look after the children for a short while?*)
(B) Andy and I get on very well together, even though we don't always **see** _____ **to** _____. (*Andy and I don't always agree on the same things*)

17. (A) Richard and Mark were **at each other's** _____ all through the meeting. (*Richard and Mark were arguing in an angry way*)
(B) Television channels are always **forcing** programmes about the environment **down our** _____. (*Television channels are always forcing us to accept programmes about the environment*)

18. (A) Amy has **a** _____ **of gold**. (*Amy is a very kind person*)
(B) Brian seems a bit rude and bad-tempered, but **his** _____ **is in the right place**. (*Brian tries to be kind and do good things, even though it does not always seem like this*)

19. (A) Good luck in the exam. I'll be **keeping my** _____ **crossed** for you. (*I'll be hoping that things will happen in the way that you want them to*)
(B) Natalie is extremely lazy. She **won't lift a** _____ to help us. (*Natalie won't do anything to help us*)

20. (A) When he slipped on the banana skin, none of us could **keep a straight** _____. (*We couldn't prevent ourselves from laughing*)
(B) We need to end the conflict without **losing** _____. (*We need to end the conflict without losing people's respect by appearing weak or stupid*)

21. (A) I know that you're having a hard time at the moment, but try to **keep your** _____ **up**. (*Try to be brave and happy, even though you are in a difficult situation*)
(B) I was very critical of his work, but he **took it on the** _____. (*He accepted something unpleasant in a brave way without complaining*)

22. (A) Maggie is upset because her boyfriend **gave her the** _____ last night. (*Maggie's boyfriend told her that he didn't want to go out with her anymore*)
(B) Could you give me some _____ **room**, please? (*Could you give me enough space so that I'm comfortable?*)

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