83 Idioms (1)

A Discussing problems

You know, my English should be quite fluent by now, but **when it comes to** foreign languages, what I learn in class **goes in one ear and out the other**, and **my mind goes a complete blank the minute** I open my mouth.

Well, it takes time to learn a language, but you'll **get there** in the end.

Perhaps. Do you **have anyone in mind**?

I **could** probably **do with** some extra lessons.

Well, I think **your best bet is to** talk to your teacher.

Off the top of my head, no.

As far as I know, she doesn't give private lessons, but you're right: I **might as well** ask her. Thanks.

GLOSSARY

when it comes to sth ...	when it is a question of sth
go in one ear and out the other	be forgotten very quickly
my mind is/goes a complete blank	suddenly I cannot remember sth
the minute (that) ...	as soon as ...
get there	achieve your aim
could do with sth *inf*	used to say you need or would like to have sth
have sb/sth in mind	be thinking of sb/sth for a particular purpose
off the top of my head	without thinking about sth carefully
your/the best bet	used to tell sb the best action to take to get the result they want
as far as I know	used to say that you think you know sth, but you are not sure if it is true
might/may as well (do sth)	do sth because it seems the best in the situation, although you may not really want to do it

SPOTLIGHT idioms

An **idiom** is a group of words whose meaning is often different from the meaning of the individual words in it, e.g. if someone is feeling **under the weather**, it means they don't feel well. It is sometimes easier to guess the meaning, e.g. **let me see/think** is used when you are thinking or trying to remember something.

- *Now **let me see** – where did he say he lived?*

1 Correct the mistakes in each sentence.

1 I don't know the answer from the top of my head. .....
2 The information just goes in one ear and out of another. .....
3 Are you free on Friday? ~ Help me see what I've got on that day. .....
4 When it goes to science, I'm hopeless. .....
5 I think he's feeling below the weather. .....
6 It's no good to worry about it. .....
7 When I try to remember his name, my mind goes a big blank. .....
8 What do you have in the mind for New Year's Eve? .....

2 Complete the idioms in the dialogues.

1 We need someone for the extra work. ~ True. Do you have anyone in _____?
2 Do you think we should leave? ~ We might _____. I doubt they'll come now.
3 Did she ask you a question? ~ Yes, and my mind went a complete _____.
4 What shall I do? ~ Your best _____ is to ring the station.
5 They're making very slow progress. ~ Yes, but they'll get _____ eventually.
6 Are you thirsty? ~ Yes, I could _____ a drink.
7 Does the bank close at four? ~ Yes, as far _____.
8 Can you remember the instructions? ~ No. They went in one ear _____.
9 Does Emma know about the concert? ~ No, but I'll tell her the _____ she comes in.

3 ABOUT YOUR LANGUAGE **How would you translate these idioms into your own language? Write a translation, or talk to someone who speaks your language.**

4 A common word like *mind* is used in a number of idioms. If you don't know these idioms, use a dictionary to complete them.

1 _____ _____ **your mind** decide sth
2 _____ **sth in mind** remember/don't forget sth
3 _____ **my mind** in my opinion
4 _____ **your mind** say what you think

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS

B Responses

A number of idioms are often used as responses in spoken English.

Idiom	Meaning
I'm going to do the essay again. ~ ***What for?***	for what purpose or reason
Are you going to the party? ~ ***You bet!***	used to emphasize that you are keen to do sth
I've got my exam today. ~ *OK.* ***(The) best of luck.***	used to wish sb success in what they are going to do ALSO **all the best**
I'll be there as soon as I can. ~ *It's OK –* ***take your time.***	used to tell sb there is no hurry
Where's Poppy? ~ ***Don't ask me.***	used to emphasize that you don't know sth SYN **I haven't the faintest (idea)/ Goodness knows**
It must've been an awful evening. ~ ***On the contrary,*** *I really enjoyed it*	used to introduce a statement that says the opposite of the last one
Are you ready? ~ ***Hang on.*** *I'll be with you* ***in a minute.***	wait a minute/moment very soon
Rani's going out with a film star. ~ ***You're kidding!***	*inf* used to show that you are very surprised at what sb has just said
I think you owe me some money. ~ ***How come?***	*inf* used to say you do not know how something can happen and would like an explanation
Can we go in if we aren't members? ~ ***No way!***	*inf* used to say that sth is not at all possible or not allowed SYN **no chance**

5 **Circle the correct answer.**

1 If you answer **you bet**, you *want to do something / don't mind doing something.*
2 If you reply **don't ask me**, it means you *don't know the answer / don't want to answer.*
3 If you say **you're kidding**, you think the other person is *being / not being* serious.
4 **No way** means it's not *practical / possible.*
5 **Goodness knows** means *I'm sorry / I don't know.*
6 If you ask someone to **hang on**, you want them to *help you / wait for you.*

6 **Combine words from each box to form eight idioms.**

you're	no	how	what
don't	hang	best	you

of luck	bet	on	come
ask me	way	for	kidding

....
....

7 **Complete the idiom in each response.**

1 I've just won the lottery! ~ You're _____!
2 Could I borrow your dad's car? ~ No _____!
3 Why did they leave so early? ~ Goodness _____.
4 I'll be with you in two minutes. ~ It's ok, take _____.
5 Are you going to the party? ~ Yes, you _____.
6 I've got my driving test tomorrow. ~ Well, best _____.
7 The college said we have to apply again. ~ What? How _____?
8 I'm going to repeat the course. ~ What _____?
9 Where have they all gone? ~ I haven't the _____.
10 I heard the lecture was really boring. ~ No, on the _____.

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS