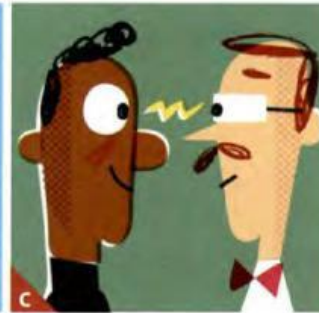


50/ Idioms

Words you need...

50.1



What is an idiom?

An idiom is a group of words that together have a meaning that is different from the meanings of the separate words. Idioms are used a lot in English, often as a more interesting or stronger way of saying a particular thing. For example, if you want to say

that someone is very pleased about something, you might use the idiom **over the moon**:

- A: I bet Jamie is pleased with himself for winning the competition.
- B: Oh, he's absolutely over the moon!

Exercise 1

Match the pictures above (a-h) with the idioms in bold below (1-8).

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Eliza broke his heart when she left him. _____ <u>g</u> | 5 Karl and I don't really see eye to eye . _____ |
| 2 Adam gave/lent me a hand moving the boxes. _____ | 6 Susie's son is behaving very badly and I think she needs to put her foot down . _____ |
| 3 Charlie needs my help. I can't turn my back on him. _____ | 7 I wanted to tell him how angry I was and I really had to bite my tongue . _____ |
| 4 You have a problem. You can't just bury your head in the sand _____ | 8 Nick might take you to the game if you twist his arm . _____ |

Exercise 2

Match the idioms (1-8) with the explanations (a-h).

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1 to break someone's heart | a to refuse to help someone |
| 2 to give/lend someone a hand | b to make someone very sad |
| 3 to turn your back on someone | c to help someone |
| 4 to bury your head in the sand | d to tell someone in a strong way to stop what they are doing |
| 5 to see eye to eye | e to stop yourself from saying something that would upset someone |
| 6 to put your foot down | f to pretend that there is no problem |
| 7 to bite your tongue | g to agree on a subject |
| 8 to twist someone's arm | h to talk to someone and persuade them |