

A Read sentences 1–10 and match the idioms in **bold** with their meanings a–j.

- 1 Susan and Sally are really mean. They're always talking about people **behind their backs**. ☐
- 2 We spent all evening **racking our brains**, but didn't come up with a solution to the problem. ☐
- 3 We should get the bill. Can you try to **catch the waiter's eye**? ☐
- 4 My neighbour really **gets on my nerves**. She's always playing loud music and watching everyone out of the window. ☐
- 5 Kim's always boasting about herself. She **is such a big-head**! ☐
- 6 I'm going out tomorrow evening. Do you think you could **keep an eye on** the children for me? ☐
- 7 I always **get butterflies in my stomach** before I travel by plane. ☐
- 8 My dad **is so tight-fisted**! He really hates spending money. ☐
- 9 I always **get a lump in my throat** when I go to weddings. They're so emotional! ☐
- 10 It **makes my blood boil** if I see people being cruel to animals. ☐

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| a annoy someone | f make someone very angry |
| b think really, really hard about something | g be arrogant |
| c feel like you are about to cry | h get someone's attention |
| d watch or look after something or someone | i feel very nervous |
| e speak about someone when they aren't there | j be mean |



B Complete the following with **ONE** word and then ask your partner the questions. Make some notes, so you can remember what your partner says!

- 1 What types of people or behaviour really get on your _____?
- 2 Do you ever talk about your friends behind their _____?
- 3 Have you ever asked someone to keep an _____ on your bag while you went to the toilet?
- 4 Is anyone in your family tight-_____?
- 5 What do you do if you're in a restaurant and you want to catch the waiter's _____?
- 6 What makes your _____ boil?
- 7 When was the last time you racked your _____ about something?
- 8 Do you get a lump in your _____ when you watch a sad film?
- 9 Do you know someone who is a big-_____?
- 10 Do you get butterflies in your _____ before you take an exam?



A Read sentences 1–8 and match the words in *italics* with their meanings a–l.

1 On *New Year's Eve* at *midnight*, the clock strikes twelve and everyone cheers and kisses each other. ☐☐

2 It's the 18th today and I'm going away for a *fortnight*, so I'll see you in November! ☐

3 Jamie's birthday is on 29th February, so he really only has a birthday in a *leap year*. ☐

4 Did you know that the tradition of Guy Fawkes' night began in the 17th *century*? It was in 1605 that he tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament. ☐

5 At the moment, the contest is an *annual* event, but it's so popular that they're thinking of making it a *monthly* competition. ☐☐

6 A *decade* ago it was never this warm in *winter*. That's global warming for you! ☐☐

7 I've had a look in my *diary* and I'm free on Monday afternoon. Do you fancy meeting then? ☐

8 I was born at *midday*. My mum always tells people I arrived just in *time* for lunch. ☐☐

- a a hundred years
- b the season when the weather is coldest
- c the last day of the year
- d 12 o'clock in the middle of the day
- e two weeks
- f happening every month
- g 12 o'clock at night
- h early enough for
- i happening every year
- j ten years
- k a book with dates, in which you write down your future arrangements
- l a year that happens every four years and has an extra day

B Look at the sentences in A and decide which preposition *in*, *on*, *at*, or *for* we use before the following expressions.

- 1 a period of time 2 a time of the day 3 a date 4 a season 5 a special day
6 a month 7 a century 8 a day of the week 9 a year

C Complete the questions with the correct preposition *in*, *on*, *at*, or *for*.

- 1 Do you feel happier ____ summer or ____ winter?
- 2 How do you think life will be different ____ 2050?
- 3 When was the last time you went away ____ a fortnight?
- 4 What do you think it was like to live ____ the 19th century?
- 5 What did you do ____ New Year's Eve last year?
- 6 How do you usually feel ____ Monday morning?
- 7 How often do you go to bed ____ midnight?
- 8 Are there any birthdays in your family ____ May?
- 9 Do you ever play jokes on people ____ 1st April?

D Ask your partner the questions from C. Give as much detail as possible and make a note of his / her answers to remind you what they say!

