

Vocabulary

IDIOMS

A. Look at the following extracts from the dialogue.

What do you think the phrases in bold mean?

*You look a bit **down in the dumps**.*

*Don't worry; it will be a **piece of cake**.*

*I know these slim-quick diet pills are **all the rage**...*

B. Read the sentences and match the idioms in bold with their meanings a-f.

1. I know chocolate is bad for me but I can't stop eating it. I guess I **have a sweet tooth**. ☐
2. The teacher told the students to **learn** the poem **by heart**. ☐
3. When I found out that I had passed all my exams, I **was on cloud nine**. ☐
4. If I **were in your shoes**, I would inform the police. ☐
5. 'How did you find out about the party?' 'John **spilled the beans**.' ☐
6. Stop **beating about the bush** and tell me what you want. ☐

- a. to tell a secret
- b. to be very happy
- c. to be in someone's place
- d. to memorise
- e. to not speak directly about something
- f. to like food with a lot of sugar in it

Vocabulary

A. Complete the following sentences with a suitable phrase from the box. Make any necessary changes.

have a sweet tooth look down in the dumps beat about the bush be all the rage
spill the beans be on cloud nine be in somebody's shoes be a piece of cake

1. The exam _____; I'm confident I've passed it.
2. Angela seems to _____ and can't stop eating chocolate bars.
3. Ever since she got accepted by the university she applied to, she _____.
4. Who _____ about the surprise party to Erica?
5. If I _____, I would apologise to Mark for not telling him the truth.
6. You _____! What's wrong?
7. State-of-the-art mobile phones _____ nowadays.
8. What are you trying to tell me? Stop _____ and get to the point.

B. Match the two columns. Then use the words to complete sentences 1-8. Make any necessary changes.

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|--------------|--------------------------|---|
| 1. process | ☐ | a. to get more of |
| 2. starve | ☐ | b. in addition |
| 3. mope | ☐ | c. sad, unhappy |
| 4. gain | ☐ | d. to tell somebody what you think they should do about something |
| 5. advise | ☐ | e. to feel unhappy and not interested in anything |
| 6. miserable | ☐ | f. to make something go faster |
| 7. plus | ☐ | g. a series of actions that lead to a result |
| 8. speed up | ☐ | h. suffer from lack of food |

1. My doctor _____ me to rest my leg until it gets better.
2. I am _____! What's for dinner?
3. He has been sitting in his room and _____ because he failed his exams.
4. A technician gave me some advice on how I can _____ my computer.
5. Changing the educational system will be a long and difficult _____.
6. Ever since I stopped going to the gym, I have _____ ten pounds.
7. Using public means of transport is environmentally friendly. _____, it's more economical than using your own car.
8. Jack's dog disappeared and he feels _____.