IDIOM

UNIT 2

Exercise 1

Complete the sentences with the words in the box. Some of the sentences have more than one answer.

head | mind | brain | thought | brains

1 Do you have the memory of an elephant or a _____ like a sieve?
2 You are mad. Totally, completely and utterly off your _____.
3 He was behaving as if he was out of his _____.
4 The previous chapters will already have given you plenty of food for _____.
5 Off the top of your _____, what do you know about Vitamin C?
6 Rack your _____ and tell me everything you now about him.

Exercise 2

Decide if the following sentences are true (*T*) or false (*F*).

1 If something crosses your mind, you forget about it. ☐
2 If something rings a bell, it reminds you of something. ☐
3 If you have a gut reaction to something, you have spent a long time thinking about it. ☐
4 If you say something off the top of your head, you are very strange and dangerous. ☐
5 If something is food for thought, it makes you think. ☐
6 If you are racking your brain, you aren't thinking very hard. ☐

Exercise 3

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences.

1 'Do you know anyone called Frascati?' – 'Well the name _____.'
a racks my brains b rings a bell c is miles away

2 'Dr Barth, what is the greatest single thought that ever _____?'
a rang a bell b racked your brains c crossed your mind

3 'You don't know anyone else who might be free?' – 'Not _____, no.'
a on the tip of my tongue b crossing my mind c off the top of my head

4 I'm just trying to remember his name; it's _____.
a racking my brains b on the tip of my tongue c crossing my mind

5 'Did you ask me a question? I'm sorry, I was _____.'
a miles away b out of my mind c ringing a bell

6 Someone mentioned this point recently and I'm _____ to think who it was.
a out of my mind b racking my brains c bearing it in mind

Exercise 4

Correct the idioms in these sentences.

1 Business has been very bad and the management seem to have racked the plot.
2 You can withdraw money at other banks but bear in thought that they might charge a handling fee.
3 You are off your mind if you think I'll help you commit a crime!
4 Off the top of his mind, he couldn't think of an excuse she would believe.
5 The after-dinner speaker provided us with plenty of thought food.
6 Her name was on the top of my tongue, but I just couldn't get it.
7 Personally, I trust my gut action to tell me when I'm right.
8 It crossed my head that I hadn't heard the children for a while.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

IDIOM
UNIT 2

Exercise 5

Choose the most appropriate thing A–H to say in each situation 1–8.

1 Someone gives you a useful tip for your next trip abroad.
2 You're telling someone about a thought-provoking talk you've just heard.
3 A friend has just told you about an extreme sport he wants to try and you think it's too dangerous.
4 You're trying hard to remember the answer to a quiz question.
5 A friend has mentioned someone's name and asked you if you know that person. You aren't sure but the name sounds familiar.
6 You realize that you haven't been listening to something a friend has been telling you, because you were thinking about something else.
7 You have to explain why you burst out laughing when you saw your photo in the paper.
8 Someone asks you if you have ever thought about working abroad.

A It has crossed my mind.
B You're out of your mind!
C It's on the tip of my tongue.
D The name rings a bell.
E Sorry, I was miles away.
F It's certainly given me food for thought.
G Thanks, I'll keep it in mind.
H It was just a gut reaction.

Exercise 6

Complete the table with idioms from this unit.

remembering and forgetting	1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____
thinking	1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____
not thinking logically	1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____

Your turn!

Have you had trouble remembering something in the last few days? Use the idioms from this unit to describe your experience. For example:

I couldn't remember the Italian word for butterfly yesterday although it was on the tip of my tongue.

Sometimes I have a mind like a sieve and by the afternoon, I can't recall anything from my morning lessons.



Fortunately, she knew he had **a mind like a sieve.**

LIVEWORKSHEETS