



IDIOM

UNIT 7

Exercise 1

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences.

- 1 Come to our arts and crafts evening and try your _____ at something different.
a nose b heart c hand
- 2 Don't stick your _____ into matters that don't concern you.
a ears b nose c hand
- 3 Everyone stayed late yesterday – we're up to our _____ in work at the office.
a hearts b ears c noses
- 4 The rebuilding of the church organ was a real labour of _____.
a love b heart c business
- 5 The new committee at the sports club are making lots of changes and they really mean _____.
a heart b labour c business
- 6 We believe that the judge is fair and has no _____ to grind.
a axe b bandwagon c appetite

Exercise 2

Match sentence halves 1–6 with A–F to make complete sentences.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 It looks as though more and more companies | A wasn't in the picture at all. |
| 2 I knew karate and had | B my heart wasn't in it. |
| 3 I congratulated the winners but | C the ability to steer clear of danger. |
| 4 I never wanted to be famous and I like | D will soon be leaping on the bandwagon. |
| 5 He has decided that art history | E to keep a low profile. |
| 6 He spoke as if I had nothing to do with it, as though I | F is not his cup of tea. |

Exercise 3

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

- 1 If you have an axe to grind, you have certain attitudes that are based on personal experience. ☐
- 2 If you jump on the bandwagon, you don't want to follow others in becoming involved in an activity. ☐
- 3 If you steer clear of something, you want to get involved. ☐
- 4 If you are up to your ears in something, you are very busy or involved. ☐
- 5 If someone is a nosy parker, they want to know more information than they need. ☐
- 6 If you keep a low profile, you want to become visibly involved in something. ☐

Exercise 4

Read the sentences and choose the best explanation.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 His heart isn't really in it.
a He hates it. | b He isn't completely happy with it. |
| 2 I'm going to try my hand at pottery.
a I'm going to see what it's like. | b I'm not going to continue doing it. |
| 3 It really sounds as if he means business.
a I think he's serious about it. | b I don't think he's serious about it. |
| 4 I made this card myself. It was a real labour of love.
a It didn't take long | b I worked very hard at it. |
| 5 I don't want to poke my nose into your business.
a I respect your privacy. | b I want to be involved. |
| 6 I'd steer clear of that issue, if I were you.
a I'd get involved. | b I would avoid it. |



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Exercise 5

Replace the underlined words with the correct idioms in the box.

really my cup of tea | up to my ears | jump on the bandwagon | steer clear of | mean business
have an axe to grind

Pat: Hi, George. How are you?

George: Hi, Pat. I've been very busy for the last few months. We've taken on a lot of new clients. One of our main competitors, has been expanding rapidly. It's clear that they are really serious about succeeding. So my boss has decided to follow the trend and start expanding too. I don't have a problem about the extra work, but we just don't have enough staff to deal with it all.

Pat: You should ask for a promotion.

George: I would, but then they'd expect me to work even longer hours! So I'm going to avoid that. Anyway, I've been thinking about a career change. I'm beginning to think that software development is not something I enjoy.

Exercise 6

Correct the idioms in these sentences.

- 1 I'm going to steer a low profile and hope nobody asks me to volunteer for anything at the committee meeting.
- 2 You certainly look like you mean to do business with your rubber gloves and apron on!
- 3 I wish people wouldn't poke their sticks into my business.
- 4 I think I'll just jump on the picture and start my diet with the rest of you.
- 5 It's probably best to jump clear of the city centre during the rush hour.
- 6 I've decided I'm going to try my heart at DIY and redecorate my room.
- 7 My trip to America the previous year had whetted my nose for foreign travel.
- 8 It's amazing how much information a serious nosy profile can find out.

Exercise 7

Complete the sentences with idioms from this unit, changing the verb and pronoun forms if necessary.

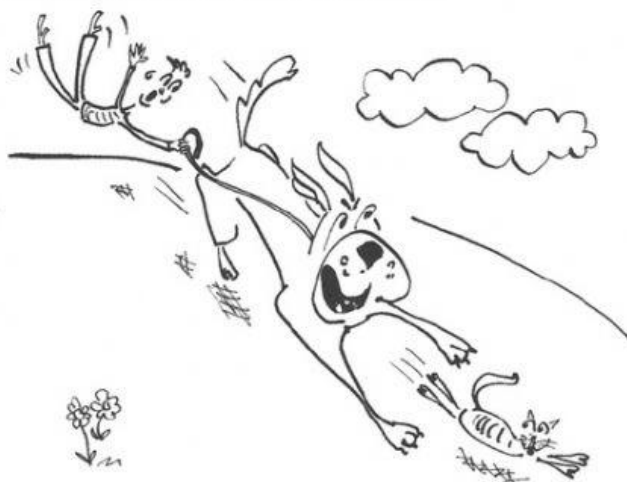
- 1 Writing this book has been a great pleasure, a true _____.
- 2 He arrived at precisely nine o'clock, wearing workmen's boots and carrying his tool kit, so we knew he _____.
- 3 She did nothing to draw attention to herself, trying to _____.
- 4 I always try to write the same amount about each of the political parties – I don't _____.
- 5 If you want people to respect you, don't _____ their private affairs.
- 6 In the interview with Sir Allan, I _____ any questions relating to the court case.
- 7 After advertising six vacancies, they are now _____ in applications forms.
- 8 _____ at deep sea fishing or take a course in scuba diving. Beginners welcome!

Your turn!

Use the idioms in this unit to describe your involvement or interest in things in your life. For example:

I'm keeping a low profile at college because I haven't completed my assignment.

There's a concert tonight but rock music isn't really my cup of tea.



He decided that dog walking was just not his cup of LIVEWORKSHEETS