



IDIOM

UNIT 8

Exercise 1

Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

ball | day | bud | halt | head | business | leaf | ground

- 1 Evans set the _____ rolling with a £1 million donation to the charity.
- 2 The family has agreed to turn over a new _____ in their relations with each other.
- 3 We need someone who is fully trained so that they can hit the _____ running.
- 4 This is worrying – we need to knock this idea on the _____ very quickly.
- 5 The negotiations ground to a _____ when the foreign minister walked out.
- 6 When the students start getting nervous you must nip it in the _____.
- 7 The walking group decided to call it a _____ when the rain turned to snow.
- 8 If you really mean _____, you'll need to buy some better gardening tools.

Exercise 2

Match idioms 1–6 with a word or phrase A–F with the same meaning.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1 I think it's time to set the ball rolling. | A from the beginning |
| 2 This kind of behaviour needs to be nipped in the bud. | B off to a good start |
| 3 You should turn over a new leaf. You might surprise yourself. | C stopped quickly |
| 4 Is the green light flashing? Then we're in business. | D start |
| 5 'Enough is enough!' said the children's exasperated mother. | E behave better |
| 6 Sometimes it's quicker just to do the whole job from scratch. | F It's time to stop |

Exercise 3

Complete the sentences. Choose the best answers.

- 1 The traffic was so bad that our car *ground to a halt / nipped it in the bud / cut our losses*.
- 2 After ten hours' studying, I decided to *hit the ground running / set the ball rolling / call it a day*.
- 3 Henry's a changed person. He must have *called it quits / been in business / turned over a new leaf*.
- 4 This situation has gone on too long. I think it's time we *knocked it on the head / hit the ground running / ground to a halt*.
- 5 We need someone who can start the job immediately and *nip it in the bud / hit the ground running / call it quits*.
- 6 I forgot to save the file, and I've lost all the work I did today. I've got to *turn over a new leaf / start in business / start from scratch*.

Exercise 4

Match idioms 1–6 with situations A–F.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 Bob has decided to retire as manager. | A They hit the ground running. |
| 2 Many of these students have never studied English before. | B They have to start from scratch. |
| 3 The team were amazing when they came back for the second half and won the match easily. | C He is going to call it a day. |
| 4 The series was getting boring so the producers decided to end it. | D You must cut your losses. |
| 5 We unpacked the new PC and installed the software. | E They knocked it on the head. |
| 6 You should accept your failures and concentrate on your successes. | F We got it up and running. |

Exercise 5

Correct the idioms in these sentences.

- 1 I was exhausted, ready to call it the day, go home and fall asleep.
- 2 If you want a lift to the city centre, you're starting in business because that's exactly where I'm going.
- 3 The existing software was no longer usable and had to be rewritten from the scratch.
- 4 There came a point when I had to say enough is quits and the discussion had to stop.
- 5 Shall I stay and finish my degree or cut my loss and go travelling?
- 6 I'll make films for one more year and then I'm going to keep it quits.
- 7 The first stage of our advertising campaign is now up and turning.
- 8 The best way to stop an argument is to hit it in the bud.

Exercise 6

Choose the most appropriate thing to say A-F in each situation 1-6.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 You've been working long hours. You think it's time to go home. | A We're up and running. |
| 2 You've noticed a lot of negative behaviour in your workplace lately. You don't want it to continue. | B We need to nip this in the bud. |
| 3 You want to start an activity that you hope everyone will join in with. | C Let's start from scratch. |
| 4 Your new business has started and is functioning successfully. | D It's grinding to a halt. |
| 5 Development on something is slowing down will soon stop completely. | E I'm going to call it day. |
| 6 You want to create something completely new, rather than improve what you already have. | F I'll start the ball rolling. |

Exercise 7

Complete the table with idioms from this unit.

Starting	1	_____
	2	_____
	3	_____
	4	_____
	5	_____
Stopping	1	_____
	2	_____
	3	_____
	4	_____
	5	_____
	6	_____
	7	_____
	8	_____
Both	1	_____

Your turn!

Think about something you've done recently. Use the idioms in this unit to describe the way you or another person started or stopped doing things. For example:

My computer crashed and I had to start my essay all over again from scratch.

I've been going to bed too late recently. But enough is enough, I need to get more sleep.

