



# 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.
- 2 This kind of behaviour needs to be nipped in the bud.
- 3 You should turn over a new leaf. You might surprise yourself.
- 4 Is the green light flashing? Then we're in business.
- 5 'Enough is enough!' said the children's exasperated mother.
- 6 Sometimes it's quicker just to do the whole job from scratch.

A from the beginning  
B off to a good start  
C stopped quickly  
D start  
E behave better  
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.
- 2 Many of these students have never studied English before.
- 3 The team were amazing when they came back for the second half and won the match easily.
- 4 The series was getting boring so the producers decided to end it.
- 5 We unpacked the new PC and installed the software.
- 6 You should accept your failures and concentrate on your successes.

A They hit the ground running.  
B They have to start from scratch.  
C He is going to call it a day.  
D You must cut your losses.  
E They knocked it on the head.  
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.



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## 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.*

