



IDIOM

UNIT 11

Exercise 1

Complete the sentences. Choose the best answers.

- I never know if he's serious or if he's pulling my _____.
a leg b teeth c hat
- It's obvious that she's lying through her _____.
a hat b teeth c back
- This information is too important, you can't sweep it under the _____.
a tracks b carpet c back
- Please keep this story under your _____.
a leg b carpet c hat
- They made careful plans and carefully covered their _____.
a tracks b back c carpet
- I was surprised to find he'd gone behind my _____.
a hat b back c leg

Exercise 2

Match idioms 1–6 with situations A–F.

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|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 She wasn't enjoying herself so she said she was too tired to stay. | A She was on the fiddle. |
| 2 He hated parties but he went anyway. | B She gave the game away. |
| 3 We found out after she left that she'd been taking money from the till. | C She blew the whistle on them. |
| 4 The company offered him a 'free' holiday weekend and then tried to sell him the apartment. | D He went through the motions. |
| 5 We knew she was guilty when she started to cry. | E She told a white lie. |
| 6 They stole some cash and she told the manager. | F They had a hidden agenda. |

Exercise 3

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

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|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 When you mentioned seeing her at the surprise party | A good at covering his tracks. |
| 2 I'm not really enthusiastic about the trip – | B you really gave the game away! |
| 3 They thought they'd get away with it but someone | C leading me up the garden path. |
| 4 He never seems to get caught for his dishonesty – he's | D lying through their teeth. |
| 5 I can see they're not telling the truth – they're | E blew the whistle on them. |
| 6 When they mentioned a pay rise they were | F I'm just going through the motions. |

Exercise 4

Correct the idioms in these sentences.

- Many of the politicians were found to be pulling the fiddle.
- She looks twenty years younger than she really is. Only the skin on her hands blows the game away.
- Look, if I tell you something will you promise to cover it under your hat?
- The week he died, the Foreign Minister was planning to blow the fiddle on corrupt top-level officials.
- The killer may return to the scene of the crime to brush away his tracks.
- Ministers and heads of industry are going under the motions of negotiating with the unions.

Exercise 5

Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

keep it under your hat | pulling your leg | economical with the truth | on the fiddle | a white lie
 led us up the garden path | a hidden agenda | go behind my back

- 1 His business was closed down after it was discovered that he hadn't been declaring all his earnings – he'd been _____.
- 2 I wonder what the real purpose of this meeting is? I suspect there's _____.
- 3 When she asked me what I thought of her new hairstyle, I decided not to hurt her feelings and told _____.
- 4 Don't take him seriously – he's only _____.
- 5 It was very dishonest of you to _____ and gossip about me to others.
- 6 Please don't tell anyone about my new job just yet – _____.
- 7 The newspapers have _____ on this matter.
- 8 He said there was no point being honest when you could make so much more money being _____.

Exercise 6

Complete the table. Put the idioms in the correct groups.

blow the whistle on someone | a white lie | a hidden agenda | give the game away
 pull someone's leg | go through the motions | be economical with the truth
 sweep something under the carpet

lying	1 _____
	2 _____
pretending	1 _____
	2 _____
hiding the truth	1 _____
	2 _____
telling the truth	1 _____
	2 _____

Your turn!

Have you heard, seen, or been involved in any kind of deception recently? Use the idioms in this unit to describe your experience. For example:

I told a white lie when I said I didn't mind that my friend forgot my birthday.

It was clear that Pablo was lying through his teeth when he said he'd left his homework on the kitchen table.



She was extremely bored, but decided to go through the motions.