



VOCABULARY – Idioms about money and finances

An **idiom** is an expression whose meaning is sometimes difficult to guess by looking at the meaning of the individual words it contains.

For example, “money doesn’t grow on trees” is an idiom meaning “money isn’t easily obtained”.



1. Match the sentences containing an idiom about money with their meaning.

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| a. She is as poor as a church mouse and has little money to support her family. | • | • 1. to have an income equal to one’s expenses |
| b. I had to live hand to mouth during most of college since I could only get part-time jobs that paid minimum wage. | • | • 2. to pay a high price for something |
| c. Peter was born with a silver spoon in his mouth ; he has had an easy life. | • | • 3. to spend money like it never ends |
| d. After only eight months our company was able to break even . | • | • 4. to have hardly enough money to live on |
| e. Each month my parents save a portion of their wages for a rainy day . | • | • 5. to have enough money to pay one’s bills |
| f. Julia bought a new purse with her bonus. She always spends money like water . | • | • 6. to use less money than usual |
| g. My dad has been having trouble making ends meet because our flat’s rent has increased. | • | • 7. to be very poor |
| h. My cousin only has a part-time job, so he is on a budget . | • | • 8. to save money for a time in the future when one may need it |
| i. I paid an arm and a leg for my new computer, but I am not very happy with it. | • | • 9. to have just a reduced amount of money to spend |
| j. After dad lost his job, we had to tighten our belts to save some money. | • | • 10. to be born into a rich family |

2. Now, match the idioms from above to their Portuguese equivalents below.

- ☐ gastar à grande e à francesa
- ☐ pagar os olhos da cara
- ☐ tentar esticar o orçamento
- ☐ não ter um tostão furado
- ☐ nascer em berço de ouro

- ☐ contar tostões
- ☐ conseguir equilibrar as contas
- ☐ apertar o cinto
- ☐ a pensar no dia de amanhã
- ☐ viver com uma mão à frente e outra atrás