Name: _____ No: _____ Class: 9__

Grammar

IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS

An idiom is an expression which does not have a literal meaning but a figurative meaning instead.

RELATED TO THE BODY



- ***get cold feet***: to suddenly become too frightened to do something you had planned to do
  - e.g. *They're presenting their project to a big audience next week; that's if they don't get cold feet!*
- ***get something off one's chest***: to tell someone your problems
  - e.g. *Thanks for listening to my problems. I just needed to get this off my chest.*
- ***be all ears***: to listen carefully
  - e.g. *Give me a minute to finish my work and then I'll be all ears and you can tell me about your project.*
- ***give a hand, lend a hand***: to help (someone) do something
  - e.g. *I can give you a hand with your school project if you like.*
- ***break a leg***: to wish good luck
  - e.g. *Today's the big day, eh? Break a leg!*
- ***keep an eye on***: to take care of, to watch in order to protect
  - e.g. *I'll keep an eye on the dinner while you're on the phone.*
- ***stab someone in the back***: to say nasty things about someone when they are not there
  - e.g. *He thought they were his friends until they stabbed him in the back.*

RELATED TO FOOD



- ***a hot potato***: to speak about a controversial or difficult subject/topic
  - e.g. *The issue of children's starvation is a hot potato right now for world leaders.*
- ***piece of cake***: a job, task or activity that is (very) easy or simple
  - e.g. *The test was a piece of cake.*
- ***bad egg***: a person who is (often) trouble
  - e.g. *I don't want my little sister hanging around with the bad eggs on the street.*
- ***(not my) cup of tea***: something you particularly enjoy (often used negatively)
  - e.g. *Cooking isn't exactly my cup of tea.*
- ***(not) cry over spilt milk***: get upset over something that has happened and that cannot be changed; to regret a past event
  - e.g. *The computer is broken and we can't fix it. There's no need to cry over spilt milk.*
- ***something is fishy***: something is suspicious and not quite right
  - e.g. *There was something fishy in the way he paused before answering the question.*
- ***be as cool as a cucumber***: to be calm, instead of nervous or anxious
  - e.g. *She is always as cool as a cucumber and never worries about anything.*

A Choose the appropriate word to complete the idioms below.

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1. I can't carry everything. Could you give me a/an _____, please? Thanks.
   a. leg b. hand c. arm d. ear
2. I asked Peter to keep a/an _____ on the house when we are away.
   a. eye b. ear c. head d. mouth
3. I never said that. Don't put words in my _____.
   a. ear b. eye c. head d. mouth
4. Good luck with your exams. I'll keep my _____ crossed for you.
   a. arms b. fingers c. hands d. ears
5. He asked me if I wanted to know the latest gossip, so I told him I was all _____.
   a. arms b. fingers c. hands d. ears
6. I told my parents what I did and I was glad to get it off my _____.
   a. ear b. chest c. head d. foot



B Complete the idiomatic expressions with a word related to food.

1. It's no good crying over spilt _____, what's done is done!
2. I really enjoyed the film; it was just my cup of _____.
3. Talking about hungry people is a hot _____ at the moment.
4. John never phoned his mother. He was always a bad _____.
5. I knew I would pass the test. It was a piece of _____.
6. I don't know, but I fear there's something _____ in the way she behaved.

C Answer these questions about you.

1. When was the last time you had **butterflies in your stomach**?

_____

2. Who is your favourite **shoulder to cry on**? Why did you choose that person?

_____

3. Do you usually have **your feet on the ground** or **your head in the clouds**? Is it possible to have both at the same time?

_____

M-LEARNING

*Download the free app "**Johnny Grammar's Word Challenge**" on the British Council website and play the game words>idioms> easy/medium/hard.*