

Mind and Thinking

Idioms and phrasal verbs

Idioms

go to your head	if success goes to your head, it makes you think that you are better or more important than you really are
have your wits about you	be able to think quickly and make sensible decisions
in the dark (about)	not knowing very much about something, because other people are keeping it secret from you
know what's what	know the important facts about a situation
not have a leg to stand on	not have any way of proving that you are right about something
not see the wood for the trees	used for saying that someone cannot understand what is important in a situation because they are thinking too much about small details
put two and two together	guess what is happening or what something means based on what you have seen or heard
quick/slow on the uptake	taking a very short/long time to understand or realise something
ring a bell	something that rings a bell sounds familiar to you, although you cannot remember the exact details
round the bend	crazy
split hairs	argue or worry about very small details or differences that are not important
take stock (of)	spend some time thinking about the situation you are in before you decide what to do next

Phrasal verbs

brush up (on)	practise and improve your skills or knowledge of something	piece together	learn the truth about something by considering all the separate bits of information you have
come (a)round (to)	change your opinion or decision because someone has persuaded you to agree with them	puzzle out	solve a confusing or complicated problem by thinking carefully about it
come up with	think of something such as an idea or a plan	read up (on/about)	get information on a particular subject by reading a lot about it
face up to	accept something and try to deal with it	swot up (on)	study something very hard, especially for an examination
figure out	be able to understand something or solve a problem; understand what someone is like and why they behave in the way they do	take in	understand and remember something that you hear or read; accept something as real or true; trick someone into believing something that is not true
hit upon	suddenly have an idea; discover something by chance	think over	consider a problem or decision carefully
make out	see, hear or understand someone or something with difficulty; suggest, imply	think through	consider the facts about something in an organised and thorough way
mull over	think carefully about something over a period of time	think up	invent or imagine something, especially an excuse

F Write one word in each gap so that each second sentence has a similar meaning to the first sentence.

- I need to consider your offer very carefully before I make a decision.
I need to over your offer very carefully before I make a decision.
- Lee had the brilliant idea of booking a clown for the end-of-term party.
Lee came the brilliant idea of booking a clown for the end-of-term party.
- It's time you realised that you've got responsibilities now.
It's time you faced the fact that you've got responsibilities now.
- I'm going to have to improve my spoken German before I go to Munich.
I'm going to have to brush my spoken German before I go to Munich.
- I didn't like the idea at first but now I do.
I didn't like the idea at first but I've round it now.
- It's a general knowledge quiz so you can't do any revision for it.
There's nothing to swot as it's a general knowledge quiz.
- We were right at the back of the hall so I couldn't hear what the speaker was saying.
I was unable to out what the speaker was saying because we were right at the back of the hall.
- We finally thought of a way to get the band into the hotel without the press knowing.
We finally puzzled a way to get the band into the hotel without the press knowing.
- I've found out a lot of information about the history of English language teaching recently.
I've been up on the history of English language teaching recently.

Complete using the words in the box.

bell • bend • dark • hairs • head • leg • stock • two • uptake • what • wits • wood

- 1 The name Alan Hickson rings a , but I can't place him.
- 2 Stop wasting time splitting and look at the big picture.
- 3 Ask Simon about the sales targets. He always knows what's
- 4 You've got to have your about you to succeed in advertising.
- 5 Don't let success go to your , will you?
- 6 No one told us that Diana was leaving, but we all put two and together.
- 7 I'm going to go round the if they don't turn that music down soon.
- 8 Let's take of the situation before we make a final decision.
- 9 How did they manage to keep me completely in the about this for so long?
- 10 The problem with Jane is that sometimes she can't see the for the trees.
- 11 It took Dan a long time to understand what was going on. He's usually quicker on the than that, isn't he?
- 12 Frankly, you're completely wrong and you haven't got a to stand on.

) Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the space.

Rhetoric

The (1) (**CONCEIVE**) of 'rhetoric', or effective public speaking, dates back thousands of years. The underlying (2) (**ASSUME**) behind rhetoric is that how you present an argument can greatly influence whether people are persuaded by you or not. There is (3) (**DOUBT**) plenty of evidence to support this idea – it's practically (4) (**THINK**), for example, for a successful politician to be a poor communicator – but is it just a question of style winning over substance? Certainly, it is often said of politicians that they talk complete (5) (**SENSE**) but what they say they say with such (6) (**CONVINCE**) that we tend to believe them, at least when they're in opposition. On the other hand, (7) (**WISE**) and knowledge are of little value if you cannot communicate them effectively to your peers or to the next generation. It is the combination of clear (8) (**REASON**), sound (9) (**JUDGE**) and effective presentation and communication skills that defines true rhetoric. A true rhetorician should always come across as knowledgeable, and never as (10) (**OPINION**) or ignorant.

