50/ Idioms

Words you need... 50.1



What is an idiom?

An idiom is a group of words that together have a meaning that is different from the meanings of the separate words. Idioms are used a lot in English, often as a more interesting or stronger way of saying a particular thing. For example, if you want to say that someone is very pleased about something, you might use the idiom **over the moon**:

- **A:** *I bet Jamie is pleased with himself for winning the competition.*
- **B:** *Oh, he's absolutely over the moon!*

Exercise 1

Match the pictures above (a–h) with the idioms in bold below (1–8).

1 Eliza **broke his heart** when she left him. g
2 Adam **gave/lent** me **a hand** moving the boxes. ____
3 Charlie needs my help. I can't **turn** my **back on** him. ____
4 You have a problem. You can't just **bury** your head **in the sand** ____
5 Karl and I don't really see **eye to eye**. ____
6 Susie's son is behaving very badly and I think she needs to **put** her **foot down**. ____
7 I wanted to tell him how angry I was and I really had to **bite** my **tongue**. ____
8 Nick might take you to the game if you **twist his arm**. ____

Exercise 2

Match the idioms (1–8) with the explanations (a–h).

1 to break someone's heart	a to refuse to help someone
2 to give/lend someone a hand	b to make someone very sad
3 to turn your back on someone	c to help someone
4 to bury your head in the sand	d to tell someone in a strong way to stop what they are doing
5 to see eye to eye	e to stop yourself from saying something that would upset someone
6 to put your foot down	f to pretend that there is no problem
7 to bite your tongue	g to agree on a subject
8 to twist someone's arm	h to talk to someone and persuade them

LIVEWORKSHEETS