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WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE

English Idioms in Use
Part I

Навчально-методичний посібник

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Навчально-методичний посібник “Watch your language” призначений для роботи здобувачів вищої освіти 1-2 курсів факультету іноземної філології та учнів загальноосвітніх шкіл з поглибленим вивченням англійської мови. Навчально-методичний посібник містить автентичні ідіоми англійської мови, які впорядковані відповідно до розмовних тем. В кожному тематичному блоці пропонується дефініція певних англійських ідіом, приклади їх вживання в окремих фразах та практичні завдання на закріплення ідіом.

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FOREWORD

Знання іноземних мов – це ключ до успіху в сучасному світі, де спілкування іноземними мовами набуває все більшого значення. Знання англійської мови розширює світогляд, дозволяє пізнати культуру та звичаї іншого народу. Для цього необхідно розвивати багато різних навичок, кожна з яких грає важливу роль. До таких навичок відносять вміння усного мовлення, грамотне письмо, вміння слухати та розуміти. Але для того, щоб вільно спілкуватися англійською, недостатньо мати великий лексичний запас та знання граматики. Мова повинна бути красивою та емоційно забарвленою. З цією метою ми використовуємо фразеологізми, ідіоми, різноманітні прислів'я та приказки.

Відомо, що з використанням англійських ідіоматичних виразів мова стає виразнішою та яскравішою. Знання сталих словосполучень показує високий рівень володіння іноземною мовою.

Watch your English — посібник, в якому представлені автентичні ідіоми англійської мови. Даний посібник буде корисним для студентів та учнів, які хочуть збільшити кількість відомих їм ідіом та впевнено їх використовувати. В кожному тематичному блоці пропонується дефініція певних англійських ідіом, приклади їх вживання в окремих фразах та практичні завдання на закріплення ідіом. Подані види вправ та завдань поступово вводять подані зразки, навчають правильному розумінню, пропонують зразок використання ідіоми, взятий із сучасного цікавого для сприйняття контексту. Вони спрямовані на формування мовленнєвої компетентності, активізують критичне мислення, розвивають навички письма.

Кожна тема має чітку структуру, доречні ілюстративні матеріали. Посібник включає в себе відповіді на вправи, що слугуватиме відмінним засобом не лише для аудиторної роботи, але й для самостійної роботи з посібником.

ART

Idiom	Description	Example
Be no oil painting	To be not attractive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>She is very intelligent, but she's no oil painting.</i> <i>A: How come there are always so many admirers around her? She's not even beautiful.</i> <i>B: Yeah, she's no oil painting, but her sense of humor is brilliant. Plus, she's extremely charming.</i>
Blank canvas	The phrase refers to something with no content such that it can be easily filled with completely new things.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Children are blank canvases. It's easy to make them believe whatever you want.</i> <i>A: This child is a blank canvas. It's easy to make him absorb new knowledge.</i> <i>B: And he's eager to learn!</i>
Con artist	A person who makes a living by swindling people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Many con artists target the elderly by trying to gain their confidence.</i> <i>A: He made a fortune by deceiving naive people.</i> <i>B: He's a shameless liar. A real con artist.</i>
Tar with the same brush	To describe someone/something as being the same as another person/ thing using an undesirable attribute, especially unjustly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>We shouldn't tar all athletes with the same brush because not all of them resort to doping.</i>
Drama queen	A person who tends to react to every event or situation in an exaggerated way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>She is such a drama queen! She always tends to exaggerate problems.</i>

		<p><i>A: I'm giving up, it's time to admit that I'm a loser. I'm tired of trying and failing!</i></p> <p><i>B: Stop being a drama queen! I bet you'll succeed if you keep on working hard, don't panic. It's OK to be tired sometimes, just remember to give yourself some rest.</i></p>
Fine art	Something requiring highly developed techniques and skills.	<p>• <i>Managing a large team of professionals is a fine art – I wish I could do it as well as Nick does.</i></p> <p><i>A: Why did you choose me?</i></p> <p><i>B: Because of managing a large team is a fine art. It's highly appreciated here. Your experience is impressive. We really want you to join us.</i></p>
Poetic justice	A situation in which virtue is rewarded and vice is punished, in such a way that this justice seems proper and ironic.	<p>• <i>It is poetic justice that the economic crisis is affecting the bankers who are blamed for causing it in the first place.</i></p> <p><i>A: Jack won the contest after Jay tried to get him banned from it.</i></p> <p><i>B: Isn't it poetic justice?</i></p>
Thumbnail sketch	A short description or small picture that presents a smaller version of a larger image.	<i>The accountant gave a thumbnail sketch of the financial situation of the company.</i>
To a fine art	Something done in a way that is based on highly developed skill.	<i>This company elevates web design to a fine art.</i>
Under canvas	To be in a tent.	<i>The soldiers are under canvas.</i>
Flimflam artist	The phrase refers to a swindler, especially one who goes after a	<i>Don't trust him! He is a flimflam artist.</i>

	big game and prepares for it carefully.	<i>A: Can't believe Eric could wrap me around his finger!</i> <i>B: I've never trusted him. He's nothing more than a flimflam artist.</i>
Poetry in motion	Someone or something that moves in a way that is very graceful or beautiful.	<i>The girl was like poetry in motion when she was dancing.</i> <i>A: What's so special about this girl?</i> <i>B: Oh, you should see her! The way she walks, the way she talks, the way she dances. She's pure poetry in motion!</i>
State of the art	The phrase refers to something that reflects the highest level of development, something that is very up-to-date.	<i>This car reflects the state of the art in the automobile industry.</i>
Paint something with a broad brush	To describe something in general terms, without mentioning specific details and without paying attention to individual variations.	<i>When asked about his policy to reform the education system, the president painted his plan with a broad brush.</i> <i>A: I don't trust this candidate.</i> <i>B: Neither do I. I can't understand what he is going to do exactly to stabilize the economy. He paints his plan with a very broad brush.</i>

PRACTICAL TASKS

Task I. Choose the right variant.

1. To describe something in general terms, without mentioning specific details and without paying attention to individual variations.

- A: Once in a blue moon
- B: Be an item
- C: Paint something with a broad brush
- D: Stool pigeon

2. To be not attractive.

- A: Cost a bomb
- B: Draw the short straw
- C: Party hearty
- D: Be no oil painting

3. A person who makes a living by swindling people.

- A: Con artist
- B: Face the music
- C: Chase rainbows
- D: Labor of love

4. To describe someone/something as being the same as another person/thing using an undesirable attribute, especially unjustly.

- A: A man/woman/person of action
- B: Red ink
- C: Tar with the same brush
- D: All dressed up and nowhere to go

5. The phrase refers to something with no content such that it can be easily filled with completely new things.

- A: Blank canvas
- B: Get off the track
- C: Desert a sinking ship
- D: Greener pastures

6. A situation in which virtue is rewarded and vice is punished, in such a way that this justice seems proper and ironic.

- A: Weather permitting
- B: Hitch one's wagon to a star
- C: Poetic justice
- D: Every minute

7. A person who tends to react to every event or situation in an exaggerated way.

- A: Bad blood
- B: Make love, not war
- C: Learn by heart
- D: Drama queen

8. Something requiring highly developed techniques and skills.

- A: Blessing in disguise
- B: Take a deep breath
- C: Beats me
- D: Fine art

9. A short description or small picture that presents a smaller version of a larger image.

- A: Come hell or high water
- B: On all fours
- C: Let sleeping dogs lie
- D: Thumbnail sketch

10. Someone or something that moves in a way that is very graceful or beautiful.

- A: Under a cloud
- B: The mother of all
- C: Poetry in motion
- D: Bad blood

11. The phrase refers to a swindler, especially one who goes after a big game and prepares for it carefully.

- A: Keep tabs on
- B: Throw in the towel
- C: Flimflam artist
- D: On the take

12. The phrase refers to something that reflects the highest level of development, something that is very up-to-date.

- A: You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar
- B: Old wives' tale
- C: State of the art
- D: Be dead to the world

Task II. Write the right letter next to the sentence.

1. A situation in which virtue is rewarded and vice is punished, in such a way that this justice seems proper and ironic. ____
2. To be in a tent. ____
3. To be not attractive. ____
4. A short description or small picture that presents a smaller version of a larger image. ____
5. The phrase refers to a swindler, especially one who goes after a big game and prepares for it carefully. ____
6. A person who makes a living by swindling people. ____
7. The phrase refers to something that reflects the highest level of development, something that is very up-to-date. ____
8. To describe someone/ something as being the same as another person/ thing using an undesirable attribute, especially unjustly. ____
9. Someone or something that moves in a way that is very graceful or beautiful. ____
10. A person who tends to react to every event or situation in an exaggerated way. ____
11. Something done in a way that is based on highly developed skill. ____
12. The phrase refers to something with no content such that it can be easily filled with completely new things. ____

- A. Be no oil painting
- B. Con artist
- C. Thumbnail sketch
- D. Tar with the same brush
- E. Drama queen
- F. Blank canvas
- G. Poetic justice
- H. To a fine art
- I. State of the art
- J. Poetry in motion
- K. Under canvas
- L. Flimflam artist

Task III. Which idioms do these pictures make you think of? There are two choices that you don't need to use.

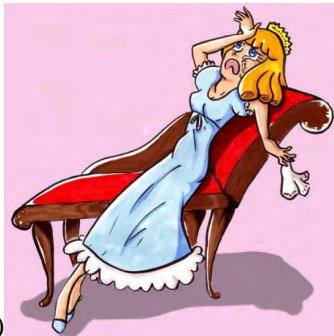
(be no oil painting; flimflam artist; blank canvas; con artist; drama queen; under canvas)



a)



b)



c)



d)

Task IV. Replace the underlined phrases with the correct idioms.

1. His description of national politics is very general and without the details.
2. Because his older brother had been a troublemaker at the school, Paul was automatically judged to have the same bad qualities. It wasn't fair!
3. Bob is unattractive but he's very kind and loving.

4. Campsites in the New Forest quickly filled up as thousands decided to spend the holiday in tents.
5. Class, each of you will need to submit a short description of your essay topic for my approval.
6. The horse was training so well; he was very graceful.
7. This new television set reflects the highest level of development in screen technology.

Task V. Write a sentence or a couple of sentences for each of these idioms to show their meaning.

- Fine art
- Poetic justice
- To a fine art
- Flimflam artist

CRIME

Idiom	Description	Example
I could murder something	It means that you really want to eat or drink something.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I'm so hungry, I could murder a pizza.</i>
A diamond in the rough	A person or thing having good underlying qualities while appearing to be coarse and unpolished.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>He'd been in jail several times for fraud, but when he found my lost wallet he returned it. He's a diamond in the rough.</i> • <i>A: I'd never thought he could be so hard- working. I'm amazed.</i> <i>B: Yeah, I know what you mean. He's a funny guy who always laughs and jokes, but when it comes to work, he knows how to concentrate and show great results. He's a diamond in the rough.</i>
Crime doesn't pay	This idiom is used to suggest that crime will ultimately not benefit a person.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Doing something illegal to get money may be tempting sometimes, but in fact, crime doesn't pay.</i> • <i>A: Do you remember the days you were broke?</i> <i>B: Of course, I do. It wasn't easy at all to make ends meet. At the moments of despair, doing something illegal looked pretty tempting. Fortunately, common sense prevailed. Danger and illegal money may attract you, but in fact, crime doesn't pay. Don't forget about it.</i>
No saint	Someone who might claim to be of good behavior but has, in fact, a sordid past.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>She was critical of those girls in short skirts, but she's no saint herself.</i>

Poverty is not a crime	This expression means that we shouldn't condemn people for their poverty.	• <i>I don't know why the police are chasing those poor people out of town. Poverty is not a crime.</i>
Beat the rap	To evade conviction and punishment for a crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The lawyer helped John beat the rap after being caught by the police.</i> • <i>A: Have you heard the latest news about Jack?</i> <i>B: Yeah, he's been caught by police again. But I'm pretty sure his lawyer will help him to beat the rap.</i>
Hand in the till	To steal from one's employer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The boss fired him because he was caught with his hand in the till.</i> • <i>A: Where's Elizabeth?</i> <i>B: She doesn't work here anymore. Mr. Armstrong finally caught her with her hand in the till. He decided to fire her.</i>
Highway robbery	A price or a fee that is exorbitantly high.	• <i>The price for wine in this restaurant is simply highway robbery.</i>
In the dock	To be on trial in a court, especially for criminal cases.	• <i>The accused stood in the dock.</i>
On the take	Used to describe a person who is in a position of authority and takes or seeks to take bribes or illegal income.	• <i>This is a country where many officials are on the take.</i>
Date rape	Forced sexual intercourse perpetrated against the victim.	• <i>There have been so many stories of date rape in the news lately that Suzy arranged to meet her date in a busy pub.</i>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A: How come you're not afraid to date strangers? There are so many stories about date rapes.</i> • <i>B: For a first date, I prefer going to public places, so I can feel safe and comfortable.</i>
Fell off the back of a lorry	A coy reference to an item that has been stolen.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>That iPad I just bought in the pub was really cheap. Best not to ask me where it came from. Let's just say it fell off the back of a lorry.</i> • <i>A: You're so lucky to have this camera! It must cost you an arm and a leg!</i> • <i>B: Not really. You won't believe how cheap it was. Let's just say it fell off the back of a lorry.</i>
In cold blood	To do something without feeling or with cruel intention.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I can't believe this is real. He just shot that woman in cold blood and walked away!</i>
Serve time	To spend a certain amount of time in prison as required by one's prison sentence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>After the gangster had served his time in jail, he got married and found a job.</i>
Cat burglar	A thief who breaks into buildings by skillfully climbing through upstairs windows, across roofs, etc. without attracting notice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>He was known for being a cat burglar who only stole from apart</i> • <i>A: Someone came through the window and stole my money and iPad. Are there any chances to catch the thief?</i> • <i>B: I'm pretty sure we'll find the one who did it. The chief suspect is a local cat burglar. When it comes to entering buildings by climbing through windows, he's the most skilled thief in this town.</i>

In cahoots with	To be in a partnership with somebody, often for unscrupulous purposes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I saw the pickpocket give Jack the watch he'd stolen. Jack later claimed that he didn't know him but it seems obvious that they were in cahoots.</i>
Stool pigeon	A decoy or an informer, especially one who is a spy for the police.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>He was killed by a gangster because he was thought to be a stool pigeon.</i>
Behind bars	To be in prison.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>He spent three years behind bars.</i> • <i>A: Why did you quit this company? You had a good salary.</i> • <i>B: Yeah, the salary was great. But my boss was a thieving businessman, and I didn't want to spend my life behind bars because of him.</i>
Prick (one's) conscience	An idiomatic expression that indicates a feeling of guilt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The picture of the dead Syrian boy lying face down in the sand on a Turkish beach pricked my conscience.</i>
Set a thief to catch a thief	It means that one dishonest person can guess what another dishonest person might do.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The government set a thief to catch a thief. They hired a hacker to entrap other hackers who tried to break into the Pentagon's databases.</i>
There is honor among thieves	This means that even among criminals there is a code of conduct and that they do not commit crimes against each other. The phrase is often used in the negative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The gangsters had a strong respect for their old boss. It demonstrates that there is honor among thieves.</i>
(As) thick as thieves	Intimate, close-knit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Alan and John attended a boarding school together and were thick as thieves.</i>

Crime doesn't pay	This idiom is used to suggest that crime will ultimately not benefit a person.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Doing something illegal to get money may be tempting sometimes, but in fact, crime doesn't pay.</i> • <i>A: Do you remember the days you were broke?</i> • <i>B: Of course, I do. It wasn't easy at all to make ends meet. At the moments of despair, doing something illegal looked pretty tempting. Fortunately, common sense prevailed. Danger and illegal money may attract you, but in fact, crime doesn't pay. Don't forget about it.</i>
On the run	To move from place to place; to be in a vulnerable position, as of a competitor close to defeat; to run from the police.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The murderer is still on the run.</i>
The weed of crime bears bitter fruit	Nothing good comes from criminal schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Don't mislead yourself. You will pay for your crimes one day; the weed of crime bears bitter fruit.</i>

PRACTICAL TASKS

Task I. Choose the right variant.

- 1. This idiom is used to suggest that crime will ultimately not benefit a person.**
A: Armed to the teeth
B: Under pressure
C: Crime doesn't pay
D: Give somebody the elbow
- 2. This expression means that we shouldn't condemn people for their poverty.**
A: Poverty is not a crime
B: Cross swords
C: Keep one's eye open
D: Rough time
- 3. Someone who might claim to be of good behavior but has, in fact, a sordid past.**
A: Scratch one's head
B: No saint
C: Heart of gold
D: Be dead to the world
- 4. It means that you really want to eat or drink something.**
A: Work like a beaver
B: Dark horse
C: Take it or leave it
D: I could murder something
- 5. A person or thing having good underlying qualities while appearing to be coarse and unpolished.**
A: A diamond in the rough
B: Be dead to the world
C: Handle someone with kid gloves
D: What's the magic word?
- 6. To do something without feeling or with cruel intention.**
A: Time is money
B: Dead duck
C: In cold blood
D: Armed to the teeth
- 7. Used to describe a person who is in a position of authority and takes or seeks to take bribes or illegal income.**
A: In this day and age
B: On the take
C: Golden opportunity
D: Shift gears
- 8. Forced sexual intercourse perpetrated against the victim.**
A: Ball someone or something up
B: Tar with the same brush
C: Work your fingers to the bone
D: Date rape
- 9. To spend a certain amount of time in prison as required by one's prison sentence.**
A: Serve time
B: Drama queen
C: Take for a ride
D: It has someone's name on it
- 10. A coy reference to an item that has been stolen.**
A: Wear your heart on your sleeve
B: Tempest in a teapot
C: Fell off the back of a lorry
D: Over my dead body
- 11. A decoy or an informer, especially one who is a spy for the police.**
A: Nurse someone back to health
B: Kissing cousin
C: Stool pigeon
D: Red-letter day
- 12. To be in a partnership with somebody, often for unscrupulous purposes.**
A: In cahoots with
B: Easy come, easy go
C: On the table
D: Pack a wallop

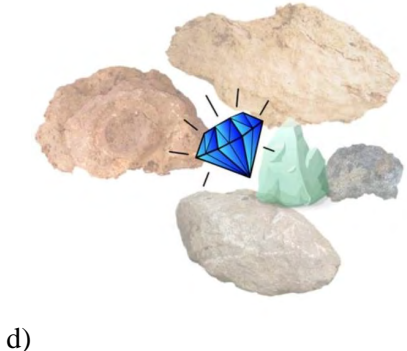
Task II. Write the right letter next to the sentence.

1. A price or a fee that is exorbitantly high. ____
2. Used to describe a person who is in a position of authority and takes or seeks to take bribes or illegal income. ____
3. To be on trial in a court, especially for criminal cases. ____
4. To steal from one's employer. ____
5. This means that even among criminals there is a code of conduct and that they do not commit crimes against each other. The phrase is often used in the negative. ____
6. An idiomatic expression that indicates a feeling of guilt. ____
7. To be in prison. ____
8. A coy reference to an item that has been stolen. ____
9. This idiom is used to suggest that crime will ultimately not benefit a person. ____
10. A thief who breaks into buildings by skillfully climbing through upstairs windows, across roofs, etc. without attracting notice. ____
11. To spend a certain amount of time in prison as required by one's prison sentence. ____
12. Nothing good comes from criminal schemes. ____

- A. Hand in the till
- B. On the take
- C. Cat burglar
- D. There is honor among thieves
- E. Fell off the back of a lorry
- F. Highway robbery
- G. Serve time
- H. Crime doesn't pay
- I. Prick (one's) conscience
- J. The weed of crime bears bitter fruit
- K. Behind bars
- L. In the dock

Task III. Which idioms do these pictures make you think of? There are two choices that you don't need to use.

(date rape; a diamond in a rough; stool pigeon; there is honor among thieves; cat burglar; fell off the back of a lorry)



Task IV. Replace the underlined phrases with the correct idioms.

1. I'm famished after that hike. I really want to eat a hamburger right now.
2. With the right lawyer, you can definitely escape punishment and avoid any jail time.
3. You paid ten dollars for that meat? That's exorbitantly high price.
4. I hear Mike's uncle is in jail again. I wonder what he did this time!

5. The gangster was loyal to his associates and did not tell their names to the police, demonstrating that criminals do not commit crimes against each other.
6. I'm sure she tells Ruth everything we say - they're very close friends.
7. The accused stood on trial in court through the entire proceeding.

Task V. Write a sentence or a couple of sentences for each of these idioms to show their meaning.

- Poverty is not a crime
- In cahoots with
- Crime doesn't pay
- On the run

FOOD

Idiom	Description	Example
Banana republic	A small country, especially one in Central America, that is dependent on a single export commodity and that has a corrupt, dictatorial government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Banana republic countries need democratization.</i> <i>A: Don't you miss your motherland?</i> <i>B: Sometimes I do. But I'm happy I don't have to live in this banana republic anymore. I'm much happier right now.</i>
Carrot and stick	An offer involving a reward countered by the threat of punishment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The president took a carrot and stick approach to the protests against his new laws.</i>
Have egg on one's face	To be embarrassed by something one has done.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>If the president doesn't keep his promises, he will end up having egg on his face.</i>
The icing on the cake	Something that makes a good situation even better.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Winning the race was great. Getting a medal and a prize was the icing on the cake.</i>
Walk on eggshells	To be overly careful in dealing with a person or situation; to be careful and sensitive, in handling very sensitive matters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>He was walking on eggshells when he was talking to him about his wife.</i>
A piece of cake	A task that can be accomplished very easily.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jumping that two-foot fence? No problem – a piece of cake.</i>
Above the salt	It means that someone is in a position of high standing, rank, regard, or repute.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Kate considers herself above the salt since getting a job promotion two months ago.</i> • <i>A: What is the best thing about your boss?</i>

		<i>B: Even though he's above the salt, he still truly cares about his employees and does a lot to make them feel comfortable. You can always ask him for some advice and be sure he'll help you.</i>
All one's eggs in one basket	The state of having invested heavily in just one area or of having devoted all of one's resources to one thing.	<i>Nick put all his eggs in one basket by just applying to Oxford, but it's the only university he wants to go to. A: Was it scary to move to LA on your own? B: I was nervous, it was risky. Anyway, I put all my eggs in one basket. Fortunately, my plan worked out!</i>
Bad egg	Bad person.	<i>You'd better avoid him. He's a bad egg. A: Why don't you want me to deal with him? B: He's out of your league. He can bring you more trouble than joy, he's a bad egg.</i>
She'll be apples	Everything will be alright.	<i>Don't worry about the exam. She'll be apples, considering how hard you've prepared!</i>
Apple of somebody's eye	Said about someone whom you love the most and you are very proud of.	<i>His son is the apple of his eye. A: Thank you, Granny. You always support even my craziest ideas. B: Oh, darling! You're the apple of my eye, I'm glad to support you! I want you to be happy.</i>
Bear fruit	To yield successful results.	<i>He thinks his new plan will undoubtedly bear fruit. A: Any other suggestions? I think we should stick to the plan.</i>

Come to fruition		<i>B: If we do it, this strategy will bear fruit. I'm sure we must try it.</i>
	It means to become reality or to be completed as planned.	<i>My plans have not come to fruition yet.</i>
Cream of the crop	The best of all.	<i>Don't worry about your studies; you are the cream of the crop.</i>
That's the way the cookie crumbles	Things don't always turn out the way we hope, and there's no reason to be upset about it.	<i>In spite of her kindness, she is the least popular in her class. But that's the way the cookie crumbles.</i>
Butter up	To praise or flatter excessively.	<i>Why are you always buttering up the boss? Anyway, he's superior to flattery and won't give you a promotion until he sees your progress, so you'd better concentrate on work.</i>
In(to) a jam	In a difficult situation.	<i>He found himself in a jam when he was caught cheating.</i>
You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar	It is much easier to get what you want by being polite rather than by being rude and insolent.	<i>Just be polite when you ask for something. You know, you can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar.</i>
Big cheese	An important or influential person in a group or organization.	<i>Apparently, he's a big cheese at NASA.</i>
Buy a lemon	Waste money by purchasing a car that is frequently faulty.	<i>I thought that my new VW was top of the range but it's never out of the repair garage -it seems I've bought a lemon.</i>
Hot potato	An awkward or delicate problem with	<i>Gun control in the United States has always been a hot potato for politicians.</i>

In a nutshell	which nobody wants to be associated.	
	In summary.	<i>In a nutshell, the truth is that I know nothing about what they want me to do in this job.</i>
Take the cake	To be especially bad, outrageous, or objectionable.	<i>Have you seen how she lies about her ex-husband? I've seen a lot of liars, but she definitely takes the cake.</i>
Get out of a jam	Get out of a bad situation.	<i>I need some help in getting out of a jam.</i>
Traffic jam	A lot of vehicles causing slow traffic.	<i>We got stuck in a traffic jam for more than an hour.</i>
Be nuts about	To be very enthusiastic about something or greatly in love with it.	<i>I'm nuts about this type of music. I can listen to it all day long!</i> <i>A: Tell me about your hobbies.</i> <i>B: Oh, I love reading and jogging. And I'm nuts about music!</i>
Bite off more than (one) can chew	Take on a task that is more than one can manage.	<i>You should never have challenged Usain Bolt to a race – you've really bitten off more than you can chew there.</i>
Bring home the bacon	To get a job and bring home money earned from this job.	<i>When her husband got fired, she decided to look for a job because someone's got to bring home the bacon.</i>
Can't cut the mustard	To be unable to meet the demands put upon you.	<i>He got that promotion too soon. He can't really cut the mustard.</i>
Spill the beans	To reveal a secret.	<i>Why did you spill the beans about our new project? It was supposed to be top secret.</i>
Chew the cud	To contemplate something.	<i>I've been chewing my cud for days, but I still haven't decided whether I'm taking the job or not.</i>

Eye candy	A very attractive person or persons or any object or sight with considerable visual appeal.	<i>The computer graphics added lots of eye candy to that movie.</i>
Sell like hotcakes	Something that is sold very quickly and in large numbers.	<i>The store is selling the books like hotcakes.</i>
Walk on eggs	It means to be very careful in dealing with a person or situation.	<i>I was walking on eggs when I told her the truth.</i>

PRACTICAL TASKS

Task I. Choose the right variant.

1. Things don't always turn out the way we hope, and there's no reason to be upset about it.

- A: Not in a million years
- B: That's the way the cookie crumbles
- C: Shift gears
- D: Scream bloody murder

2. It means to become reality or to be completed as planned.

- A: Caught in the crossfire
- B: Come to fruition
- C: Put the pedal to the metal
- D: Go with the flow

3. To yield successful results.

- A: The calm before the storm
- B: Running battle
- C: Every man jack of us/them
- D: Bear fruit

4. The best of all.

- A: Poverty is not a crime
- B: Carrot and stick
- C: Cream of the crop
- D: Separate the wheat from the chaff

5. Said about someone whom you love the most and you are very proud of.

- A: Boots on the ground
- B: Blank cheque
- C: Dip your toe in the water
- D: Apple of somebody's eye

6. An important or influential person in a group or organization.

- A: Big cheese
- B: For my money
- C: Get on like a house on fire
- D: Dog's life

7. To be especially bad, outrageous, or objectionable.

- A: Money talks
- B: Make a fast buck
- C: Know something inside and out
- D: Take the cake

8. In summary.

- A: Vanish into the air
- B: Above the salt
- C: Below the salt
- D: In a nutshell

9. Waste money by purchasing a car that is frequently faulty.

- A: Put words in somebody's mouth
- B: Traffic jam
- C: Buy a lemon
- D: Laugh up your sleeve

10. An awkward or delicate problem with which nobody wants to be associated.

- A: Get a life
- B: Hot potato
- C: Back the wrong horse
- D: Black sheep

11. To get a job and bring home money earned from this job.

- A: Bring home the bacon
- B: Dog's age
- C: Advanced age
- D: Shape up or ship out

12. To be unable to meet the demands put upon you.

- A: On a shoestring
- B: Speak of the devil
- C: Can't cut the mustard
- D: Step into somebody's shoes

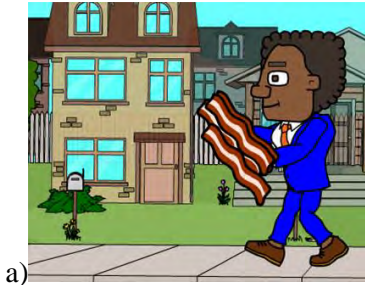
Task II. Write the right letter next to the sentence.

1. An offer involving a reward countered by the threat of punishment. ____
2. A small country, especially one in Central America, that is dependent on a single export commodity and that has a corrupt, dictatorial government. ____
3. To be embarrassed by something one has done. ____
4. To be overly careful in dealing with a person or situation; to be careful and sensitive, in handling very sensitive matters. ____
5. Something that makes a good situation even better. ____
6. It means that someone is in a position of high standing, rank, regard, or repute. ____
7. Bad person. ____
8. Everything will be alright. ____
9. A task that can be accomplished very easily. ____
10. The state of having invested heavily in just one area or of having devoted all of one's resources to one thing. ____
11. It is much easier to get what you want by being polite rather than by being rude and insolent. ____
12. To praise or flatter excessively. ____

- A. The icing on the cake
- B. Have egg on one's face
- C. She'll be apples
- D. You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar
- E. Above the salt
- F. A piece of cake
- G. Banana republic
- H. All one's eggs in one basket
- I. Walk on eggshells
- J. Carrot and stick)
- K. Butter up
- L. Bad egg

Task III. Which idioms do these pictures make you think of? There are two choices that you don't need to use.

(bring home the bacon; eye candy; apple of somebody's eye; walk on eggshells; the icing on the cake; a piece of cake)



Task IV. Replace the underlined phrases with the correct idioms.

1. I thought that my humongous science assignment would take all week, but I finished it in an hour. My assignment was very easy!
2. These delicious strawberries are the best.
3. This record has been selling very quickly — I can't keep it in stock!
4. Don't worry about the presentation. Everything will be fine, considering how hard you've worked!
5. We had everything organized for Bruce's surprise party, but Kate accidentally revealed a secret to him at work.

6. We're in a troublesome situation now because the hotel gave our room away!

7. Stay away from Gordon. He's a thoroughly unpleasant person and the biggest bully in the school.

Task V. Write a sentence or a couple of sentences for each of these idioms to show their meaning.

- Eye candy

- Be nuts about

- Hot potato

- You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar

HEALTH

Idiom	Description	Example
Be sick and tired of	To be or become very worried by, bored of, or annoyed with something.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I'm sick and tired of hearing your excuses!</i> <p><i>A: You look exhausted. Tell me how you feel.</i></p> <p><i>B: I'm just... I'm just so sick and tired of these endless problems. I'm overwhelmed with all this stress.</i></p>
Black out	To lose consciousness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>He blacked out when he fell.</i> • <i>A: Have you ever lost consciousness before?</i> <p><i>B: Yes, it was several years ago. I was worried about a very important exam and blacked out near the classroom.</i></p>
In bad shape	In bad physical or mental condition. It also means to struggle financially or functioning poorly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bill is in bad shape. He needs to exercise regularly and go on a diet.</i> <p><i>A: Does he still drinks?</i></p> <p><i>B: Even more than before. No wonder he's in bad shape.</i></p>
Just what the doctor ordered	Exactly what is required or wanted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Orange juice? Thank you so much! Orange juice is just what the doctor ordered.</i>
Poison pill	A type of defensive tactic used by companies against a takeover.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>This famous corporation approved a poison pill to prevent an unwelcome takeover.</i>
Be full of beans	Said about someone who is active, lively, healthy and has a lot of energy and enthusiasm. It is also	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>He's always full of beans when he goes to work.</i> <p><i>A: You're so energetic and full of beans when you go to work! Is that your superpower?</i></p>

In the best of health	used to call something nonsensical.	<i>B: I just love my job! It fills me with energy every day.</i>
	In excellent physical and mental condition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>He's in the best of health because he exercises regularly and doesn't eat junk food.</i> <p><i>A: How are you? What's new?</i> <i>B: I'm doing great! I sleep well, work hard, play tennis two times a week and go swimming three times a week. I've given up eating junk food, you can't catch me with a huge slice of pizza anymore. I'm in the best of health now.</i></p>
Safe and sound	Safe and without injury or damage.	<i>The kids returned from the excursion safe and sound.</i>
Alive and kicking	To continue to be well, healthy or successful.	<p><i>Don't worry about your grandfather; he is alive and kicking. Classical music is still alive and kicking among youngsters.</i></p> <p><i>A: How are your grandparents?</i> <i>B: Oh, they're alive and kicking.</i></p>
(As) blind as a bat	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Having very bad eyesight. 2. To screw up eyes to something. 	<p><i>Without her glasses, she is as blind as a bat.</i></p> <p><i>He is as blind as a bat when it comes to his wife's shameful behavior.</i></p> <p><i>A: Is it necessary to find your glasses right now?</i> <i>B: Absolutely. I'm as blind as a bat without them.</i></p>
Picture of (good) health	In a very healthy condition.	<i>The doctor told him that he is a picture of good health.</i>
Nurse someone back to health	To look after a sick person until he recovers.	<i>He is fortunate to have such a caring wife. She was glad to nurse him back to health.</i>

A clean bill of health	Said when you examine someone or something and state that they are healthy, in good condition, or legal.	<p><i>The president was given a clean bill of health by his doctors.</i></p> <p><i>The company received a clean bill of health because it fulfilled all the safety requirements.</i></p> <p><i>A: Have you done a medical check-up this year?</i></p> <p><i>B: Yep! I received a clean bill of health from my physician.</i></p>
Take a deep breath	To pause, especially to make oneself feel strong and confident.	<p><i>She took a deep breath before doing the hardest part of her work.</i></p>
Bag of bones	An extremely thin person. It also can be used as a disparaging term for a very old person, especially if this person has a frail appearance.	<p><i>He's turning into a bag of bones. He lost so much weight.</i></p> <p><i>A: For real, Mom, I eat well, very well.</i></p> <p><i>B: I see! Look at yourself, you've turned into a bag of bones!</i></p>
White as a sheet	Said about someone whose face is very pale because of illness, shock, or fear.	<p><i>Joe looks as white as sheet. He must be very ill.</i></p>
Bitter pill to swallow	Said about something unpleasant that must be accepted or endured.	<p><i>After the disappointment and defeat, to declare bankruptcy was a bitter pill to swallow for him.</i></p> <p><i>A: Let me know if there's anything I can do for you.</i></p> <p><i>B: Thank you for always being there for me. Breaking up with Mike is a bitter pill to swallow, but I'm strong enough to go through it.</i></p>

PRACTICAL TASKS

Task I. Choose the right variant.

1. To be or become very wearied by, bored of, or annoyed with something.

- A: Be sick and tired of
- B: Black out
- C: In bad shape
- D: Just what the doctor ordered

2. Exactly what is required or wanted.

- A: Be sick and tired of
- B: Black out
- C: In bad shape
- D: Just what the doctor ordered

3. To lose consciousness.

- A: Be sick and tired of
- B: Black out
- C: In bad shape
- D: Just what the doctor ordered

4. In bad physical or mental condition. It also means to struggle financially or functioning poorly.

- A: Poison pill
- B: Be full of beans
- C: In bad shape
- D: Just what the doctor ordered

5. A type of defensive tactic used by companies against a takeover.

- A: Poison pill
- B: Be full of beans
- C: In bad shape
- D: In the best of health

6. In excellent physical and mental condition.

- A: Poison pill
- B: Be full of beans
- C: In bad shape
- D: In the best of health

7. Safe and without injury or damage.

- A: Poison pill
- B: Safe and sound
- C: In bad shape
- D: In the best of health

8. Said about someone who is active, lively, healthy and has a lot of energy and enthusiasm. It is also used to call something nonsensical.

- A: Poison pill
- B: Safe and sound
- C: In bad shape
- D: Be full of beans

9. To continue to be well, healthy or successful.

- A: Live and kicking
- B: Picture of health
- C: Nurse someone back to health
- D: A clean bill of health

10. Said when you examine someone or something and state that they are healthy, in good condition, or legal.

- A: Live and kicking
- B: Picture of health
- C: Bag of bones
- D: A clean bill of health

11. To pause, especially to make oneself feel strong and confident.

- A: Take a deep breath
- B: White as a sheet
- C: Bag of bones
- D: A clean bill of health

12. An extremely thin person. It also can be used as a disparaging term for a very old person, especially if this person has a frail appearance.

- A: As blind as a bat
- B: White as a sheet
- C: Bag of bones
- D: A clean bill of health

Task II. Write the right letter next to the sentence.

1. Exactly what is required or wanted. ____
2. To lose consciousness. ____
3. A type of defensive tactic used by companies against a takeover. ____
4. To be or become very wearied by, bored of, or annoyed with something. ____
5. In excellent physical and mental condition. ____
6. Safe and without injury or damage. ____
7. In bad physical or mental condition. It also means to struggle financially or functioning poorly. ____
8. Said about someone who is active, lively, healthy and has a lot of energy and enthusiasm. It is also used to call something nonsensical. ____
9. To continue to be well, healthy or successful. ____
10. In a very healthy condition. ____
11. 1. Having very bad eyesight. 2. To screw up eyes to something. ____
12. To look after a sick person until he recovers. ____

- A. Be full of beans
- B. (As) blind as a bat
- C. Poison pill
- D. Alive and kicking
- E. Safe and sound
- F. Just what the doctor ordered
- G. In bad shape
- H. Nurse someone back to health
- I. Be sick and tired of
- J. Picture of (good) health
- K. In the best of health
- L. Black out

Task III. Which idioms do these pictures make you think of? There are two choices that you don't need to use.

(bag of bones; picture of (good) health; be full of beans; just what the doctor ordered; in the best of health; be sick and tired of)



a)



b)



c)



d)

Task IV. Replace the underlined phrases with the correct idioms.

1. I thought for sure that old dog wouldn't survive the winter, but he's still active and healthy!
2. I started to get stressed about my presentation, but then I paused for a moment to compose myself and realized I was completely prepared.
3. I've worn glasses for 20 years, so I'm having poor vision now.
4. His face went extremely pale when he saw the burglar in his house.
5. My blood sugar dropped so low during the meeting that I lost consciousness and woke up on the floor.

6. Josie was relieved when she received a report that she is in good physical health from her physician.

7. Oh, Joanie's doing very well—she's really been very healthy since her surgery.

Task V. Write a sentence or a couple of sentences for each of these idioms to show their meaning.

- Bitter pill to swallow
- Safe and sound
- In bad shape
- Nurse someone back to health

HOME

Idiom	Description	Example
Come out of the woodwork	To emerge suddenly and unexpectedly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>He came out of the woodwork to disturb my quiet night.</i> <i>A: Oh, Ellie, don't be so rude! I expected our meeting to be warmer.</i> <i>B: What are you talking about? You've disappeared for two years, and now you're coming out of the woodwork for what? To disturb me and make my life a mess again? Not this time, Dan. I've learned my lessons.</i>
Hit the ceiling/roof	To become very angry and start shouting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>He hit the ceiling when he discovered the truth.</i> • <i>A: Listen, I know that quarrellings are normal. What is not normal is to walk away every time something goes wrong.</i> <i>B: How come you can't understand that I do it because you hit the ceiling every time something goes wrong! I can't stand it! Why can't we talk peacefully?</i>
Make (oneself) at home	A phrase used when you ask your guests to consider themselves as if they were in their own homes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Please, come in, John! Make yourself at home. I've got a few little things to do, it won't take long.</i>
Man's home is his castle	This idiom suggests that one is free to do whatever one want to in one's own home.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>He was furious when they told him not to listen to his favorite music in his own home. He told them that a man's home is his castle.</i>
The home straight	The last part of difficult work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>It was just such a difficult project to work on, but we are on the home straight.</i>

Close to home	Affecting one deeply and emotionally because one can strongly relate to it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>His criticism was a bit too close to home. She couldn't bear the way he talked about her work.</i> <i>A: You should've been more gentle with Nelly. I think your words were close to home for her.</i> <i>B: Well, you're right. I've lost my temper for a moment. I'll apologize to her.</i>
Go through the roof.	To become very angry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>She went through the roof when she realized she had lost everything.</i> <i>A: Ellie will go through the roof when you tell her you've lost her ring!</i> <i>B: Don't I know it! What should I do now? Help me!</i>
Home free	Assured of success because the most difficult part is over.	<i>I'm finally home free: the hardest part of the work is done.</i>
Home truth	An unpleasant fact about oneself.	<i>It is high time I told him a few home truths.</i>
A roof over your head	A place to live.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>He was so poor that he didn't have a roof over his head.</i> <i>A: How do you like your new flat?</i> <i>B: I love it! I finally have a roof over my head. I'm absolutely happy.</i>
Charity begins at home	This proverb means that before deciding to take care of other people, one's family should be one's foremost concern.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Take care of your children before volunteering in any association. Charity begins at home.</i> <i>A: He regularly gives plenty of money to charity funds, but his children don't even have good winter shoes.</i> <i>B: Yeah, and their clothes... Poor children! Their father must have forgotten that charity begins at home.</i>

Hit a home run		<i>He should be more generous to his sons.</i>
	To be successful.	<i>They hit a home run with their excellent performance in the new play. A: Stop doubting yourself. You have everything to hit a home run, go for it! B: Thank you for putting so much faith in me!</i>
Roof something over	To provide something with a roof.	<i>After the earthquake, they had to roof the shed over.</i>
Sweep something under the rug.	To hide something because it's embarrassing.	<i>Because many famous people were involved in the affair, everything was swept under the rug.</i>
The home stretch	The last part of difficult work.	<i>We are on the home stretch after a year of hard work.</i>
Go home in a box	To die and be shipped home	<i>Are you sure you have enough energy to drive? You look very tired. Come on, you should have some rest. Let me drive, I don't want to go home in a box. A: Stay away from my sister, or I guarantee you'll go home in a box! B: Leave him alone, George, he doesn't worth your attention.</i>
Home away from home	A place where you are at ease as if you were at home.	<i>When I used to visit her, it felt like a real home away from home. A: Do you like New York? B: Yes, it's one of my favourite cities. I visit it so often, it feels like my home away from home.</i>
Wake up on the wrong side of (the) bed	To feel grumpy, irritable; to be easily annoyed.	<i>She must have woken up on the wrong side of the bed this morning. She can't stop shouting all day long.</i>

PRACTICAL TASKS

Task I. Choose the right variant.

- 1. A phrase used when you ask your guests to consider themselves as if they were in their own homes.**
- A. The weed of crime bears bitter fruit
 - B. Tighten your belt
 - C. Make (oneself) at home
 - D. Snake oil salesman
- 2. To emerge suddenly and unexpectedly.**
- A. Beat a retreat
 - B. Come out of the woodwork
 - C. Have a cow
 - D. State of the art
- 3. The idiom suggests that one is free to do whatever one want to in one's own home.**
- A. Money for jam/money for old rope
 - B. Get on like a house on fire
 - C. Man's home is his castle
 - D. Hit the ceiling/roof
- 4. The last part of difficult work.**
- A. Man cannot live by bread alone
 - B. Strapped for cash
 - C. Read the riot act
 - D. The home straight
- 5. To become very angry and start shouting.**
- A. Hit the ceiling/roof
 - B. Name the day
 - C. The boot is on the other foot
 - D. Put years on (one)
- 6. Assured of success because the most difficult part is over.**
- A. Sour as vinegar
 - B. Up-to-date
 - C. Pull the other leg
 - D. Home free
- 7. An unpleasant fact about oneself.**
- A. Coining it/money
 - B. Home truth
 - C. Chalk something up to experience
 - D. Walk on eggshells
- 8. Affecting one deeply and emotionally because one can strongly relate to it.**
- A. Call it a day
 - B. Call off the dogs
 - C. Close to home
 - D. The straw that broke the camel's back.
- 9. To become very angry.**
- A. Marked man
 - B. A whole new ball game
 - C. Sputnik moment
 - D. Go through the roof
- 10. To be successful.**
- A. Marked man
 - B. A whole new ball game
 - C. Hit a home run
 - D. Go through the roof
- 11. A place to live.**
- A. A roof over your head
 - B. A whole new ball game
 - C. Hit a home run
 - D. Go through the roof
- 12. This proverb means that before deciding to take care of other people, one's family should be one's foremost concern.**
- A. Charity begins at home
 - B. A whole new ball game
 - C. Hit a home run
 - D. Go through the roof

Task II. Write the right letter next to the sentence.

1. A place to live. ____
2. To become very angry and start shouting. ____
3. This idiom suggests that one is free to do whatever one want to in one's own home.
4. This proverb means that before deciding to take care of other people, one's family should be one's foremost concern. ____
5. Affecting one deeply and emotionally because one can strongly relate to it. ____
6. To be successful. ____
7. To hide something because it's embarrassing. ____
8. To provide something with a roof. ____
9. The last part of difficult work. ____
10. A place where you are at ease as if you were at home. ____
11. To feel grumpy, irritable; to be easily annoyed. ____
12. Assured of success because the most difficult part is over. ____

- A.** Man's home is his castle
- B.** Wake up on the wrong side of (the) bed
- C.** To sweep something under the rug
- D.** Hit the ceiling/roof
- E.** Close to home
- F.** Home away from home
- G.** Roof something over
- H.** The home stretch
- I.** Hit a home run
- J.** Home free
- K.** A roof over your head
- L.** Charity begins at home

Task III. Which idioms do these pictures make you think of? There are two choices that you don't need to use.

(a roof over your head; roof something over; wake up on the wrong side of (the) bed; the home stretch; hit the ceiling/roof; hit a home run)



Task IV. Replace the underlined phrases with the correct idioms.

1. Mom will react angrily when she finds out we disobeyed her again.
2. You had better be careful on this camping trip, or you'll be shipped home dead.
3. No one had anything negative to say when I first pitched this idea, but now people are appearing unexpectedly to criticize it.
4. Don't tell me not to go around the house in my underwear. I can do whatever I want to in my own home.
5. You need to stop concealing your problems from public view. Nothing will get resolved like that!

6. The bulk of the work is behind us now—we're on the final part of our project!

7. After growing tired of Paul's constant complaining, Jana decided to tell him a few unpleasant facts about his bad attitude.

Task V. Write a sentence or a couple of sentences for each of these idioms to show their meaning.

- Home free
- Home away from home
- Make (oneself) at home
- Charity begins at home

LANGUAGE

Idiom	Description	Example
Beyond words	A situation where one cannot find words to express one's emotions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I am thankful beyond words.</i> <i>A: I appreciate your help so much! I'm thankful beyond words.</i> <i>B: You're very welcome!</i>
Body language	Any gesture, position, or movement of the body or face that's used to communicate non-verbally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>He hated her, and his feelings were clearly expressed in his body language.</i> • <i>A: Why don't you trust her?</i> <i>B: You'd better stop being so unwary. Her words may be beautiful, but her real intentions are expressed in her body language. It can't lie.</i>
In plain English	In clear, simple language.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The instructions are too technical. Why don't they write them in plain English?</i> <i>A: Do you have any questions?</i> <i>B: Yes. The instruction is too hard to understand. Could you please explain in plain English what should I do?</i>
It goes without saying	It refers to something that is so obvious that it is needless to say it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>It goes without saying that you have to wake up early tomorrow morning if you want to participate in the marathon competition.</i> <i>A: What do you think about Kurt?</i> <i>B: It goes without saying that he's one of the brightest personalities of the world music scene. However, I think he's overrated.</i>
It's all Greek to me	Referring to something that is not understandable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>My friend tried to explain to me how to use a new software he had developed, but it was all Greek to me.</i>

Loaded language		<p>●A: <i>Can you explain to me how to use this app? I can't understand, it's all Greek to me.</i></p> <p>B: <i>I'll be glad to help you, Granny! It's easier than you think.</i></p>
	A wording that aims at exerting an influence on an audience by using appeal to emotion or stereotypes.	<p>● <i>Loaded language may be used to control people's behavior.</i></p> <p>A: <i>I'm sick and tired of the corporations trying to fool people! They sell them trash and make money!</i></p> <p>B: <i>They use loaded language in commercials to make people think that promoted goods are exactly what they've been looking for.</i></p>
Talk a mile a minute	To speak very fast; to talk in a very quick or hurried manner.	<p>● <i>I can never follow everything he tries to say. He talks a mile a minute.</i></p> <p>A: <i>Any questions?</i></p> <p>B: <i>Please, could you speak a bit more slowly? You're talking a mile a minute.</i></p>
Talk is cheap	It is easier to say you will do something than to actually do it.	<p><i>My elder brother promised to help me with my homework, but talk is cheap.</i></p> <p>A: <i>Why are you so upset?</i></p> <p>B: <i>My father promised me to spend the weekend together and to go to the zoo, but talk is cheap.</i></p>
Speak the same language	To have the same ideas, tastes, and attitudes as someone else.	<p><i>They come from the same background. They really speak the same language about almost everything.</i></p> <p>A: <i>It seems like you've finally found someone special. Tell me about her!</i></p> <p>B: <i>I don't know what to say. Everything about her seems so</i></p>

		<i>special to me. But the most important thing is that we perfectly understand each other. We speak the same language.</i>
Watch your language	To pay attention to what one is saying.	<i>Don't talk that way! Watch your language. A: You're always talking to me like I'm dumb! I'm so sick of this bullish. B: What? How dare you?! You'd better watch your language, young gentleman!</i>
Words fail me	Idiom that expresses shock, surprise or dismay, especially when one cannot find words to express ones thoughts and feelings about something one has just seen or heard about.	<i>John: Have you seen how she treats her husband? Poor guy, he loves her blindly, but she's so cruel! Liz: Yes, words fail me. I've never seen anything quite like that!</i>
What's the magic word?	The question is an idiomatic expression used for reminding a child to say 'please' when asking for something.	<i>Bobby: Can I have another candy, mommy? Mother: What's the magic word? Bobby: Please.</i>

PRACTICAL TASKS

Task I. Choose the right variant.

1. A situation where one cannot find words to express one's emotions.

- A: Of a certain age
- B: Salt of the earth
- C: Bring down the curtain (on something)
- D: Beyond words

2. Any gesture, position, or movement of the body or face that's used to communicate non-verbally.

- A: Body language
- B: Drop in the bucket
- C: War of words
- D: Blood is thicker than water

3. In clear, simple language.

- A: In a body
- B: In plain English
- C: Name is mud
- D: Make an honest buck

4. It refers to something that is so obvious that it is needless to say it.

- A: Come to a head
- B: It goes without saying
- C: Fine-tune
- D: Put yourself in someone's shoes

5. Referring to something that is not understandable.

- A: Save face
- B: Take the bull by the horns
- C: Once in a blue moon
- D: It's all Greek to me

6. To speak very fast; to talk in a very quick or hurried manner.

- A: Wait for the other shoe to drop
- B: Nine times out of ten
- C: Talk a mile a minute
- D: I'll eat my hat

7. A wording that aims at exerting an influence on an audience by using appeal to emotion or stereotypes.

- A: Blank cheque

- B: Tender age
- C: The calm before the storm
- D: Loaded language

8. It is easier to say you will do something than to actually do it.

- A: Be nuts about
- B: Cut a rug
- C: Talk is cheap
- D: Have a whale of a time

9. To pay attention to what one is saying.

- A: Flimflam artist
- B: Watch your language
- C: Be in black and white
- D: Under the sun

10. To have the same ideas, tastes, and attitudes as someone else.

- A: Drop the subject
- B: Every trick in the book
- C: Speak the same language
- D: Feel like a million

11. Idiom that expresses shock, surprise or dismay, especially when one cannot find words to express ones thoughts and feelings about something one has just seen or heard about.

- A: Black-and-white
- B: Words fail me
- C: You can bet your life
- D: Cog in the machine

12. The question is an idiomatic expression used for reminding a child to say 'please' when asking for something.

- A: Done to death
- B: You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar
- C: What's the magic word?
- D: Play hardball with someone

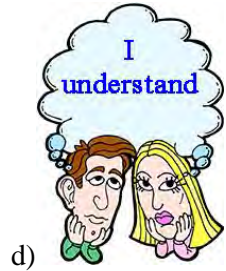
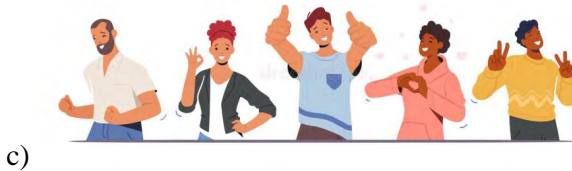
Task II. Write the right letter next to the sentence.

1. A situation where one cannot find words to express one's emotions. ____
2. To have the same ideas, tastes, and attitudes as someone else. ____
3. Referring to something that is not understandable. ____
4. A wording that aims at exerting an influence on an audience by using appeal to emotion or stereotypes. ____
5. To speak very fast; to talk in a very quick or hurried manner. ____
6. Any gesture, position, or movement of the body or face that's used to communicate non-verbally. ____
7. The question is an idiomatic expression used for reminding a child to say 'please' when asking for something. ____
8. It refers to something that is so obvious that it is needless to say it. (it goes without saying)
9. To pay attention to what one is saying. ____
10. In clear, simple language. ____
11. To speak very fast; to talk in a very quick or hurried manner. ____
12. Idiom that expresses shock, surprise or dismay, especially when one cannot find words to express ones thoughts and feelings about something one has just seen or heard about. ____

- A. Loaded language
- B. In plain English
- C. What's the magic word?
- D. Beyond words
- E. Talk is cheap
- F. Talk a mile a minute
- G. Watch your language
- H. It goes without saying
- I. Body language
- J. Speak the same language
- K. It's all Greek to me
- L. Words fail me

Task III. Which idioms do these pictures make you think of? There are two choices that you don't need to use.

(it's all Greek to me; loaded language; in plain English; it goes without saying; speak the same language; body language)



Task IV. Replace the underlined phrases with the correct idioms.

1. When the boss gets excited, she starts talking very fast, and I can never follow everything she's trying to say!
2. I don't understand these documents at all. Why can't they write them more simply and without using technical language?
3. Jane and Jack get along very well. They really have similar ideas about almost everything.
4. Be careful about what you say, young man!
5. You keep saying you're going to start eating better and getting in shape, but it is very easy to talk than to do it.
6. Can you make sense of these instructions? Because I don't understand it at all!

7. I cannot express how I feel because I am too surprised! How could you have been so stupid?

Task V. Write a sentence or a couple of sentences for each of these idioms to show their meaning.

- Loaded language
- What's the magic word?
- Beyond words
- Talk is cheap

LAW

Idiom	Description	Example
Hold someone accountable (for something)	To consider someone responsible for something.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I hold you accountable for whatever happens to my daughter.</i> <i>A: I'm sure my decision is right. I promise everything will be OK.</i> <i>B: Well, but don't forget that I hold you accountable for any possible consequences.</i>
In the eyes of the law	Legally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In the eyes of the law, you are not allowed to treat people like that.</i> • <i>A: This murder case is very important. The fact that even a rich kid like that goes to prison shows we're all equal in the eyes of the law, no matter how much money you have and how hard you try to beat the rap.</i> <i>B: I agree with you. Glad to know that justice is served!</i>
Law unto oneself	A person who behaves in an independent way, ignoring rules and what is generally accepted as correct.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Leila is a law unto herself, she doesn't want to abide by the rules.</i> <i>A: Are you crazy, Julie? Stop acting childish, come back home immediately!</i> <i>B: No, Mom! You have to accept I'm not a child anymore. I'm gonna do what I want. I am a law unto oneself!</i>
The spirit of the law	One is doing what the authors of the law intended, though not necessarily adhering to the literal wording.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A judge who adheres to the spirit of the law is concerned with the intent and purpose of the lawmaker.</i>
Above the law	Not subject to the law, exempt from the laws that apply to everyone else.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Nobody is above the law.</i> • <i>A: Have you heard about this accident? This rich kid Wilson was</i>

		<i>drunk behind the wheel. Two people were hit by his car. His high-powered dad isn't going to help him this time. B: I hope so. Justice must be served. Nobody is above the law.</i>
One's word is law	The idiom means that what someone says must be obeyed.	• <i>There's no point in trying to do things differently. The manager's word is law around here. Just do what he asks you to do.</i>
Unwritten law	The phrase refers to an accepted rule in spite of its informality.	• <i>It's an unwritten law to take your hat off during the national anthem.</i>
Read the riot act	If you do this, you warn or reprimand them energetically or forcefully.	<i>The principal read the riot act to the troublemakers.</i>
Signed, sealed and delivered	This expression refers to a document or an agreement that has been officially signed and completed satisfactorily.	<i>John: Hey, have you finalized the purchase of the estate yet? Leila: Yes, I got all the documents... signed, sealed, and delivered!</i>
The long arm of the law	This idiomatic expression refers to the far-reaching power of the authorities or the police.	<i>You'll never get away with leaving work early; the long arm of the law is bound to catch you.</i>
The letter of the law	This idiom is used when one is obeying the literal interpretation of the law, but not the intent or the spirit of those who wrote the law.	<i>Judges mustn't follow the letter of the law but its spirit.</i>

Above suspicion	A person who is honest enough that no one would suspect.	<p><i>That guy is a peaceful man; he is above suspicion.</i></p> <p><i>A: He's always been such a good man.</i></p> <p><i>B: Still can't believe he could rob. His flawless reputation is the main reason why he's been above suspicion for so long.</i></p>
Bend the law	To cheat a little bit without breaking the law.	<p><i>He just bent the law a little bit to get what he wanted.</i></p> <p><i>A: You must be a rule-breaker, a real bad guy!</i></p> <p><i>B: Come on, I don't break rules! I just like to bend the law sometimes.</i></p>
Necessity knows no law	It means that being desperate and having no means may lead you to do illegal things.	<p><i>He was dealing in illegal drugs because he had to feed four kids.</i></p> <p><i>Necessity knows no law.</i></p>

PRACTICAL TASKS

Task I. Choose the right variant.

1. To tell people what they should do in a forceful and stern way.

- A: Lay down the law
- B: Every dog has its day
- C: Buy a lemon
- D: Drop in the bucket

2. Legally.

- A: In tune with somebody/something
- B: Keep body and soul together
- C: In the eyes of the law
- D: Nurse someone back to health

3. To consider someone responsible for something.

- A: Red ink
- B: Kissing cousin
- C: Cross swords
- D: Hold someone accountable (for something)

4. One is doing what the authors of the law intended, though not necessarily adhering to the literal wording.

- A: In the cold light of day
- B: Draw fire
- C: Get into deep water
- D: The spirit of the law

5. A person who behaves in an independent way, ignoring rules and what is generally accepted as correct.

- A: Wash one's hands of
- B: Captain Obvious
- C: Law unto oneself
- D: Golden age

6. The phrase refers to an accepted rule in spite of its informality.

- A: Weep buckets
- B: Unwritten law
- C: Be nuts about
- D: Food for thought

7. Not subject to the law, exempt from the laws that apply to everyone else.

- A: Above the law
- B: That's the way the cookie crumbles
- C: Beat a dead horse
- D: Possession is nine points of the law

8. If you do this, you warn or reprimand them energetically or forcefully.

- A: Under the influence
- B: Come into money
- C: Read the riot act
- D: Moment of truth

9. This expression refers to a document or an agreement that has been officially signed and completed satisfactorily.

- A: A cold fish
- B: Bite the dust
- C: Signed, sealed and delivered
- D: Be nuts about

10. This idiomatic expression refers to the far-reaching power of the authorities or the police.

- A: The long arm of the law
- B: Poverty is not a crime
- C: Every Tom, Dick and Harry
- D: Until one is blue in the face

11. A person who is honest enough that no one would suspect.

- A: Above suspicion
- B: Pass the buck
- C: Keep one's eye open
- D: Take to something like a duck to water

12. It means that being desperate and having no means may lead you to do illegal things.

- A: The long arm of the law
- B: Poverty is not a crime
- C: Necessity knows no law
- D: Until one is blue in the face

Task II. Write the right letter next to the sentence.

1. To consider someone responsible for something. ____
2. To tell people what they should do in a forceful and stern way. ____
3. This idiom is used when one is obeying the literal interpretation of the law, but not the intent or the spirit of those who wrote the law. ____
4. This expression refers to a document or an agreement that has been officially signed and completed satisfactorily. ____
5. If you do this, you warn or reprimand them energetically or forcefully. ____
6. Not subject to the law, exempt from the laws that apply to everyone else. ____
7. It means that being desperate and having no means may lead you to do illegal things. ____
8. This idiomatic expression refers to the far-reaching power of the authorities or the police. ____
9. To cheat a little bit without breaking the law. ____
10. The idiom means that what someone says must be obeyed. (one's word is law)
11. Legally. ____
12. A person who behaves in an independent way, ignoring rules and what is generally accepted as correct. ____

- A. Hold someone accountable (for something)
- B. The letter of the law
- C. Read the riot act
- D. Necessity knows no law
- E. Bend the law
- F. The long arm of the law
- G. One's word is law
- H. In the eyes of the law
- I. Law unto oneself
- J. Signed, sealed and delivered
- K. Above the law
- L. Lay down the law

Task III. Which idioms do these pictures make you think of? There are two choices that you don't need to use.

(in the eyes of the law; lay down the law; the spirit of the law; the long arm of the law; the letter of the law; unwritten law)



a)



b)



c)



d)

Task IV. Replace the underlined phrases with the correct idioms.

1. If you need to delegate, I wouldn't ask Gina—she is ignoring the rules, and it's hard to persuade her to do anything she's not interested in.
2. You better do it, or you know what'll happen. You must do what mum says.
3. It may seem like a harmless prank, but, from the technical viewpoint of the legal system, it is a crime.
4. Because everyone thought he was such a good citizen, he remained not suspected after the robbery.

5. The deal between the two companies has been officially approved.
6. I'm an honest person by nature, but I lost my job, and my kids needed food and clothes, and it seemed like the best way to get money was to deal in illegal drugs. If you are desperate, you may have to do illegal things.
7. Many computer hackers act as though they aren't required to adhere to current laws when they steal valuable data from companies and attempt to sell it online.

Task V. Write a sentence or a couple of sentences for each of these idioms to show their meaning.

- Read the riot act
- Hold someone accountable (for something)
- Bend the law
- Unwritten law

MONEY

Idiom	Description	Example
Bank on	To expect something or rely on.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Can I bank on your friend's predictions about the stock market?</i> <i>A: Are you coming to London this month?</i> <i>B: Yes, in a week or two. In case I have nowhere to stay, can I bank on you?</i>
Drop a dime	To make a phone call, usually calling the police to inform on or betray someone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>He went out to drop a dime on John.</i>
Money talks	When it's suggested that with money people can get whatever they want.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>She got what she wanted. Well, you know money talks!</i>
Not come cheap	Said about something that is of good quality and is therefore expensive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fast cars don't come cheap.</i>
Worth its weight in gold	The idiomatic expression refers to someone or something that is valuable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The new manager cut down the company's expenses by 30%. She is really worth her weight in gold.</i>
Big bucks	Lots of money.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The new managing director must be making big bucks after his promotion.</i> <i>A: What is important to you right now?</i> <i>B: I've always thought that a high salary could make me happy. But now I know that big bucks can't buy you love, friendship, and inner harmony.</i>

For love nor/or money	Said when it is difficult to get something or persuade someone.	• <i>You can't get help for love nor money these days.</i>
Have money to burn	To be very rich and spend a lot of money on unnecessary things.	<i>He seems to have money to burn. He always buys his girlfriend extravagant things.</i>
Ill-gotten gains	Money or other possession gained dishonestly.	<i>All his ill-gotten gains are hidden somewhere in his bedroom.</i>
Pick up the tab/check	The idiom means to pay the bill.	<i>John picks up the tab whenever he has dinner with his friends.</i>
A fool and his money are soon parted	Stupid people spend money without thinking about it enough.	<i>John likes his extravagant lifestyle, but then a fool and his money are soon parted.</i> <i>A: He spends money like a drunken sailor!</i> <i>B: It won't last long; a fool and his money are soon parted.</i>
Bet your bottom dollar	Used to say that one can be sure about something.	<i>You can bet your bottom dollar. The whole thing will end tragically.</i> <i>A: What do you think about my show? I'd really appreciate your honest answer.</i> <i>B: I'm impressed, you killed it! You can bet your bottom dollar, you're gonna be a star.</i>
Coining it/money	To earn a lot of money quickly.	<i>The company has been coining it since the new boss took over.</i> <i>A: You should check this app. It's so great, I'm speechless!</i> <i>B: Yes, I know this app. It's really brilliant, no wonder the owners are coining money.</i>

For a song	Very cheaply.	<i>She bought the house for a song.</i>
Quote a price	To provide an estimated cost for some service or product.	<i>The mason quoted a price of 500\$ to fix the roof of my house.</i>
In the money	Very rich.	<i>He's in the money. He's extremely rich.</i>
Marry money	To marry a rich person.	<i>She married money and got rich.</i>
Put money on somebody or something	To bet money or to believe that someone will accomplish something or that something will happen.	<i>He will pass the exam - I'd put money on it.</i>
Rags to riches	The phrase refers to any situation in which a person rises from poverty to wealth.	<i>He was homeless and went on to create the largest and most successful service company in the country. It's really a rags-to-riches story.</i>
Turn up like a bad penny	A person or thing which is unpleasant, disreputable, or otherwise unwanted, especially one which repeatedly appears at inopportune times.	<i>He always turns up like a bad penny.</i>

PRACTICAL TASKS

Task I. Choose the right variant.

- 1. Said when it is difficult to get something or persuade someone.**
A: Knit one's brow
B: Devil finds work for idle hands to do
C: Put one's mind to it
D: For love nor/or money
- 2. To be very rich and spend a lot of money on unnecessary things.**
A: Highway robbery
B: Have money to burn
C: Fair-haired boy
D: The ball is in someone's court
- 3. The idiom means to pay the bill.**
A: Have the hots for someone
B: Shape up or ship out
C: Pay your dues
D: Pick up the tab/check
- 4. Money or other possession gained dishonestly.**
A: Ill-gotten gains
B: Put the cat among the pigeons
C: Drink like a fish
D: Call off the dogs
- 5. A person or thing which is unpleasant, disreputable, or otherwise unwanted, especially one which repeatedly appears at inopportune times.**
A: Have other fish to fry
B: Turn up like a bad penny
C: Rain cats and dogs
D: Blue-eyed boy
- 6. To provide an estimated cost for some service or product.**
A: Shot across the bow
B: Under the table
C: Quote a price
D: Dead and buried
- 7. To expect something or rely on.**
A: Bank on
B: Under the table
C: Quote a price
D: Dead and buried
- 8. To make a phone call, usually calling the police to inform on or betray someone.**
A: Bank on
B: Drop a dime
C: Quote a price
D: Dead and buried
- 9. When it's suggested that with money people can get whatever they want.**
A: Have other fish to fry
B: Turn up like a bad penny
C: Rain cats and dogs
D: Money talks
- 10. Said about something that is of good quality and is therefore expensive.**
A: Have other fish to fry
B: Turn up like a bad penny
C: Not come cheap
D: Money talks
- 11. Lots of money.**
A: Big bucks
B: Turn up like a bad penny
C: Not come cheap
D: Money talks
- 12. Stupid people spend money without thinking about it enough.**
A: Highway robbery
B: Have money to burn
C: Fair-haired boy
D: A fool and his money are soon parted

Task II. Write the right letter next to the sentence.

1. When it's suggested that with money people can get whatever they want. ____
2. The idiomatic expression refers to someone or something that is valuable. ____
3. To expect something or rely on. ____
4. To make a phone call, usually calling the police to inform on or betray someone. ____
5. Said about something that is of good quality and is therefore expensive. ____
6. Used to say that one can be sure about something. ____
7. To provide an estimated cost for some service or product. ____
8. Stupid people spend money without thinking about it enough. ____
9. Very cheaply. ____
10. To earn a lot of money quickly. ____
11. Very rich. ____
12. To bet money or to believe that someone will accomplish something or that something will happen. ____

- A. Bet your bottom dollar
- B. Money talks
- C. Bank on
- D. A fool and his money are soon parted
- E. Put money on somebody or something
- F. Worth its weight in gold
- G. Coining it/money
- H. For a song
- I. Drop a dime
- J. In the money
- K. Quote a price
- L. Not come cheap

Task III. Which idioms do these pictures make you think of? There are two choices that you don't need to use.

(rags to riches; quote a price; a fool and his money are soon parted; have money to burn; worth its weight in gold; money talks)



a)



b)



c)



d)

Task IV. Replace the underlined phrases with the correct idioms.

1. I'm really happy with how the landscaping around the house turned out, but it cost a lot of money.
2. I lost my umbrella, so you can be sure that it will rain tomorrow!
3. You can rely on her to get the job done when it has to be done quickly.
4. I'm sure we haven't seen the last of your conniving cousin—he always manages to appear again when he is not welcome.
5. She was wearing a beautiful hat which she'd picked up very cheaply in Camden Market.
6. If your horse finishes first, second, or third, you'll be wealthy.

7. I wasn't looking for a new job, but I couldn't say no to one that offered me a lot of money.

Task V. Write a sentence or a couple of sentences for each of these idioms to show their meaning.

- Ill-gotten gains
- Quote a price
- Drop a dime
- Marry money

MUSIC

Idiom	Description	Example
All that jazz	Everything else related to something and other similar things.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>They enjoyed the party: cocktails, dancing, and all that jazz.</i> <i>A: Any plans for the weekend?</i> <i>B: I want to have fun: parties, new people, dancing, drinking, and all that jazz, you know.</i>
Blow one's own horn	To brag; to talk boastfully.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Nancy likes to blow her own horn.</i> • <i>A: Why don't you hang out with Grace anymore?</i> <i>B: I'm tired of her. She doesn't care about me, she only blows her own horn. Grace only talks about her dresses, her boys and so on. She never asks me about my day or my feelings. I'm fed up.</i>
Call the tune	To be the one who controls a situation; to have the most power and authority in a situation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In any deal you have with banks, it's them who call the tune.</i> <i>A: I disagree with Mr. Miller. I think we should choose another strategy.</i> <i>B: I agree with you, Nick, but Mr. Miller calls the tune here. We have to accept his decision. I don't want to lose a job, and neither do you, right?</i>
Carry a tune	To sing a melody accurately.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I can't carry a tune, but my sister sings very well.</i> <i>A: Come one, Jenny, let's sing together!</i> <i>B: No way! I can hardly carry a tune. You should ask Brenda, she's a really good singer!</i>
Chin music	Talk, conversation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>When they meet, there will be plenty of chin music.</i>

		<p>•A: <i>I miss you so much! I can't wait to tell you my stories and to listen to yours!</i></p> <p>B: <i>I miss you too! When we finally meet, we'll spend the whole day making nothing but chin music!</i></p>
Face the music	Accept or face the unpleasant consequences of one's actions.	<p>•Leila didn't manage to finish the job on time and had to face the music.</p> <p>A: <i>You've made some serious mistakes. Now it's time to take responsibility for them.</i></p> <p>B: <i>I know it. I'm ready, I'm strong enough to face the music.</i></p>
Make chin music	To talk or to chat.	<p>• <i>You can't get help for love nor money these days.</i></p>
Who pays the piper calls the tune	The one who pays for something is the one who controls it.	<p><i>If he pays for everything, he will have power over us all. You know, who pays the piper calls the tune.</i></p>
It takes two to tango	The expression means that for something to work properly, the cooperation of both parties is needed.	<p><i>For the success of the negotiations, both companies should make some concessions; it takes two to tango, you know.</i></p> <p>A: <i>My daughter says it was your son who engaged her to skip the classes.</i></p> <p>B: <i>Maybe he really did, but it always takes two to tango, you know.</i></p>
Lock horns	To come into conflict.	<p><i>I don't want to lock horns with you. Let's settle this peacefully.</i></p>
Music to someone's ears	Some good news; a spoken expression or a sound which is pleasing; a welcome remark or information.	<p><i>The kind flattering way he used to talk to her was music to her ears.</i></p>

Strike a chord	It reminds you of something, it seems familiar to you, or you are interested in it.	<i>That woman struck a chord with me. It seems to me that I had seen her before.</i>
Fine-tune	To make small adjustments to something until optimization is achieved.	<i>They need to fine-tune their plan before they start the project. A: Your methodology is extremely effective! B: Thank you, it's very important for us to hear it. We are going to fine-tune it a bit, so it will be even better. I hope you'll like it!</i>
Stop the music	Hold everything!	<i>A: (Entering a room full of people doing various things) Stop the music! B: What? A: I have an important announcement!</i>
Clean as a whistle	To be perfectly clean.	<i>She's clean as a whistle. A: Let's go jogging! B: Sorry, I can't. My mother is coming home in a few hours, I have to tidy up the house. I want to make it clean as a whistle.</i>
Toot one's own horn	To boast; to brag.	<i>She really likes to toot her own horn.</i>
Draw in one's horns	To become less impassioned, aggressive, or argumentative; to back down from a fight; to yield or capitulate.	<i>He wanted to fight again, but we managed to calm him down and get him to draw in his horns. A: You've gone too far; I swear I'll beat the crap out of you! B: Andy, draw in your horns. Let's go back to the celebration instead of spoiling the night.</i>

PRACTICAL TASKS

Task I. Choose the right variant.

1. Talk, conversation.

- A: Dream on
- B: All's fair in love and war
- C: Cut (one's) losses
- D: Chin music

2. To talk or to chat.

- A: Man cannot live by bread alone
- B: For all care
- C: Like chalk and cheese
- D: Make chin music

3. To brag; to talk boastfully.

- A: Everybody and his cousin
- B: (as) poor as a church mouse
- C: Blow one's own horn
- D: Walter Mitty

4. Accept or face the unpleasant consequences of one's actions.

- A: Dance with death
- B: Face the music
- C: Back the wrong horse
- D: Behind bars

5. Everything else related to something and other similar things.

- A: All that jazz
- B: Zero hour
- C: Man cannot live by bread alone
- D: Fell off the back of a lorry

6. Hold everything!

- A: Be full of beans
- B: Nurse someone back to health
- C: Stop the music
- D: Castles in the air

7. To make small adjustments to something until optimization is achieved.

- A: Fine-tune
- B: It has someone's name on it
- C: Right down to
- D: Dead serious

8. To come into conflict.

- A: Larger than life
- B: Come into bloom
- C: Misery loves company
- D: Lock horns

9. To boast; to brag.

- A: Labor of love
- B: Toot one's own horn
- C: Captain Obvious
- D: Have one's wires crossed

10. To be perfectly clean.

- A: Walk on air
- B: Clean as a whistle
- C: Shake in (one's) shoes
- D: Jump on the bandwagon

11. To sing a melody accurately.

- A: Carry a tune
- B: Stop the music
- C: Dead loss
- D: Handle someone with kid gloves

12. Some good news; a spoken expression or a sound which is pleasing; a welcome remark or information.

- A: Music to someone's ears
- B: Be on cloud nine
- C: It's your funeral
- D: Trick of the trade

Task II. Write the right letter next to the sentence.

1. To brag; to talk boastfully. ____
2. Talk, conversation. ____
3. To sing a melody accurately. ____
4. To be the one who controls a situation; to have the most power and authority in a situation. ____
5. The expression means that for something to work properly, the cooperation of both parties is needed. ____
6. Some good news; a spoken expression or a sound which is pleasing; a welcome remark or information. ____
7. It reminds you of something, it seems familiar to you, or you are interested in it. ____
8. To come into conflict. ____
9. Accept or face the unpleasant consequences of one's actions. ____
10. To be perfectly clean. ____
11. To become less impassioned, aggressive, or argumentative; to back down from a fight; to yield or capitulate. ____
12. Everything else related to something; and other similar things. ____

- A. Strike a chord
- B. Carry a tune
- C. Music to someone's ears
- D. Lock horns
- E. Clean as a whistle
- F. Draw in one's horns
- G. Face the music
- H. Chin music
- I. Call the tune
- J. All that jazz
- K. It takes two to tango
- L. Blow one's own horn

Task III. Which idioms do these pictures make you think of? There are two choices that you don't need to use.

(toot one's own horn; clean as a whistle; music to someone's ears; who pays the piper calls the tune; blow one's own horn; call the tune)



Task IV. Replace the underlined phrases with the correct idioms.

1. Wow, that young girl can really sing well. I didn't expect her voice to be so powerful!
2. So they're getting married? That's excellent news.
3. Mary broke a dining-room window and had to receive punishment when her father got home.
4. I don't mean to boast, but this pasta sauce I made is quite delicious!
5. Stop everything! The president's daughter has been kidnapped!

6. Can you guys please be quiet? Your conversation is distracting me from my work.

7. Let's settle this peacefully. I don't want to get into an argument with the boss.

Task V. Write a sentence or a couple of sentences for each of these idioms to show their meaning.

- All that jazz

- It takes two to tango

- Fine-tune

- Strike a chord

NATURE

Idiom	Description	Example
Always chasing rainbows	It means you are trying to do something that you will never achieve.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Although he is 48 years old, he is still dreaming of becoming a famous singer. He's always chasing rainbows.</i> <i>A: I don't care what people say. I'll be a rap superstar, just watch.</i> <i>B: Dude, you're 33. I love you, so that's my advice to you: stop always chasing rainbows. Get yourself a good job and a good wife.</i>
It's a jungle out there	The phrase is an idiomatic expression that refers to a threatening environment where it is difficult to survive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Working in that company is so difficult. It's a jungle out there.</i>
Oceans of	A large amount of something.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Oceans of guests were at the party.</i>
The chill wind of something	Problems, trouble.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>World economies are facing the chill wind of the recession.</i>
Vale of tears	The world considered as sad and harsh.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>His grandfather left this vale of tears yesterday.</i>
Gain ground	To become popular; to make progress; to advance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The new product gained ground in a very short time.</i>
Sail close to the wind	To act just within the limits of what is legal or acceptable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>His business is doing well although he sometimes sail close to the wind.</i>
The calm before the storm	An unusual or false quiet period before a period of upheaval.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The negotiation between the two parties may be peaceful now. But don't be misled! This is only the calm before the storm.</i>

Under the sun	On earth; in existence.	<i>If you want to spend your summer holiday, this is the most beautiful place under the sun.</i>
Walk on air	Very excited or happy.	<i>He was walking on air after he passed the exam.</i>
Add fuel to the fire	To make a problem worse; to say or do something that makes a bad situation worse.	<i>Don't add fuel to the fire by laughing at him. He is furious about what you have already done.</i> <i>A: What? He's upset? He's constantly upset! Maybe I should remind him that he's a grown-up man and it's time to get his head together?</i> <i>B: Don't add fuel to the fire. Leave him alone, he will be fine soon.</i>
Draw the short straw	To be selected to do an undesirable task.	<i>I drew the short straw and got stuck doing the whole project alone.</i>
Greener pastures	Idiomatic expression that refers to a more promising situation.	<i>The young ambitious girl emigrated to Canada seeking greener pastures where she could develop her career.</i>
Rain or shine	Whatever happens; no matter whether it is rainy or sunny.	<i>I'll be on time, rain or shine.</i>
Up in the air	Uncertain; subject to change.	<i>Because the whole town protested plans to build a new shopping center, that proposal is now up in the air.</i>
(Someone) could sell ice to Eskimos	To persuade people to go against their best interests or to accept something unnecessary or preposterous.	<i>He's such a smooth talker, he could sell ice to Eskimos.</i>
Root and branch	Completely.	<i>They have reorganized their business root and branch.</i>

Sail against the wind	To work to achieve something that is difficult because most people would oppose it.	<i>The journalist is sailing against the wind in his attempt to change people's negative attitude towards that politician.</i>
Make waves	To cause trouble.	<i>Please don't make waves. We're trying to settle all our problems.</i>
Storm is brewing	Means that there is going to be trouble or emotional upset in the near future.	<i>I may be smiling on the outside, but there's a storm brewing on the inside.</i>
Vanish into the air	To disappear.	<i>The money just vanished into the air. I can't find it anywhere.</i>
Fan the flames	To make a bad feeling or situation become worse or more intense.	<i>His racial declarations fanned the flames of the ethnic war.</i>
Nature abhors a vacuum	The phrase is attributed to Aristotle. It means every space in nature needs to be filled with something.	<i>Nature abhors a vacuum, and that presidential candidate is filling it with his populist promises and pompous declarations.</i>
Come into bloom	To blossom, to start to produce flowers.	<i>Look, the roses are just coming into bloom.</i>
Make a mountain out of a molehill	To exaggerate the severity of a situation; to make a lot of fuss about nothing.	<i>You're making a mountain out of a molehill. You didn't mean to hurt her.</i>
A breath of fresh air	Said about a new, fresh, and imaginative approach, a change that feels good.	<i>The president says that the country needs a breath of fresh air. A: Your photos from Egypt are amazing! B: Thank you! These two weeks in Egypt became a breath of fresh air I needed so much. Now I'm full of energy again!</i>
Of the first water	Of the best.	<i>She is of the first water, a fine lady indeed.</i>

PRACTICAL TASKS

Task I. Choose the right variant.

1. To act just within the limits of what is legal or acceptable.

A: Sail close to the wind

B: As patient as Job

C: When it rains, it pours

D: Have an axe to grind

2. An unusual or false quiet period before a period of upheaval.

A: In the nick of time

B: The calm before the storm

C: Experience is the mother of wisdom

D: Fight fire with fire

3. On earth; in existence.

A: Act one's age

B: Under a cloud (of suspicion)

C: Under the sun

D: An act of war

4. To become popular; to make progress; to advance.

A: Bend the law

B: Gain ground

C: You're killing me

D: Greasy spoon

5. Very excited or happy.

A: Play the field

B: On the wagon

C: Virgin territory

D: Walk on air

6. It means you are trying to do something that you will never achieve.

A: Play the field

B: Always chasing rainbows

C: Virgin territory

D: Walk on air

7. The phrase is an idiomatic expression that refers to a threatening environment where it is difficult to survive.

A: Bend the law

B: Gain ground

C: You're killing me

D: It's a jungle out there

8. A large amount of something.

A: Play the field

B: Oceans of

C: Virgin territory

D: Walk on air

9. Problems, trouble.

A: The chill wind of something

B: Gain ground

C: You're killing me

D: It's a jungle out there

10. The world considered as sad and harsh.

A: The chill wind of something

B: Vale of tears

C: You're killing me

D: It's a jungle out there

11. To become popular; to make progress; to advance.

A: Gain ground

B: Oceans of

C: Virgin territory

D: Walk on air

12. To act just within the limits of what is legal or acceptable.

A: Gain ground

B: Oceans of

C: Sail close to the wind

D: Walk on air

Task II. Write the right letter next to the sentence.

1. The phrase is an idiomatic expression that refers to a threatening environment where it is difficult to survive. ____
2. Problems, trouble. ____
3. A large amount of something. ____
4. The world considered as sad and harsh. ____
5. It means you are trying to do something that you will never achieve. ____
6. Uncertain; subject to change. ____
7. Idiomatic expression that refers to a more promising situation. ____
8. Whatever happens; no matter whether it is rainy or sunny. ____
9. To make a problem worse; to say or do something that makes a bad situation worse. ____
10. Completely. ____
11. On earth; in existence. ____
12. To work to achieve something that is difficult because most people would oppose it. ____

- A. Vale of tears
- B. The chill wind of something
- C. Rain or shine
- D. Up in the air
- E. It's a jungle out there
- F. Always chasing rainbows
- G. Add fuel to the fire
- H. Under the sun
- I. Sail against the wind
- J. Root and branch
- K. Greener pastures
- L. Oceans of

Task III. Which idioms do these pictures make you think of? There are two choices that you don't need to use.

(always chasing rainbows; under the sun; add fuel to the fire; rain or shine; (someone) could sell ice to Eskimos; greener pastures)



a)



b)



c)



d)

Task IV. Replace the underlined phrases with the correct idioms.

1. After a week of vacation, there was a lot of work to do.
2. The new administration is aiming to overhaul the tax system completely.
3. Our new product is making progress against that of our competitor.
4. The restaurant is renowned for serving food of the best quality.
5. Be careful when you go out tonight — this place is dangerous!
6. If you cause difficulty too much around here, you won't last long.
7. What the country was experiencing was not peace, but just a period of unnatural calm before an attack.

Task V. Write a sentence or a couple of sentences for each of these idioms to show their meaning.

- Draw the short straw
- Vanish into the air
- Make a mountain out of a molehill
- A breath of fresh air

RELATIONSHIP

Idiom	Description	Example
Affinity for	A passionate interest in or affection for something or someone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>He has an affinity for classical music.</i> ● <i>A: I hope you'll enjoy the play.</i> ● <i>B: Oh, I'm sure I will! You know that I have an affinity for theatre.</i>
Bad blood	Unpleasant feeling between different people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>There is bad blood between Nancy and Leila. They are rarely in good terms with each other.</i> ● <i>A: Why don't you want to go to Eugene's birthday party?</i> ● <i>B: Because Ann is also invited. There's bad blood between us, we really can't stand each other. I don't want to spoil the celebration.</i>
Be an item	Said about a couple when they are having a romantic relationship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>I heard that Leila and Joe are an item.</i> ● <i>A: Do you know that Ted and Robin are an item?</i> ● <i>B: Finally! Glad to hear. Ted fell in love with her the day they met.</i>
Blood is thicker than water	Family relations are more important than anything else.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Even if Nancy and her brother often argue, they always forgive each other. Blood is thicker than water.</i> ● <i>A: Hey. I know we've never been close, but I want you to know that I love you with all my heart. I'm happy that you're my brother.</i> ● <i>B: I know it. I love you too. I'm glad that despite all the quarrels we've never forgotten that blood is thicker than water. Whatever happens, I know we can count on each other.</i>

Build bridges	To improve relationships between people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●<i>They wanted to build bridges between Nancy and Alan to settle the conflict once for all.</i> ●<i>A: I'm happy my husband and I could finally build bridges between our parents. I still can't believe it!</i> ●<i>B: Oh, I know how it feels. I'm so happy for you!</i>
Fall in love	To begin feeling attracted to someone and love him or her.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●<i>When Jane and Math met for the first time, they fell madly in love.</i>
He that would the daughter win, must with the mother first begin.	Means that if you intend to marry a woman, first try to win her mother on your side.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●<i>Listen, Joe, if you want to marry Nancy, try to impress her mother first and be sure that she is on your side. He that would the daughter win, must with the mother first begin.</i>
Like mother, like daughter	This is a proverb that means that daughters resemble their mothers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●<i>My mother was mad about chocolate. Every time my father saw me eating chocolate, he would say, "Like mother, like daughter"</i>
The mother of all	An extreme example which is the biggest, most impressive, or most important of its kind.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●<i>Failure is the mother of all success.</i>
Go with the flow	To do what people do and accept things as they are.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●<i>Don't worry too much! Take it easy and go with the flow!</i>
Love-hate relationship	An interpersonal relationship involving simultaneous or alternating emotions of love and hate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●<i>He has a love-hate relationship with his mother.</i>

Play a joke	To deceive someone for fun (also to play a trick)	● <i>On April Fools' Day, some people play practical jokes on their friends.</i>
Fair-weather friend	Someone who is your friend only when the times are good.	● <i>Don't rely on him. He's a fair-weather friend.</i>
Raw deal	Said when someone is ill-treated.	● <i>Mary got a raw deal. She was innocent, but she had to pay a big fine.</i>
Say uncle	To admit failure.	● <i>I'll show them how I can be a superstar. I'm not going to say uncle.</i>
You can't please everyone	Making everyone happy is impossible no matter what you do.	● <i>When the boss chose Mary as the chief executive of the project, everybody complained. But you can't please everyone!</i>
Don't get me wrong	An expression said when you fear someone does not understand what you say correctly.	● <i>Don't get me wrong, but I think your plan may not work.</i> ● <i>How do you like this dress? Don't get me wrong, but I think it's not for you. Not your style, not your color. Let's look for a better one!</i>
Good fences make good neighbors	This means that people should respect other people's property and privacy and mind their own business.	● <i>Our neighbor should prevent his children from messing up our lawn. Good fences make good neighbors.</i>
Join the club	Said as a reply to someone to mean that they are in the same situation.	● <i>Nancy: I've got problems with my husband these days.</i> <i>Alice: Join the club!</i>
Kissing cousin	A distant relative.	● <i>I and Daniel are kissing cousins.</i>

Everybody and his cousin	A huge crowd; too many people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Everybody and his cousin will be in line for opening night with free popcorn!</i> ● <i>A: Why are you leaving? The party has just started!</i> <i>B: I've been very tired of people lately. I thought there would be close friends only, but there's everybody and his cousin here, it's a bit overwhelming.</i>
Get on like a house on fire	Said about two people that like each other and become very close friends in a very short time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>The two ladies are getting on like a house on fire.</i>
Have friends in high places	To know powerful people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Don't worry about the problem. I have friends in high places.</i>
Get on like a house on fire	Said about two people that like each other and become very close friends in a very short time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>The two ladies are getting on like a house on fire.</i>
Them and us	Used when describing disagreements or differences, especially between different social groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>There is a them and us situation in the company after the disagreement between the boss and his workers about the working conditions.</i>
Face (that) only a mother could love	A very ugly face.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Look at that poor girl. That's a face that only a mother could love.</i> ● <i>A: To put it mildly, Alex isn't the most handsome guy on the planet. But all the girls adore him! How does he do it?</i>

		<i>B: He has a face that only a mother could love, it's true, but he's so charismatic. Plus, have you seen him dancing? He's the greatest dancer!</i>
Go against the flow	To do the opposite of people do and not accept things as they are.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In his last speech, the leader of the opposition went against the flow and declared that reducing taxes will harm the economy.</i>
Necessity is the mother of invention	This proverb means that when people really need to do something, they will find a way to do it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>When her pen had run out of ink, she used her lipstick to write a short note to her husband who was at work. Necessity is the mother of invention.</i>

PRACTICAL TASKS

Task I. Choose the right variant.

- 1. Unpleasant feeling between different people.**
 - A. Art is long and life is short
 - B. Up-to-date
 - C. Bad blood
 - D. Dark horse
- 2. A passionate interest in or affection for something or someone.**
 - A. Affinity for
 - B. Gas up
 - C. Handle someone with kid gloves
 - D. Take a stab at (something)
- 3. Said about a couple when they are having a romantic relationship.**
 - A. Come from behind
 - B. Put yourself in someone's shoes
 - C. Reinvent the wheel
 - D. Be an item
- 4. To improve relationships between people.**
 - A. Build bridges
 - B. All dressed up and nowhere to go
 - C. Every trick in the book
 - D. No comment
- 5. Family relations are more important than anything else.**
 - A. On the table
 - B. Under construction
 - C. Between life and death
 - D. Blood is thicker than water
- 6. An interpersonal relationship involving simultaneous or alternating emotions of love and hate.**
 - A: Dead wood
 - B: Love-hate relationship
 - C: Blind date
 - D: High time
- 7. To deceive someone for fun (also to play a trick).**
 - A: The long arm of the law
 - B: Play a joke
 - C: Ill-gotten gains
 - D: Beat a dead horse
- 8. Means that if you intend to marry a woman, first try to win her mother on your side.**
 - A: How come?
 - B: To the last
 - C: He that would the daughter win, must with the mother first begin
 - D: Money-spinner
- 9. To do what people do and accept things as they are.**
 - A: Bite your lip
 - B: In the eyes of the law
 - C: I could murder something
 - D: Go with the flow
- 10. To know powerful people.**
 - A: Have an axe to grind
 - B: Desert a sinking ship
 - C: Have friends in high places
 - D: Take a stab at (something)
- 11. Said about two people that like each other and become very close friends in a very short time.**
 - A: Get on like a house on fire
 - B: Paddle one's own canoe
 - C: Oceans of
 - D: Give the kiss of life
- 12. A huge crowd; too many people.**
 - A: Come out of the woodwork
 - B: Everybody and his cousin
 - C: Go steady with someone
 - D: Come under fire

Task II. Write the right letter next to the sentence.

1. To improve relationships between people. ____
2. Means that if you intend to marry a woman, first try to win her mother on your side. ____
3. To begin feeling attracted to someone and love him or her. ____
4. This is a proverb that means that daughters resemble their mothers. ____
5. Said when someone is ill-treated ____
6. Someone who is your friend only when the times are good. ____
7. An extreme example which is the biggest, most impressive, or most important of its kind. ____
8. Making everyone happy is impossible no matter what you do. ____
9. Said as a reply to someone to mean that they are in the same situation. ____
10. A distant relative ____
11. An expression said when you fear someone does not understand what you say correctly ____
12. This means that people should respect other people's property and privacy and mind their own business. ____

- A. Raw deal
- B. The mother of all
- C. He that would the daughter win, must the mother first begin
- D. You can't please everyone
- E. Don't get me wrong
- F. Build bridges
- G. Fair-weather friend
- H. Fall in love
- I. Good fences make good neighbors
- J. Like mother, like daughter
- K. Kissing cousin
- L. Join the club

Task III. Which idioms do these pictures make you think of? There are two choices that you don't need to use.

(get on like a house on fire; good fences make good neighbors; bad blood; blood is thicker than water; build bridges; fair-weather friend)



Task IV. Replace the underlined phrases with the correct idioms.

1. I thought Luke and Andrea broke up—is it true that they are romantic couple again?
2. When the fan belt on Linda's car broke in the middle of the desert, Linda used her stockings as a replacement. When people really need to do something, they will figure out a way to do it.
3. Wow, that is one of the largest sandwiches. It's a foot high!
4. You can always find Lucy at the library—she has a real passionate interest in reading.
5. Ask Geoff to help with the campaign. He knows important people with power and influence who can help you.
6. Mandy really got an unfair situation at that job. They passed her over for so many promotions!

7. I've got a bit of very positive and very negative feelings with this car — I absolutely adore the way it looks and handles on the road, but it has given me nothing but grief with how many times it has broken down.

Task V. Write a sentence or a couple of sentences for each of these idioms to show their meaning.

- Say uncle
- Don't get me wrong
- Everybody and his cousin
- Join the club

SPORT

Idiom	Description	Example
A whole new ball game	A completely different situation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>He has written so many short stories, but writing a novel is a whole new ball game.</i> <i>A: You don't need to worry. You love children, and they love you back, you'll be a great mother.</i> <i>B: Thank you for your support, Ann. I really love kids and often nurse my friends' babies, but having children of my own a whole new ball game.</i>
As bald as a cue ball	Completely bald.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>His father was as bald as a cue ball!</i> • <i>A: I bet you won't recognize Rick when you see him!</i> <i>B: I saw him yesterday. He's as bald as a cue ball now. Even though I've always adored his black curls, I can't deny he looks extremely good now! He looks even more attractive.</i>
A lost ball in the weeds	A person who is completely lost or confused and does not know what they are doing, how to do it or possibly even where they are.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I got confused as to what I should do. I was a lost ball in the weeds</i> <i>A: You have to take care of yourself now even more than before. What are you going to do?</i> <i>B: I don't know exactly, I'm so confused. I'm a lost ball in the weeds. I need some rest and some time to clear my head.</i>
Ball-breaker	This refers either to a job or situation that is demanding and arduous and punishing or to a demanding woman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>My job is such a ball-breaker! My boss expects me to work over the weekend again.</i> • <i>Men try to avoid her because she is a real ball-breaker.</i>

	who destroys men's confidence.	<p><i>A: Lucy is so beautiful! I can't believe she doesn't have a boyfriend.</i></p> <p><i>B: Sure, she's really gorgeous. But she's a real ball-breaker, and many men are not ready for that.</i></p>
Be new to the game	This phrase refers to a lack of experience in a particular activity.	<p>• <i>I can't teach this class. I have never had any training in teaching mathematics. I am new to the game.</i></p> <p>• <i>A: Be new to the game I'm happy to join your team. Even though I'm new to the game, I'm full of energy and I'm eager to learn.</i></p> <p><i>B: Glad to hear it! You are very welcome.</i></p>
Beat someone at their own game	To outdo someone using their own methods, tactics or specialty.	<p>• <i>I think we are able to beat our competitors at their own game.</i></p> <p><i>A: Who would have thought you could do so?</i></p> <p><i>B: I don't know what to say. However, now you see I can be just like you. How does it feel to be beaten at your own game, Sophie?</i></p>
Come from behind	To win after being in a losing position in a game.	<p>• <i>The young boxer came from behind to beat the world champion.</i></p>
Beats me	You can use this phrase when you don't know the answer to a question.	<p><i>Mick: What's the longest river in the world?</i></p> <p><i>Alan: Beats me!</i></p>
It beats me	Used to suggest that you don't understand something.	<p><i>It beats me how she passed the exam.</i></p>
Play ball	To cooperate and agree to work with others.	<p><i>The manager asked him to play ball if he wants things to go well.</i></p>

Play hardball with someone	To act rough and ruthless with someone.	<i>The manager decided to play hardball because it's getting tough.</i>
Ball someone or something up	1. To make a mess of, destroy, or ruin; to interfere with someone or something. 2. To roll something up into a ball.	<i>Someone has balled my car up. She balled the paper up in anger. A: Where's Susan? I haven't seen her for two days already. B: She threw a scene, balled my clothes up and kicked me out on Monday.</i>
Come to blows	To have fight or an argument with someone.	<i>Negotiators are trying not to come into blows over their territorial dispute.</i>
That beats everything	Used to express surprise.	<i>You mean he came very late again last night? Well, that beats everything!</i>
Wait for the ball to drop	To wait in expectation of an occurrence.	<i>When the scandal was publicly revealed, he waited for the ball to drop as he was involved.</i>
Keep one's eye on the ball	To remain alert to the events occurring around oneself.	<i>To be successful in this business, you'll have to keep your eye on the ball.</i>
Weekend warrior	A person who indulges in a sport or pastime on an infrequent basis, usually on weekends when work commitments are not present.	<i>The most common foot related injury I see for the weekend warrior is heel pain.</i>
Ball of fire	A person who is especially hard-working, high-achieving, ambitious, or active.	<i>They say he is a real ball of fire. He has already demon A: What do you think about our new manager, Mr. Smith? B: I'm very glad to have such a good specialist in our team, Mr. Jones.</i>

Be on the ball	To be well-informed and respond promptly.	<p><i>He's just a ball of fire. He'll go far. It was the right decision to hire him.</i></p> <p><i>We need someone who's on the ball to help us implement our plan.</i></p> <p><i>A: We're working on a large project. I need an assistant, so now I'm looking for someone who is on the ball. Maybe you have any ideas?</i></p> <p><i>B: Yeah, I know a great guy, he's the right candidate for you. It's always a pleasure to work with him. I'll give you his contacts.</i></p>
Come down on somebody like a ton of bricks	To hit or punish someone.	<p><i>I'll come down on you like a ton of bricks if you do that once again!</i></p>
Walk the talk	To do what one said one could do or would do, not just making empty promises.	<p><i>The world belongs to those who are ready to walk the talk and take the next step in their journey.</i></p>
Swim against the tide	To do something that is in opposition to the prevailing opinion or tendency.	<p><i>Don't waste your time and energy swimming against the tide.</i></p>
Track record	The phrase is an idiomatic expression that refers to a person or organization's past performance in any type of endeavor.	<p><i>They have a strong track record in creating successful websites.</i></p>

PRACTICAL TASKS

Task I. Choose the right variant.

- 1. To cooperate and agree to work with others.**
A: Play ball
B: Soaked to the bone
C: Under pressure
D: Work like a dream
- 2. You can use this phrase when you don't know the answer to a question.**
A: One's word is law
B: Wheels fall off
C: Beats me
D: Devil of a time
- 3. Used to suggest that you don't understand something.**
A: It beats me
B: Behind one's back
C: Break your back
D: It never rains but it pours
- 4. To start something, especially a conversation or a social event.**
A: Be sick and tired of
B: Set the ball rolling
C: Not for a minute
D: Every man has his price
- 5. To act rough and ruthless with someone.**
A: Cut (one's) losses
B: Man cannot live by bread alone
C: Play hardball with someone
D: Take the cake
- 6. To remain alert to the events occurring around oneself.**
A: Make chin music
B: Home away from home
C: Sitting duck
D: Keep one's eye on the ball
- 7. To hit or punish someone.**
A: Have kittens
B: Come down on somebody like a ton of bricks
C: Mecca for someone or something
D: Greener pastures
- 8. A person who indulges in a sport or pastime on an infrequent basis, usually on weekends when work commitments are not present.**
A: Weekend warrior
B: In the blink of an eye
C: Above the law
D: Highway robbery
- 9. To outdo someone using their own methods, tactics or specialty.**
A: Best someone at their own game
B: Wear your heart on your sleeve
C: Throw in the towel
D: Draw the short straw
- 10. A completely different situation.**
A: A whole new ball game
B: In the blink of an eye
C: Above the law
D: Highway robbery
- 11. Completely bald.**
A: A whole new ball game
B: In the blink of an eye
C: As bald as a cue ball
D: Highway robbery
- 12. A person who is completely lost or confused and does not know what they are doing, how to do it or possibly even where they are.**
A: A whole new ball game
B: Ball-breaker
C: As bald as a cue ball
D: A lost ball in the weeds

Task II. Write the right letter next to the sentence.

1. This refers either to a job or situation that is demanding and arduous and punishing or to a demanding woman who destroys men's confidence. ____
2. To win after being in a losing position in a game. ____
3. To outdo someone using their own methods, tactics or specialty. ____
4. A person who is completely lost or confused and does not know what they are doing, how to do it or possibly even where they are. ____
5. To have fight or an argument with someone. ____
6. To make a mess of, destroy, or ruin; to interfere with someone or something. To roll something up into a ball. ____
7. Used to express surprise. ____
8. To wait in expectation of an occurrence. ____
9. To start something, especially a conversation or a social event. ____
10. A person who indulges in a sport or pastime on an infrequent basis, usually on weekends when work commitments are not present. ____
11. A completely different situation. ____
12. To remain alert to the events occurring around oneself. ____

A. Beat someone at their own game

B. Come to blows

C. Wait for the ball to drop

D. Weekend warrior

E. Keep one's eye on the ball

F. A whole new ball game

G. That beats everything

H. Ball-breaker

I. A lost ball in the weeds

J. Set the ball rolling

K. Ball someone or something up

L. Come from behind

Task III. Which idioms do these pictures make you think of? There are two choices that you don't need to use.

(be on the ball; keep one's eye on the ball; a lost ball in the weeds; as bald as a cue ball; swim against the tide; track record)



Task IV. Replace the underlined phrases with the correct idioms.

1. A: "How long has this milk been in the fridge?"

B: "I have no idea. Check the expiration date."

2. When I was caught cheating on a test, the principal punished me swiftly and harshly.

3. I know my employees are skeptical of me because I am inexperienced in this area — I need to find a way to gain their trust.

4. I've been working on this book for over a year, and I'm getting nowhere with it. I think I'm ready to give up.

5. Shopping on Black Friday can be so frenetic and crazy that many customers nearly get into a fight with one another!
6. Living away from home is a completely different situation for most young adults.
7. I think it's time we to be ruthless with the suspect — he's not going to talk otherwise.

Task V. Write a sentence or a couple of sentences for each of these idioms to show their meaning.

- Ball-breaker
- Beat someone at their own game
- Weekend warrior
- Ball of fire

TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE

Idiom	Description	Example
Be not rocket science	Said about something that is not difficult to understand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>You don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure out the solution.</i> <i>A: Thank you so much for your help!</i> <i>B: Oh, it was easy to fix your phone. It's not rocket science!</i>
Push someone's buttons	To draw a strong emotional reaction from someone, especially anger or sexual arousal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Don't push my buttons with your silly comments!</i>
Reinvent the wheel	To waste one's time doing something that has already been done satisfactorily.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Just use our guide book to and don't try to reinvent the wheel.</i>
(As) bright as a button	Intelligent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>He has a daughter who is as bright as a button.</i> <i>A: Does your son like school?</i> <i>B: He adores it! He's bright as a button. His teacher says he's the best pupil in the class.</i>
Button (up) one's lip	To stop talking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Please, button up your lip and keep the news secret till tomorrow.</i> • <i>A: You're the one and only who knows about it. Please, don't tell a soul about it.</i> <i>B: Jenny, you can be sure I'll button up my lip. You don't have to worry.</i>
On the same wavelength	Thinking in the same pattern or in agreement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>They've done a good job because they were on the same wavelength.</i>
Click with someone or something	The phrase means to like someone or	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>His idea clicked with Leila at once.</i> <i>A: Tell me about your new friend!</i>

	something, often quickly.	<i>B: Oh, he's very easy-going and has a lot of stories to tell! Plus, he's a great fan of history. I'm sure you'll click with him!</i>
Dad fetch my buttons	Said to express a surprise.	<i>Dad fetch my buttons! He won a lot of money in the lottery. A: Dad fetch my buttons! I can't believe you're here! B: It's your birthday, Liam. I wouldn't miss it for the world!</i>
The dismal science	Refers to the discipline of economics. Used as a disparaging term.	<i>He is interested in history and the dismal science.</i>
Sputnik moment	Refers to a moment of challenge when a society or person realizes they must work harder to surpass their competitors.	<i>This generation's "Sputnik moment" has arrived. President Barack Obama declared in his State of the Union address, referring to the United States' need to invest in research and development to revive the economy and ensure future stability.</i>
Blow a fuse	To become uncontrollably angry; to lose your temper.	<i>Hey, don't blow a fuse. A: Have you told your parents about the results of the exams already? B: Yes. Mom tried to cheer me up, but dad blew a fuse.</i>
In tune with somebody/ something	Said when you have a good understanding of someone or something.	<i>He was in tune with new technologies.</i>
Pull the plug	The phrase means to put an end to an activity, preventing it from continuing.	<i>They are going to pull the plug on the new TV show because it didn't get any sponsors.</i>

Bells and whistles	Refers to extra, fancy add-ons or gadgets on something like a phone, a car, or a computer.	<p><i>This car is loaded with all the bells and whistles, but it's too expensive.</i></p> <p><i>A: Why don't you want to change your old smartphone? You can buy a better model instead.</i></p> <p><i>B: To be honest, I appreciate the simplicity of my old one. I'm not a fan of all these bells and whistles of modern models.</i></p>
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PRACTICAL TASKS

Task I. Choose the right variant.

- 1. To draw a strong emotional reaction from someone, especially anger or sexual arousal.**
A: Push someone's buttons
B: Drive a hard bargain
C: Wax and wane
D: Take the bull by the horns
- 2. Said about something that is not difficult to understand.**
A: Love-hate relationship
B: High man on the totem pole
C: A lost ball in the weeds
D: Be not rocket science
- 3. To waste one's time doing something that has already been done satisfactorily.**
A: Dog's age
B: Reinvent the wheel
C: Stand the test of time
D: Stool pigeon
- 4. To stop talking.**
A: Button up one's lip
B: All's fair in love and war
C: (someone) could sell ice to Eskimos
D: Hit the panic button
- 5. To become uncontrollably angry; to lose your temper.**
A: Blow a fuse
B: Get off my back!
C: Justice is blind
D: Be in somebody's shoes
- 6. The phrase means to like someone or something, often quickly.**
A: Signed, sealed and delivered
B: Click with someone or something
C: Ball someone or something up
D: A number cruncher
- 7. Refers to extra, fancy add-ons or gadgets on something like a phone, a car, or a computer.**
A: War of words
B: Marks the spot
C: Bells and whistles
D: About as useful as a chocolate teapot
- 8. Said to express a surprise.**
A: Keep one's eyes peeled
B: Horse of a different color
C: Have a leg up on somebody
D: Dad fetch my buttons
- 9. The phrase means to put an end to an activity, preventing it from continuing.**
A: Keep a civil tongue
B: Above the law
C: (as) common as an old shoe
D: Pull the plug
- 10. Intelligent.**
A: Keep one's eyes peeled
B: Horse of a different color
C: As bright as a button
D: Dad fetch my buttons
- 11. Thinking in the same pattern or in agreement.**
A: Keep one's eyes peeled
B: Horse of a different color
C: On the same wavelength
D: Dad fetch my buttons
- 12. Said when you have a good understanding of someone or something.**
A: Dad fetch my buttons
B: In the tune with somebody
C: As bright as a button
D: Dad fetch my buttons

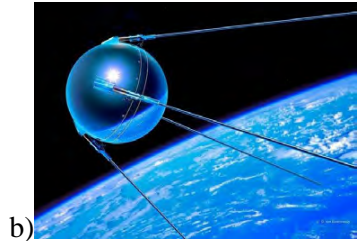
Task II. Write the right letter next to the sentence.

1. Thinking in the same pattern or in agreement. ____
2. To waste one's time doing something that has already been done satisfactorily. ____
3. To stop talking. ____
4. Intelligent. ____
5. To panic suddenly. ____
6. Refers to the discipline of economics. Used as a disparaging term. ____
7. Said to express a surprise. ____
8. To become uncontrollably angry; to lose your temper. ____
9. To panic suddenly. ____
10. The phrase means to like someone or something, often quickly. ____
11. Refers to a moment of challenge when a society or person realizes they must work harder to surpass their competitors. ____
12. The phrase means to put an end to an activity, preventing it from continuing. ____

- A. Hit the panic
- B. Button (up) one's lip
- C. Reinvent the wheel
- D. The dismal science
- E. Hit the panic button
- F. Pull the plug
- G. On the same wavelength
- H. Sputnik moment
- I. Blow a fuse
- J. (As) bright as a button
- K. Dad fetch my buttons
- L. Click with someone or something

Task III. Which idioms do these pictures make you think of? There are two choices that you don't need to use.

(push someone's buttons; sputnik moment; button (up) one's lip; reinvent the wheel; be not rocket science; the dismal science)



Task IV. Replace the underlined phrases with the correct idioms.

1. What a surprise, I never was so happy in all my life!
2. The computer crashed so badly that the only thing I could do was to put an end to its activity.
3. You can't fool Jane. She may be only six years old, but she's very intelligent
4. Don't react furiously — it's just a tiny scratch on the car.
5. All those fancy add-ons add to the cost.
6. I was surprised that we became friends so quickly, but we're just always thinking in similar ways.
7. A guy who knows how to cook really provokes my irritation.

Task V. Write a sentence or a couple of sentences for each of these idioms to show their meaning.

- The dismal science
- In tune with somebody/ something
- Blow a fuse
- Click with someone or something

TRAVEL

Idiom	Description	Example
At the wheel	Driving; in control of a vehicle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>He fell asleep at the wheel. They were so lucky they didn't have an accident.</i> <i>A: Don't worry, Dean, I'm OK. I can drive.</i> <i>B: Look at the mirror, you're the sleepest man alive. You've been yawning nonstop for the last 2 hours. I don't want us to be in an accident because of you sleeping at the wheel. Come on, let me drive.</i>
Hit the road	To begin traveling; to leave a place; to go away.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>It's time for me to hit the road; it is getting late.</i>
Miss the boat	To fail to take advantage of an opportunity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>If you don't call the recruiter back right away, you're going to miss the boat.</i>
Put the pedal to the metal	To press the gas pedal to the maximum extent; to exert maximum effort.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>You have to put the pedal to the metal if you want to get there on time.</i>
Drive a hard bargain	To be a skillful and unyielding negotiator or deal-maker.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>It's gonna be tough to negotiate with them. They drive a hard bargain.</i> • <i>A: This client is very important to us. We must make their representative want to work with us.</i> <i>B: I know they drive a hard bargain, but you're a brilliant negotiator and our team is strong. We will do it!</i>
Fifth wheel	Anything superfluous or unnecessary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I felt like a fifth wheel when they started looking at each other affectionately.</i>

		<p><i>A: Why don't you want to go to Brussels with Nick and Jane? It's better than spending holidays alone.</i></p> <p><i>B: No, it's not. They are a couple, and I don't have a boyfriend. I don't want to feel like a fifth wheel, that's why I won't join them.</i></p>
Itchy feet	Feeling of a need to travel.	• <i>She has itchy feet again. She says she will travel to Brazil.</i>
Put the cart before the horse	To put things in the wrong order.	<i>Don't you think that marrying Tom before you even try to live with him is putting the cart before the horse?</i>
Road rage	Aggressive behavior exhibited by drivers in traffic, often as a result of stress.	<i>Many road accidents are the result of road rage.</i>
Any port in a storm	An unfavorable option which might well be avoided in good times but which nevertheless looks better than the alternatives at the current time.	<p><i>That horrible hotel was a case of any port in a storm as we couldn't find any place to spend the night.</i></p> <p><i>A: Why do we have to stop at this hotel? It's awful, and you know it even better than me.</i></p> <p><i>B: Put your thinking cap on, Jill! We don't have better variants. Any port in a storm, you know.</i></p>
Live out of a suitcase	Means to stay very briefly in several places, with only the belongings in your suitcase.	<i>I travel so much and am always living out of a suitcase.</i>
Trip the light fantastic	To dance.	<i>We were tripping the light fantastic all night.</i>

PRACTICAL TASKS

Task I. Choose the right variant.

1. Driving; in control of a vehicle.

- A: Magic touch
- B: Call (all) the shots
- C: (As) poor as a church mouse
- D: At the wheel

2. To begin traveling; to leave a place; to go away.

- A: Hit the road
- B: Nothing is certain but death and taxes
- C: A breath of fresh air
- D: All that glitters is not gold

3. To press the gas pedal to the maximum extent; to exert maximum effort.

- A: Easy on the eye
- B: Leave the nest
- C: Put the pedal to the metal
- D: Break your back

4. Said about something that has failed, often after a laborious, tiring process.

- A: Stir up a hornet's nest
- B: Black out
- C: Calm before the storm
- D: Wheels fall off

5. To fail to take advantage of an opportunity.

- A: Man's home is his castle
- B: Fall in love
- C: Miss the boat
- D: Cut (one's) losses

6. To dance.

- A: Trip the light fantastic
- B: Live out of a suitcase
- C: Miss the boat
- D: Cut (one's) losses

7. Means to stay very briefly in several places, with only the belongings in your suitcase.

- A: Trip the light fantastic
- B: Live out of a suitcase
- C: Any port in a storm
- D: Cut (one's) losses

8. To put things in the wrong order.

- A: Trip the light fantastic
- B: Put the cart before the horse
- C: Any port in a storm
- D: Itchy feet

9. To be a skillful and unyielding negotiator or deal-maker.

- A: Put the pedal to the metal
- B: Put the cart before the horse
- C: Drive a hard bargain
- D: Itchy feet

10. Feeling of a need to travel.

- A: Put the pedal to the metal
- B: Put the cart before the horse
- C: Drive a hard bargain
- D: Itchy feet

11. Aggressive behavior exhibited by drivers in traffic, often as a result of stress.

- A: Any port in a storm
- B: Road range
- C: Hit the road
- D: Wheels fall off

12. Anything superfluous or unnecessary.

- A: Any port in a storm
- B: Road range
- C: Fifth wheel
- D: Wheels fall off

Task II. Write the right letter next to the sentence.

1. To put things in the wrong order. ____
2. Aggressive behavior exhibited by drivers in traffic, often as a result of stress. ____
3. To be a skillful and unyielding negotiator or deal-maker. ____
4. Feeling of a need to travel. ____
5. Anything superfluous or unnecessary. ____
6. Means to stay very briefly in several places, with only the belongings in your suitcase. ____
7. To begin traveling; to leave a place; to go away. ____
8. Said about something that has failed, often after a laborious, tiring process. ____
9. To dance. ____
10. An unfavorable option which might well be avoided in good times but which nevertheless looks better than the alternatives at the current time. ____
11. To press the gas pedal to the maximum extent; to exert maximum effort. ____
12. To fail to take advantage of an opportunity. ____

- A.** Drive a hard bargain
- B.** Live out of a suitcase
- C.** Miss the boat
- D.** Put the cart before the horse
- E.** Wheels fall off
- F.** Itchy feet
- G.** Trip the light fantastic
- H.** Put the pedal to the metal
- I.** Hit the road
- J.** Road rage
- K.** Any port in a storm
- L.** Fifth wheel

Task III. Which idioms do these pictures make you think of? There are two choices that you don't need to use.

(live out of a suitcase; fifth wheel; itchy feet; miss the boat; hit the road; wheels fall off)



Task IV. Replace the underlined phrases with the correct idioms.

1. Sal is known to be a skillful and unyielding dealmaker, so I doubt you'll get that car for the price you want.
2. Do it with maximum speed, boys — we need to get these packages shipped by the end of the day.
3. You've got a serious problem with violently aggressive behavior, Tom. It's not normal to scream and shout like that just because the person ahead of you is driving a little bit too slow.
4. Of course, the best part of a wedding is when everyone dances into the wee hours of the morning.
5. Don't worry, Katie's driving a vehicle, and she is very good at driving in the snow.

6. I don't really like Meg, but I had to ask her for help because she was the only one still in the office last night when my computer crashed. Any solution is acceptable in times of trouble, I guess.

7. You're eating your dessert first! You've had it in the wrong order.

Task V. Write a sentence or a couple of sentences for each of these idioms to show their meaning.

- Wheels fall off
- Miss the boat
- Fifth wheel
- Any port in a storm

WORK

Idiom	Description	Example
A woman's work is never done	A woman often works longer hours than a man because the housework and raising children are jobs that never end.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"A woman's work is never done!", said Leila. She added: "As soon as I finish washing the breakfast dishes, it's time to start preparing lunch. Then I have to go shopping, and when the kids are back home, I have to help them with their homework".</i> <i>A: Mary, even energetic women like you need to have rest! Let's go for a walk, our working day is over!</i> <i>B: I'd be glad to, but I have to go home and cook dinner for my family. A woman's work is never done!</i>
All in a day's work	What is normal, typical or expected. This idiom is often used humorously to minimize an aspect of one's job that is particularly good or bad.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Grading my students' papers is all on a day's work for me.</i> • <i>A: What are you doing right now?</i> <i>B: Preparing for my classes, it's all in a day's work for me.</i>
Back to the salt mines	It means you have to return to the workplace.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The vacation is over. Back to the salt mines!</i> <i>A: It's my favorite part of the day! I can sit like that for hours.</i> <i>B: I know, John! But the break is over, now it's time to work. Back to the salt mines!</i>
Bean counter	An accountant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jack, our company is hiring a new accountant. You have a solid experience in this field. Don't you want to become our new bean counter?</i> <i>A: What job are you going to choose?</i>

		<i>B: I'm good at math. I have a passion for numbers and I'm hard-working, so I think I have good chances to become a great bean counter.</i>
Burn the candle at both ends	To work very hard, day and night.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>She has been burning the candle at both ends to finish a book about the history of the United States of America.</i> • <i>A: I know you've been burning the candle at both ends for several weeks to meet the deadline. I'm absolutely satisfied with the results! You're great.</i> <p><i>B: I've been working really hard. Thank you for your words!</i></p>
Devil finds work for idle hands to do	People are inclined to do frivolous or harmful things to get rid of their boredom when they don't do anything useful.	• <i>My husband made sure that the children are always occupied doing something because, you know, the devil finds work for idle hands to do.</i>
Dirty work	Unpleasant work or dishonest action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I don't know but I feel there is some dirty work going on in this company.</i> • <i>I always have to do the dirty work. I never have fun.</i>
Work your fingers to the bone	To work extremely hard.	<i>He works his fingers to the bone to help his five children grow up in a healthy environment.</i>
Get the sack	To be dismissed from employment.	<i>Because he was always late, he got the sack.</i>
Work like a beaver	Said when someone works very persistently.	<i>You work like a beaver; you need to relax.</i>
Burn the midnight oil	Work hard, especially late into the night.	<i>She was burning the midnight oil preparing for her daughter's wedding when she had a heart attack.</i>

		<p><i>A: You look exhausted. Maybe you want to clock out earlier today?</i></p> <p><i>B: It would be perfect, thank you! I've been burning the midnight oil lately trying to finish all these reports, I'm really tired.</i></p>
Gum up the works	Means to prevent a process, a system or a machine from working smoothly.	<i>He is not careful enough and always gums up the works.</i>
Keep up the good work	Used to encourage a person to continue doing the good things they are doing now.	<i>Well done! I couldn't have done it better myself. Keep up the good work.</i>
Shoot the works	To spend all the money you have or to try as much as you can to do something.	<i>We shot the works on our son's education.</i>
Break your back	This phrase can be used to say that someone works very hard to do something.	<p><i>I am not going to break my back to this job for such a low salary.</i></p> <p><i>A: I've been breaking my back just to know a girl's name, and now this girl is my wife. I'm very happy.</i></p> <p><i>B: Wow, John, it's so cute!</i></p>
Labor of love	Refers to a work that brings you great pleasure. This work is usually badly paid or unpaid.	<i>John helps street children get basic education as a labor of love.</i>
Sweat blood	To work very hard.	<i>She sweats blood every day just to bring home the bacon.</i>
Work like a charm	To work very well.	<i>Tom installed the application on my cell phone, and it works like a charm.</i>

PRACTICAL TASKS

Task I. Choose the right variant.

1. A woman often works longer hours than a man because the housework and raising children are jobs that never end.

A: Play the field

B: The spirit of the law A woman's work is

C: never done

D: Have a whale of a time

2. What is normal, typical or expected. This idiom is often used humorously to minimize an aspect of one's job that is particularly good or bad.

A: Necessity is the mother of invention

B: Shake in (one's) shoes

C: All in a day's work

D: Calm before the storm

3. An accountant.

A: Crime doesn't pay

B: Keep tabs on

C: Fight the good fight

D: Bean counter

4. It means you have to return to the workplace.

A: On in years

B: Back to the salt mines

C: All one's eggs in one basket

D: Chew the fat

5. A proverb which means that it is not good to work all the time and that people may get bored if they don't get some time off from work.

A: Stir up a hornet's nest

B: All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy

C: Fish for compliments

D: Misery loves company

6. People are inclined to do frivolous or harmful things to get rid of their boredom when they don't do anything useful.

A: Beat around the bush Devil finds work for idle

B: hands to do

C: Dip your toe in the water

D: Join the club

7. Unpleasant work or dishonest action.

A: Sacred cow

B: Dirty work

C: Pass the buck

D: Shoulder to cry on

8. To work extremely hard.

A: Ball-breaker Work your fingers to

B: the bone

C: Up to the minute

D: Put on a brave face

9. To work very hard, day and night.

A: Poison pill

B: Meat and two veg Burn the candle at

C: both ends

D: Shake a leg

10. Said when someone works very persistently.

A: Dream ticket

B: Get on in years

C: Easy come, easy go

D: Work like a beaver

11. To be dismissed from employment.

A: Walk on eggs

B: Pull the plug

C: The letter of the law

D: Get the sack

12. Refers to a work that brings you great pleasure. This work is usually badly paid or unpaid.

A: Odd duck

B: Labor of love

C: Be glad to see the back of someone

D: Fell off the back of a lorry

Task II. Write the right letter next to the sentence.

1. To spend all the money you have or to try as much as you can to do something. _____
2. Used to encourage a person to continue doing the good things they are doing now. _____
3. Means to prevent a process, a system or a machine from working smoothly. _____
4. Work hard, especially late into the night. _____
5. A woman often works longer hours than a man because the housework and raising children are jobs that never end. _____
6. It means you have to return to the workplace. _____
7. This phrase can be used to say that someone works very hard to do something. _____
8. People are inclined to do frivolous or harmful things to get rid of their boredom when they don't do anything useful. _____
9. To work very hard, day and night. _____
10. To work very well. _____
11. To work extremely hard. _____
12. To be dismissed from employment. _____

- A. Shoot the works
- B. Break your back
- C. A woman's work is never done
- D. Work like a charm
- E. Gum up the works
- F. Get the sack
- G. Work your fingers to the bone
- H. Devil finds work for idle hands to do
- I. Back to the salt mines
- J. Keep up the good work
- K. Burn the midnight oil
- L. Burn the candle at both ends

Task III. Which idioms do these pictures make you think of? There are two choices that you don't need to use.

(get the sack; break your back; gum up the works; a woman's work is never done; bean counter; burn the candle at both ends)



Task IV. Replace the underlined phrases with the correct idioms.

1. Come out to the pub with us tonight! Working too much can be bad for your health.
2. Katherine spends all of her free time knitting baby clothes for her friends. It must be a work for pleasure rather than money.
3. Stop filing and get one of the interns to do that boring task.
4. For war reporters, dodging bullets is a normal part of their job.
5. This new software works very well. I barely had to do anything and the image is perfect.

6. I have washed, cooked, fetched and carried all my life. I worked extremely hard in his house.

7. I'm not excited to get back to my job on Monday.

Task V. Write a sentence or a couple of sentences for each of these idioms to show their meaning.

- Shoot the works
- Sweat blood
- Devil finds work for idle hands to do
- Burn the midnight oil

Keys: Art

Task I.	Task II.
1C	1.G
2D	2.K
3A	3.A
4C	4.C
5A	5.L
6C	6.B
7D	7.I
8D	8.D
9D	9.J
10C	10.F
11C	11.H
12C	12.F

Task III.
a) blank canvas
b) be no oil painting
c) drama queen
d) con artist

Task IV.
1. painted with a very broad brush
2. tarred with the same brush
3. no oil painting
4. under canvas
5. thumbnail sketch
6. poetry in motion
7. state of the art

Crime

Task I	Task II.
1C	1.F
2A	2.B
3B	3.L
4D	4.A
5A	5.D
6C	6.I
7B	7.K
8D	8.E
9A	9.H
10C	10.C
11C	11.G
12A	12.J

Task III.
a) cat burglar
b) stool pigeon
c) fell off the back of a lorry
d) a diamond in a rough

Task IV.
1. could murder
2. beat the rap
3. highway robbery
4. behind bars
5. there is honor among thieves
6. as thick as thieves
7. in the dock

Food

Task I	Task II.
1B	1.J
2B	2.G
3D	3.B
4C	4.I
5D	5.A
6A	6.E
7D	7.L
8D	8.C
9C	9.F
10B	10.H
11A	11.D
12C	12.K

Task III.
a) bring home the bacon
b) walk on eggshells
c) apple of somebody's eye
d) the icing on the cake

Task IV.
1. a piece of cake
2. cream of the crop
3. selling like hotcakes
4. She'll be apples
5. spilled the beans
6. in a jam
7. bad egg

Health

Task I	Task II.
1A	1. F
2D	2. L
3B	3.C
4C	4.I
5A	5.K
6D	6.E
7B	7.G
8D	8.A
9A	9.D
10D	10.J

Task III.
a) be full of beans
b) just what the doctor ordered
c) be sick and tired of
d) bag of bones

Task IV.
1. alive and kicking
2. took a deep breath
3. as blind as a bat
4. as white as a sheet
5. blacked out
6. a clean bill of health
7. in the best of health

11A 11.B
12C 12.H

Home

Task I **Task II.**
1.C 1. K
2. B 2. D
3.C 3. A
4.D 4. L
5.A 5. E
6.D 6. I
7.B 7. C
8.C 8. G
9.D 9. H
10.C 10. F
11.A 11. B
12.A 12. J

Task III.
a) hit a home run
b) a roof over your head
c) hit the ceiling/roof
d) wake up on the wrong side of (the) bed

Task IV.
1. go through the roof
2. go home in a box
3. coming out of the woodwork
4. A man's home is his castle
5. sweeping your problems under the rug
6. the home straight
7. home truths

Language

Task I **Task II.**
1D 1. D
2A 2. J
3B 3. K
4B 4. A
5D 5. F
6C 6. I
7D 7. C
8C 8. H
9B 9. G
10C 10. B
11B 11. E
12C 12. L

Task III.
a) it's all Greek to me
b) it goes without saying
c) body language
d) speak the same language

Task IV.
1. talking a mile a minute
2. in plain English
3. speak the same language
4. Watch your language
5. talk is cheap
6. It's all Greek to me
7. Words fail me

Law

Task I **Task II.**
1A 1.A
2C 2.L
3D 3.B
4D 4.J
5C 5.C
6B 6.K
7A 7.D
8C 8.F
9C 9.E
10A 10.G
11A 11.H
12C 12.I

Task III.
a) the long arm of the law
b) lay down the law
c) in the eyes of the law
d) the letter of the law

Task IV.
1. a law unto herself
2. Mom's word is law
3. in the eyes of the law
4. above suspicion
5. signed, sealed, and delivered
6. Necessity knows no law
7. are above the law

Money

Task I **Task II.**
1D 1.B
2B 2.F
3D 3.C
4A 4.I
5B 5.L
6C 6.A
7A 7.K
8B 8.D
9D 9.H

Task III.
a) worth its weight in gold
b) money talks
c) ; a fool and his money are soon parted
d) have money to burn

Task IV.
1. didn't come cheap
2. bet your bottom dollar
3. bank on
4. turn up like a bad penny
5. for a song
6. in the money
7. big bucks

10C 10.G
 11A 11.J
 12D 12.E

Music

Task I **Task II.**
 1A 1.L
 2D 2.H
 3C 3.B
 4B 4.I
 5A 5.K
 6C 6.C
 7A 7.A
 8D 8.D
 9B 9.G
 10B 10.E
 11A 11.F
 12A 12.J

Task III.
 a) who pays the piper
 calls the tune
 b) call the tune
 c) blow one's own horn
 d) clean as a whistle

Task IV.
 1. carry a tune
 2. music to my ears
 3. face the music
 4. toot my own horn
 5. Stop the music
 6. chin music
 7. lock horns

Nature

Task I **Task II.**
 1A 1.E
 2B 2.B
 3C 3.L
 4B 4.A
 5D 5.F
 6B 6.D
 7D 7.K
 8B 8.C
 9A 9.G
 10B 10.J
 11A 11.H
 12C 12.I

Task III.
 a) (someone) could sell
 ice to Eskimos
 b) rain or shine
 c) always chasing
 rainbows
 d) add fuel to the fire

Task IV.
 1. an ocean of
 2. root and branch
 3. gaining ground
 4. of the first water
 5. it's a jungle out there
 6. make waves
 7. the calm before another storm

Relationship

Task I **Task II.**
 1. C 1. F
 2. A 2. C
 3. D 3. H
 4. A 4. J
 5. D 5. A
 6. B 6. G
 7. B 7. B
 8. C 8. D
 9. D 9. L
 10. C 10. K
 11. A 11. E
 12. B 12. I

Task III.
 a) get on like a house
 on fire
 b) build bridges
 c) fair-weather friend
 d) blood is thicker than
 water

Task IV.
 1. are an item
 2. Necessity is the mother of invention
 3. the mother of all
 4. affinity for
 5. has got friends in high places
 6. a raw deal
 7. a love-hate relationship

Sport

Task I **Task II.**
 1A 1.H
 2C 2.L
 3A 3.A
 4B 4.I
 5C 5.B
 6D 6.K
 7B 7.G
 8A 8.C

Task III.
 a) as bald as a cue ball
 b) be on the ball
 c) swim against the tide
 d) keep one's eye on the
 ball

Task IV.
 1. Beats me
 2. came down on me like a ton of bricks
 3. am new to the game
 4. throw in the towel
 5. come to blows
 6. a whole new ballgame
 7. play hardball

- 9A 9.J
- 10A 10.D
- 11C 11.F
- 12D 12.E

Technology and science

- | Task I | Task II. |
|--------|----------|
| 1A | 1.G |
| 2D | 2.C |
| 3B | 3.B |
| 4A | 4.J |
| 5A | 5.E |
| 6B | 6.D |
| 7C | 7.K |
| 8D | 8.I |
| 9D | 9.A |
| 10C | 10.L |
| 11C | 11.H |
| 12B | 12.F |

- Task III.**
- a) be not rocket science
 - b) sputnik moment
 - c) reinvent the wheel
 - d) button (up) one's lip

- Task IV.**
1. Dad fetch my buttons
 2. pull the plug
 3. bright as a button
 4. blow a fuse
 5. bells and whistles
 6. on the same wavelength
 7. pushes my buttons

Travel

- | Task I | Task II. |
|--------|----------|
| 1D | 1. D |
| 2A | 2. J |
| 3C | 3. A |
| 4D | 4. F |
| 5C | 5. L |
| 6A | 6. B |
| 7B | 7. I |
| 8B | 8. E |
| 9C | 9. G |
| 10D | 10. K |
| 11B | 11. H |
| 12C | 12. C |

- Task III.**
- a) hit the road
 - b) itchy feet
 - c) miss the boat
 - d) live out of a suitcase

- Task IV.**
1. drive a hard bargain
 2. Pedal to the metal
 3. road rage
 4. trips the light fantastic
 5. at the wheel
 6. Any port in a storm
 7. put the cart before the horse

Work

- | Task I | Task II. |
|--------|----------|
| 1C | 1. A |
| 2C | 2. J |
| 3D | 3. E |
| 4B | 4. K |
| 5B | 5. C |
| 6B | 6. I |
| 7B | 7. B |
| 8B | 8. H |
| 9C | 9. L |
| 10D | 10. D |
| 11D | 11. G |
| 12B | 12. F |

- Task III.**
- a) a woman's work is never done
 - b) get the sack
 - c) bean counter
 - d) burn the candle at both ends

- Task IV.**
1. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy
 2. labor of love
 3. dirty work
 4. all in a day's work
 5. works like a charm
 6. worked my fingers to the bone
 7. back to the salt mines

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