

МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ И НАУКИ
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОЕ АГЕНТСТВО ПО ОБРАЗОВАНИЮ

Государственное образовательное учреждение высшего
профессионального образования
«Оренбургский государственный университет»

Кафедра английской филологии и методики преподавания
английского языка

О.А. ЦЕПУНОВА

GET OUT OF THE BLIND ALLEY!

МЕТОДИЧЕСКИЕ РЕКОМЕНДАЦИИ ПО РАБОТЕ С ИДИОМАМИ

Рекомендовано к изданию Редакционно-издательским советом
государственного образовательного учреждения
высшего профессионального образования
«Оренбургский государственный университет»

Оренбург 2009

ББК 81.2 Англ я73
УДК 802.0 (076..5)
Ц 40

Рецензенты

доктор педагогических, профессор В.Л. Тёмкина;
кандидат педагогических наук, доцент О.М. Осиянова

Ц 40 **Цепунова, О.А.**
Get out of the blind alley!: методические рекомендации по
работе с идиомами / О.А. Цепунова.- Оренбург: ГОУ ОГУ,
2009.-44 с.

Методические рекомендации представляют собой сборник заданий и упражнений по практическому курсу английского языка и культуре речевого общения, цель которых помочь практически овладеть таким необходимым и важным экспрессивным средством английского языка, каким является его идиоматика.

Методические рекомендации предназначены для практических занятий по дисциплинам «Практический курс I иностранного языка», «Практикум по культуре речевого общения» для студентов лингвистических специальностей: 031201 – Теория и методика преподавания иностранных языков и культур, 031202 – Перевод и переводоведение, 031001 – Зарубежная филология.

ББК 81.2 Англ я7

©Цепунова О.А., 2009
© ГОУ ОГУ, 2009

Contents

Preface.....	4
1 Unit 1 Family life.....	5
2 Unit 2 House and home.....	10
3 Unit 3 Daily routine.....	17
4 Unit 4 Shopping.....	23
5 Unit 5 Eating.....	29
6 Unit 6 Clothing.....	36
7 Final test.....	42
Bibliography.....	44

Preface

“Get out of the blind alley!” («Выходи из тупика!») – методические рекомендации, предназначенные для студентов языковых специальностей. Они могут быть использованы в качестве вспомогательного средства обучения, содержащего дополнительный материал по практическому курсу I иностранного языка.

Идиоматика придает устной и письменной речи плавность, оригинальность и изящество. Профессор А.В. Кунин, один из ведущих исследователей в данной области, называет фразеологию «сокровищницей языка». «Во фразеологизмах находит отражение история народа, своеобразие его культуры и быта...» [Кунин 1998, 5].

Английская идиоматика очень богатая и разнообразная как по форме, так и по семантике является неотъемлемой частью языка и в значительной степени увеличивает его выразительность. Вместе с тем идиомы представляют большие трудности для изучающих английский язык. Фразеологические единицы, или идиомы, – устойчивые сочетания слов с осложненным значением, поэтому смысл всей фразы не всегда понятен из значений ее составляющих. Своеобразие языков, выражающееся в их лексической структуре и грамматическом строе, несовпадение систем понятий у разных народов, разные пути их исторического развития и условия реальной действительности, различия в культуре и мировоззрении порождают определенные трудности адекватного перевода и понимания фразеологизмов. Квалифицированный лингвист-переводчик, преподаватель, филолог должен иметь в своем арсенале достаточное количество эквивалентов или их аналогов.

Цель пособия – помочь студентам практически овладеть идиомами английского языка через выполнение заданий, упражнений и чтение текстов.

Настоящие рекомендации состоят из шести разделов: I. “Family life”, II. “House and home”, III. “Daily routine”, IV. “Shopping”, V. “Eating”, VI. “Clothing”, входящих в учебную программу 1 курса. Каждый раздел включает упражнения и задания, направленные на ознакомление и использование идиоматических оборотов речи английского языка. Для организации контроля и самоконтроля предложены итоговые тестовые задания.

Методические указания могут быть использованы в аудиторной и самостоятельной работе студентами языковых специальностей 031201 – Теория и методика преподавания иностранных языков и культур, 031202 – Перевод и переводоведение, 031001 – Зарубежная филология, изучающих английский язык в качестве первого или второго иностранного.

1 Unit 1 Family life

1.1 Match the following idioms in the left column with their definitions in the right column:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| • At odds with | • have a very good, enjoyable relationship |
| • Bachelor's wife | • in disagreement |
| • The black sheep | • fall deeply and madly in love |
| • Blind date | • pregnant |
| • Break the ice | • two people that do not agree |
| • Bring home the bacon | • a person considered to have brought discredit upon a family |
| • Cousin seven times removed | • be continually arguing with one another |
| • Extremes meet | • meet with |
| • Go through fire and water | • near relatives |
| • In the family way | • a spendthrift who subsequently regrets such behaviour |
| • Lead a cat and dog life | • an ideal wife, the dream of a bachelor |
| • Live in each other's pockets | • a meeting of a man and woman arranged by friends |
| • Oil and water | • be close friends |
| • Turn over a new leaf | • a marriage concluded to achieve a practical purpose |
| • One's own flesh and blood | • different people who attract one another |
| • Broken home | • family split up by divorce |
| • Rub shoulders with | • earn the living for the family |
| • The prodigal son | • a distant relative |
| • Get on like a house on fire | • make a fresh start in life |
| • Fall head over heels in love | • overcome shyness in making the first step |
| • Marriage of convenience | • face any peril |

1.2 Paraphrase the sentences using the idioms.

1. The party was dull until someone told a joke and we all laughed. 2. She is very devoted and ready to face any difficulty to serve him. 3. Sally was worried, and she felt uneasy with her sisters. 4. He promises to start a new life and quit alcohol for good. 5. Mr. Brown works very hard at several places to earn the living for his family. 6. Ann is very sociable and friendly, she has good relations with most coworkers. 7. Sheila and I have always got on well. 8. The kids have been

unhappy since their parents divorced. 9. He doesn't communicate with the rich. 10. They are absolutely different but they say such people attract one another. 11. Her son had never taken care of himself and one day he got to prison. He was regarded by other members of their family as a failure. 12. It was obvious that they were very much in love. 13. He is in disagreement with everyone! 14. When I saw her some months later she was pregnant. 15. I have never seen that distant relative of mine.

1.3 Use the following idiomatic expressions in the sentences below:

- | | |
|--|--|
| a) baby of the family, | e) the black sheep of the family, |
| b) blood is thicker than water, | f) own flesh and blood, |
| c) fight like cat and dog, | g) like father, like son, |
| d) two peas in a pod, | h) tie the knot. |

1. Jamie's only five but he's mad about football, just like his dad. You know what they say -

2. I've got two sisters who are older than me and then my younger brother Mark who's twenty-two. He's the

3. They've got two daughters and they look just the same. They're like

4. Sam isn't the best person for the job but his father made him head of Marketing in the family business. As you know,

5. My brother and his girlfriend have finally decided to They're getting married in the spring.

6. I get on very well with my brother now but we used to ... when we were younger.

7. Everyone expected Susan to go to university like the rest of us, but she got a job in a casino on a ship. She's

8. My son's in trouble with the police. I normally have no sympathy with people who break the law but it's different when it's your

1.4 Put the following words in the sentences below:

- | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| cheese, | footsteps, | homes, | tree, | rebound, |
| family, | relative, | side, | image, | purple. |

1. Look at Mary. She's the spitting ... of her mother, isn't she?

2. Pippa's going to medical school. She's following in her father's

3. A recent survey shows that two out of three convicted criminals come from broken

4. I've got Scottish blood. My grandparents on my mother's ... originally came from Glasgow.

5. George is very interested in his family's history. He can trace his family ... back to 1550.

6. Now I had not the slightest wish for my dear Helen to marry into the

7. Everyone in my family plays a musical instrument. Music runs in the

8. I got a letter from a long-lost ... in Australia. I didn't even know he existed! He's coming to visit in summer.

9. My sister and I look alike but when it comes to personality we're like chalk and ...

10. All I'm asking is that I need a little breathing space. I've seen what happens to girls who marry on the ...

1.5 Explain the meanings of the proverbs given below and find their Russian equivalents:

- Marriages are made in heaven.
- Faint heart never won a fair maiden.
- Birds of a feather flock together.
- Every family has a skeleton in the cupboard.
- Spare the rod and spoil the child.
- When children stand still they have done some ill.
- Like father like son.
- A good husband makes a good wife.
- He that would the daughter win, must with the mother first begin.
- A tree is known by its fruit.
- Absence makes the heart grow fonder.
- Blood is thicker than water.
- Out of sight, out of mind.
- Marry in haste, and repent at leisure.
- The falling out of lovers is the renewing of love.
- Accidents will happen in the best regulated families.

1.6 What proverbs could you use in these situations?

1. Your brother's girlfriend is going abroad for six months. He is afraid that she will lose interest in him while she's away. You could say: "Don't worry."

2. A friend thinks that he will not get a job because the boss's nephew is interested in the same position. You agree: "... .."

3. Your little nephew communicates with young criminals. You want to prevent him from doing bad things because people who are together often become like them. You say: "Don't be friends with bad boys. People think that ..."

4. Your friend's had a row with her boyfriend, he's offended her but she's suffering. You advise her not to see him often: "You'll forget that boy sooner if he is not present."

5. The reformed convict emigrated to another country and eventually became a successful and respected member of the community and no one ever expected that he ...

10. A family split up by divorce is a broken
11. ... of sight, ... of mind.

Down:

1. Spare the ... and spoil the child.
2. When a child looks just like one of the parents he or she is the spitting ... of the mother or father.
4. A good ... makes a good wife.
5. Marry in haste, and ... at leisure.
8. One`s own ... and blood.
9. The falling out of ... is the renewing of love.

2 Unit 2 House and home

Home is the place where people feel comfortable and safe. If you **are/feel at home** somewhere, you are/feel comfortable there. If you **make yourself at home**, you relax and make yourself comfortable. Similarly, if something is **as safe as houses**, it is extremely safe.

The implications of what she had said didn't **come home to me** until some days later. [I didn't understand it fully].

Her news reports have really **brought home** to me the horrors of war. [made me understand, usually something unpleasant].

A fence marks the boundary between two areas of land. If you **sit on the fence**, you delay making a decision or fail to choose between two alternatives.

Set up house/home – start to live in a house, especially with another person.

Keep house – to do all the cooking, cleaning etc. in a house.

Keep a good house – to be good at receiving guests.

Get a foot on the housing ladder – to manage to buy your first house so that you can buy a bigger one later.

Be in apple-pie order – to be in perfect order or perfectly arranged.

Keep open house – welcome visitors at any time.

Home from home – a place as pleasant, comfortable, welcoming as one's own home.

Home bird – someone who prefers to stay at home rather than going to parties, traveling etc.

Be homesick – having a great wish to be at home when one is away from it.

Live over the shop – live on the premises where one works.



The house is going to rack and ruin.

2.1 Rewrite the following text in idiomatic English:

Jack and Mary are good at receiving guests. They are houseproud. Everything is perfectly arranged in their house though it is not very spacious. It's their first house they bought not long ago but the young couple dream to buy a bigger one later. They like to see their friends in the house. Jack and Mary are hospitable people. They welcome visitors at any time and they want their guests to behave freely as if they were in their own home. Their friends say that place is as pleasant and comfortable as their own house. Mary prefers to stay at home. She seldom goes out in the evenings and misses her family and her home when she's away. Mary says home is the best place in the world for her.

2.2 Decide which word – **house** or **home** – correctly completes the idioms below.

1. Hello, Alex. Come in. Make yourself at *house* / *home*.
2. I met my boyfriend's parents last night for the first time. We spent the evening talking about our love of horses. We got on like a *house* / *home* on fire.
3. The number one priority of the new Party Leader must be to put his party's *house* / *home* in order after all the scandals of last year.



"Now, Miranda, it's time for a few home truths. If you think I'm your servant, you're mistaken."

4. It wasn't until I got home and sat down that the news about my job really hit *house* / *home*. Twenty-five years in the same factory and now it's closing.
5. What are we going to do with all these old files? We've got to keep them for legal reasons. Where are we going to find a *house* / *home* for them in the office?
6. My flatmate never cleans or does the dishes. I think I'm going to have to tell her a few *house* / *home* truths.
7. I've just got one more exam to pass on my law course and then I'll be *house* / *home* and dry. I can't wait!
8. Look, we can't afford to go to an advertising agency. They cost the earth! Can you find someone who can design the adverts *in-house* / *in-home*?
9. Her performance was superb and really brought the *house* / *home* down.
10. This might look dangerous, but I can assure you it's as safe as *houses* / *homes*.

2.3 Fill in the following words and expressions in the dialogues below:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| a) house and home, | e) no-one at home, |
| b) write home, | f) come home, |
| c) home from home, | g) brought home, |
| d) a good home, | h) the home straight. |
1. – You always stay in the same place when you go on holiday, don't you?
– Yes. The same hotel in Venice every year. It's a real ... for us.
 2. My brother and his family came to stay with us at Christmas. They nearly ate us out of ... We spent a fortune on food.
 3. – Larry likes to talk, doesn't he? It's sometimes difficult to shut him up.
– Yes. He'll sit and talk until the cows ... if you let him.
 4. – Pam can be a bit slow sometimes. I often have to explain things three times.

– I know what you mean. I don't like saying this, but sometimes it seems as if the lights are on but there's ...

5. – Have you seen Cristine's new boyfriend? What's he like?

– Well, he's OK, I suppose. But nothing to ... about.

6. – We must have picked enough strawberries by now – surely?

– Come on. We only need a few more kilos. We're on ... now.

7. I wish I knew somebody who would give my old music centre ...

8. I didn't use to worry about having a beer or two, but last year a friend of mine had the most terrible car accident. It really ... to me the reality of drinking and driving.

Household objects

Within the walls of – inside a certain area and not beyond it.

Under the same roof – in the same house.

Show somebody the door – to make it clear someone is not welcome and should leave.

Not enough room to swing a cat – very little space.

Live cooped/penned up together – to live in a building, room that is too small.

Walls have ears – other people may hear us.

A/no roof over one's head – somewhere to live

Fly off the handle – to react in a very angry way

2.4 Read the extract paying attention to the idioms.

Alf hit the ceiling/roof¹ this morning for no reason at all. I thought he'd just got out of bed on the wrong side², but then his girlfriend explained that he's been burning the candle at both ends³ because of his exams. I'm glad she put me in the picture⁴ because now I can understand why he reacted so crossly. However, I wish he'd take a leaf out of his girlfriend's book⁵ and go to bed at a reasonable time.

¹ reacted angrily

² got up in a bad mood and has stayed in a bad mood all day

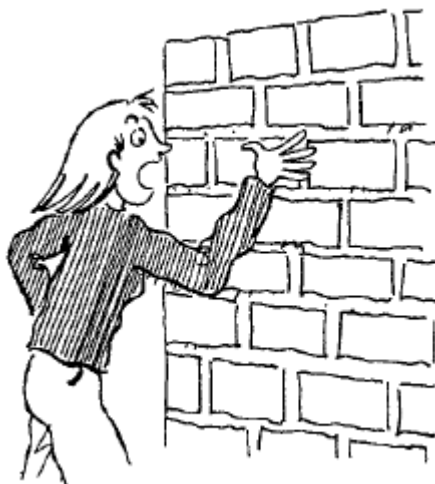
³ staying up late and getting up early

⁴ explained the situation to me

⁵ copy something someone else does, often in order to gain an advantage that they have

2.5 Choose the correct alternative to complete the expressions.

1. He never listens to what I'm saying. It's like talking to a ____ .
a) thick hedge; b) brick wall; c) wooden fence.



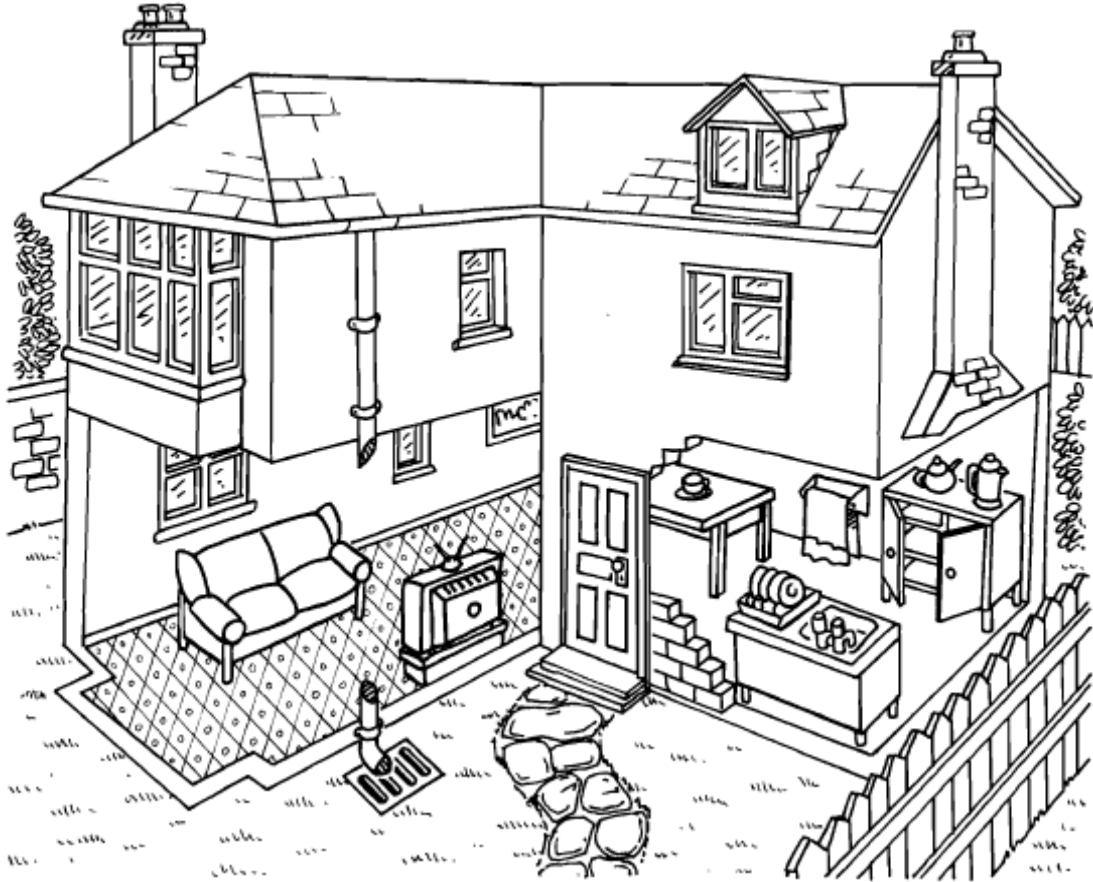
2. The hotel we are staying in is OK but nothing to ____ about.
a) send a letter home; b) write home; c) telephone home.
3. He hit the ____ when I told him I'd scratched his car. He was so angry.
a) wall; b) floor; c) roof.
4. I don't know the people who live ____ very well. They only moved in a month or so ago.
a) next door; b) the next door; c) at next door.
5. I feel so relaxed here. It really is ____ .
a) a house from house; b) a house from home; c) a home from home.
6. He smokes like a ____ . He really should give up.
a) fire; b) chimney; c) cooker.
7. Aaarrgh! If I hear that awful song one more time! It's driving me ____ .
a) up the wall; b) through the door; c) over the roof.
8. We were hoping to go away for a few months, but I couldn't get time off work, so our plans went out of the ____ .
a) letterbox; b) door; c) window.
9. We're really good friends. In fact, we got on like a ____ from the moment we first met.
a) burning house; b) house on fire; c) fire in the house.
10. I feel terrible this morning. We had a night on the ____ last night.
a) bricks; b) slates; c) tiles.

2.6 Answer these questions.

1. Is a decisive person likely to sit on the fence or come down on one side or the other?
2. If a student takes a holiday job in a big company in order to get a foot in the door, what does that suggest about the student's plans?
3. In what circumstances do people often burn the candle at both ends?
4. Are you more likely to say that something important or something trivial is brought home to you?

5. If you keep someone in the picture, are you being honest to them or not?
6. How do you feel if you get out of bed on the wrong side?
7. If someone hits the roof, what sort of mood are they in?

2.7 Look at the picture. Find the objects that you need to complete the following idioms.



1. If you have a dark secret, you have a skeleton in your ____.
2. A chain smoker smokes like a ____.
3. If you waste your money you are pouring it down the ____.
4. If you admit defeat you throw in the ____.
5. If you pack more than you need when you go on holiday, you take everything but the kitchen ____.
6. If you can't decide who to agree with, you sit on the ____.
7. If someone annoys you, they drive you up the ____.
8. If you don't want to face your problems you try to sweep them under the ____.
9. When the cost of something rises very quickly, the price goes through the ____.
10. If I make you leave the room I show you the ____.
11. If you're really busy, you have a lot on your ____.
12. If you want to change your plans completely, they go out the ____.
13. If someone isn't honest with you, they're leading you up the garden ____.

2.8 Tell your partner about ...

- a time when you felt like you were talking to a brick wall.
- a place you've been which unfortunately was nothing to write home about.

- a time when you, or someone you know, hit the roof about something.
- the people who live next door to you.
- somewhere which is a home from home.
- someone who smokes like a chimney.
- something which drives you up the wall.
- a time when your plans went out of the window.
- someone you get on with like a house on fire.
- when you last had a night on the tiles.

2.9 Put the parts of buildings into the sentences below:

brick wall,	chimney,	corridors,
window,	cement,	closed doors,
roof,	door,	wall.

1. I was so ill with flu last week I thought I was at death`s
2. The European Union needs to do more to ... its relationship with the old Eastern Bloc countries.
3. They say smoking`s bad for you but my grandfather`s ninety-seven and he`s always smoked like a
4. After the discovery of the new cancer drug, shares in Bionow Corporation have gone through the
5. The management and union bosses are having talks behind
6. Our business is not going too well at the moment. Financially, we`ve got our backs to the
7. I`m supposed to be on a diet at the moment. Whenever I have dinner with friends, it just goes out of the
8. Politicians soon discover that the ... of the power are not very safe places!
9. You never listen to me. It`s like talking to a

2.10 Sort the following words into well-known proverbs:

- a) home, best, west, is, east, or.
- b) home, is, no, place, there, like.
- c) home, castle, Englishman`s, is, an, his.
- d) houses, in, throw, not, people, live, who, stones, should, glass.
- e) home, heart, is, where, the, is.
- f) home, begins, charity, at.
- g) rolling, gathers, moss, stone, a, no.
- h) house, not, do, burn, mice, the, of, your, to, rid, get.
- i) make, bed, lie, it, on, your, as, so, you, you, must.

Give the Russian equivalents of the proverbs and make up short situations.

2.11 Read and translate the text.

DON`T GO ROUND THE BEND

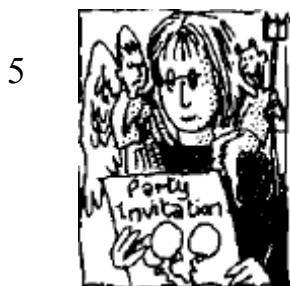
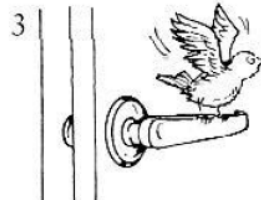
Many expressions in English have something to do with towns and buildings. Here are some of them.

If you **paint the town red**, you celebrate very noisily in a pub or restaurant. When **something is just up your street**, it is exactly what suits you, but if you **take the wrong turning**, or you **are off the track**, you have made a mistake. If you **have your back to the wall**, you are fighting in a desperate situation, and if you **are banging your head against a brick wall**, you are harming yourself with useless efforts. A **tower of strength** is someone who gives strength and courage to others, and a **castle in Spain** or **in the air** is an attractive but impossible idea. To **be on the threshold of something** is to be at the beginning of a new experience, and if **something is just round the corner**, it is very close. To **drop a brick** is to say something tactless to someone, and to **send to Coventry** is to refuse to associate with them. To **lay the foundations** is to form a strong base for something, but to **strike at the foundations** is to cause damage to the base of something. If you **explore every avenue**, you examine every possibility, and if you **go round the bend** – you go mad!

Now see if you can put the appropriate expressions into each of these sentences.

1. John's working very hard to get the project finished, but I think he's ... because they'll never accept his ideas.
2. I've ... but I just can't see an answer to the problem.
3. Susan was ... during that difficult week – everyone turned to her for help.
4. Now we've finished all our exams, let's go out and ...
5. I'd love to do that job – it's ...
6. I think we're ... This isn't getting us anywhere.

2.12 Which idioms do these pictures make you think of?



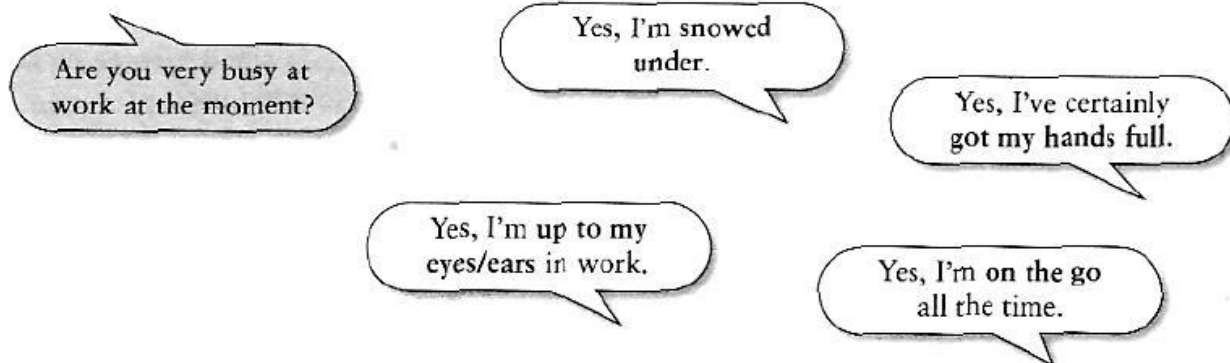
2.13 Make up dialogues using the idioms of the topic about your own life.

3 Unit 3 Daily routine

3.1 Match the idioms with their Russian equivalents:

to twiddle one`s thumbs	не сомкнуть глаз
to be back on track	валять дурака
in the dead of night	по горло работы
to play the fool	иметь много дел
tired Tim	коротать время
not to sleep a wink	глубокой ночью
to have one`s hands full	войти в колею
to be up one`s ears in work	битый час
to while away the time	бить баклуши
to keep late hours	очень занятой
on the run	неисправимый лодырь
a whole good hour	проветриться
as busy as a bee	палец о палец не ударить
not to do a stroke of work	поздно ложиться
to blow away the cobwebs	на бегу
to be in a split of a hurry	очень торопиться

To be **rushed off your feet** is just one way of saying that you are very busy at work. Here are some other idioms that give the same idea:



3.2 Make up a story about George and his daily routine. Use idiomatic English.

George lived on the second floor of a large block of flats and when I came to the door I heard the sound of piano playing. George was glad to see me. He seemed in great spirits and extremely happy. He had a lesson twice a week and for the rest of the time practised. He told me that he worked ten hours a week. "Daddy said I was born tired. I wasn't really lazy. I didn't see the use of working at things that bored me." I asked him how he was getting on with piano. He seemed to be satisfied with his progress."

(From *The Alien Corn* by W.S. Maugham)

3.3 Put the following nouns in the idiomatic expressions below:

plate, end, finger, candle, hands, thumbs, feet, eyes.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| a) lift a ___; | e) at a loose ___; |
| b) have your ___ full; | f) twiddle your ___; |
| c) burn the ___ at both ends; | g) up to my ___; |
| d) on my ___; | h) enough on my ___. |

Use the expressions in these situations.

1. – You're late. Did you miss the train?
– Yes, I didn't leave the office till six. I'm ... in work at the moment.
2. – How was your first day at work?
– Really boring. I had nothing to do. I just sat at my desk
3. – Bill wants to know if you can spend some time training the new secretary.
– I'm afraid I haven't got a minute – I can't. I've already got
4. – You look tired. Are you OK?
– Yes, I just need to go to bed earlier. I've been
5. – Come in. Sit down, make yourself at home.
– Thanks. I need a rest. I've been ... all day.
6. – So, I'm going to spend the whole weekend painting the outside of the house.
– Do you want some help? My boyfriend's away so I'm ... this weekend.
7. – Do you and Paul share the cooking and cleaning?
– You must be joking. He never
8. – My sister's three children are coming to stay with me this weekend.
– You'll Rather you than me.

3.4 Put the missing prepositions in the idioms below and expand on the sentences.

1. I'm ___ to my ears in work.
2. It's been one thing ___ another.
3. I've been ___ my feet all day.
4. Are you ___ a loose end this evening?
5. I'm tied ___ till after lunch.
6. I've been ___ the go all day.
7. We've been rushed ___ our feet.
8. I've already got enough ___ my plate.
9. I've been burning the candle ___ both ends.
10. I can fit you ___ on Monday.



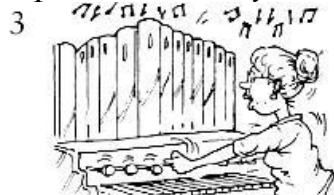
“We keep trying to find time to visit you, but we were tied up with dogs most evenings.”

3.5 Read the text paying attention to the idioms.

When Simon started work, he was at the very **bottom of the career ladder**¹. He had quite a **dead-end job**² doing **run-of-the-mill**³ tasks. He stayed there for a couple of years, but then decided he had to **get out of a rut**⁴. He **pulled out all the stops**⁵ and managed to persuade his manager that he should be given more responsibility. The deputy manager **got the sack**⁶ for incompetence and Simon **stepped into his shoes**⁷. For several months he was **rushed off his feet**⁸ and he **had his work cut out**⁹ to keep on top of things. But he was soon recognised as an **up-and-coming**¹⁰ young businessman and he was **headhunted**¹¹ by a rival company for one of their top jobs. Simon had **climbed to the top of their career ladder**¹².

- ¹ in a low position in a work organisation or hierarchy
- ² job without a good future
- ³ boring, routine
- ⁴ escape from a monotonous, boring situation
- ⁵ made a great effort to do something well
- ⁶ was dismissed from his job
- ⁷ took over his job
- ⁸ very busy
- ⁹ had something very difficult to do
- ¹⁰ becoming more and more successful
- ¹¹ invited to join a new workplace which had noticed his talents
- ¹² got to a top position in a work organisation or hierarchy

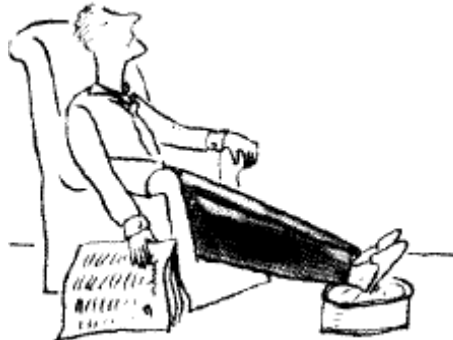
3.6 Which idioms do these pictures make you think of?



3.7 Give the Russian equivalents of the following proverbs and make up a story to illustrate them.

- An early bird catches a worm.
- Time is money.
- Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today.
- Time and tide wait for no man.
- Better late than never.
- Everyday is not Sunday.
- No man can do two things at once.
- All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.

- Punctuality is a virtue.
- Early sow, early mow.
- As is the workman so is the work.
- No pains, no gains.
- Haste makes waste.
- A stitch in time saves nine.
- Well begun is half done.
- By doing nothing we learn to do ill.
- Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.



He's taking forty winks.

3.8 Translate the sentences into Russian.

1. Mr. Carey lay down on the sofa in the drawing-room for forty winks. (*Maugham*) 2. Haste makes waste, Purvis. Haste makes waste. If I've told you that once. I must have told you that a hundred times. Haste makes waste. (*Heller*) 3. ... we'll go for a good long run by the sea and the fresh air will blow the cobwebs away. (*Cusack and James*) 4. "Have you had a nice little nap, William?" she asked. "No," he answered. "Philip made so much noise that I couldn't sleep a wink." (*Maugham*) 5. "... Well, Dad – let's have it and get it over with." "Easier said than done. You and me don't quite see things the same way, do we?" (*Coward*) 6. A man who respects himself strikes out on his own and makes something of his life. He doesn't just sit round and twiddle his thumbs. No woman ought to respect a man who does that. (*Christie*) 7. ... Tom would see how brilliant she could be when she took the trouble. (*Maugham*) 8. "You've never done a stroke of work in your life. What do you expect to do to earn money?" "Sell old clothes," grinned George. (*Maugham*) 9. Benham felt it was very kind of him to take so intimate an interest in these matters, but on the spur of the moment he could find no better expression for this than a grunt. (*Wells*) 10. I had to work against time to get the thing finished... (*Shaw*) 11. It was quite hard to make friends with anybody in the village. They were not unfriendly, but they were in no hurry to get closely acquainted. They had all the time in the world. (*Dickens*) 12. My children have been asking for you... Come and see them now. There is no time like the present. (*Maugham*)

3.9 Complete the sentences by choosing the correct idiom.

1. That clock is unreliable. It's been ___ recently.

- a) behind the times; b) keeping bad time; c) taking its time.
2. It's late. We ought to ___ and continue with the work tomorrow.
- a) make a day of it; b) make our day; c) call it a day.
3. I start work early, so I usually ___, but yesterday was an exception.
- a) keep regular hours; b) keep small hours; c) have my moment.
4. I'm sorry I can't stop for a chat, but I'm ___ at the moment.
- a) behind the times; b) in no times; c) pressed for time; d) buying time.
5. The language course was excellent. I found that my English improved ___.
- a) day in day out; b) to a day; c) day by day.
6. Bill plays golf ___, but not often.
- a) once in a blue moon; b) off and on; c) in no time at all.
7. It's going to be a busy year for us. We've got two major projects to finish and an even bigger one ___.
- a) in the pipeline; b) at the top of the tree; c) at the end of the ladder.
8. My job took a few months before I really could ___.
- a) stand my pace; b) find my feet; c) see the short-list.

3.10 Translate the following sentences into English. Use the idioms from the list of prompts below:

Sweat one's guts out, idle away one's time, do smth carelessly/in a slipshod manner, roll up one's sleeves and set to work, run around like a squirrel in a cage, one can hardly keep one's eyes open, by the sweat of smb's brow, work indefatigably, sit twiddling one's thumbs, nod off/ be drowsy, get out of bed on the wrong side, twiddle one's thumbs/ waste one's time, be all thumbs, Jack of all trades, hang on the phone, be ready to drop (with fatigue).

1. Пружинкин ... не замечал, что, исполняя поручения генеральши, он без отдыха вертится как белка в колесе. (*Мамин-Сибиряк*) 2. ... Он без умолку говорил о погоде, о товарищах и том, что теперь можно ни о чем не думать и бить баклуши до сентября. (*Овсеева*) 3. А Аглая сидит, ничего не делает. У меня тоже дело из рук валится: ничего не выходит. (*Достоевский*) 4. Нина Капитоновна вдруг объявила, что с ног падает, хочет спать, сейчас же легла и заснула. (*Каверин*) 5. – Чего повис на телефоне? Опять, верно, ... Капитолине Фоминичне названиваешь? (*Тендряков*) 6. Он у нас и ученый, и на скрипке играет, и выпиливает разные штучки, одним словом, мастер на все руки. (*Чехов*) 7. Лузина, вероятно, встала сегодня с левой ноги, потому что сидела за столом хмурая и сердитая. (*Станюкович*) 8. От усталости сами закрывались глаза, но почему-то не спалось: казалось, что мешает уличный шум. (*Чехов*) 9. Укорял он меня за то, что мы ничего не делаем, работаем спустя рукава. (*Антонов*) 10. ... Ты должен был выйти на поле, засучив рукава, работать. (*Тургенев*) 11. Спать было негде. Всю ночь мы просидели у камней и клевали носами до самого рассвета. (*Арсеньев*) 12. Ты не вправе лежать на боку, когда можешь делать что-нибудь, пока есть силы. (*Гончаров*) 13. Один правовед сказал мне, что самая лучшая и безвредная специальность, это – лежать на диване и плевать в потолок. (*Чехов*) 14. Он работал не покладая рук, ... и наконец увидел, что сделано уже много... (*Бунин*) 15.

Трудиться, как мы тут, ... до седьмого поту, не будешь. (Катерян) 16.
Жители более почтенного возраста..., засучив рукава..., трудились в поте лица. (Тендряков)

3.11 Make up short conversations in the following situations. Use the idioms of the topic:

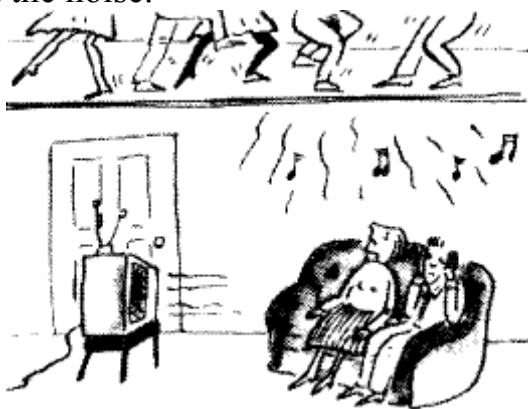
1) Your boss is constantly pressuring you to work overtime. You need to get home to your family. Explain this to your boss.



2) Ask one of your employees why he / she is always late.

3) Complain to the manager of your block of flats that there is too much noise at night and you can't sleep.

4) Your neighbours are having a big party. It is 2:00 in the morning. Go upstairs and complain about the noise.



5) You have an important exam tomorrow. A friend of yours comes over and asks you to go to a movie with him / her.

6) Your friend never wants to go anywhere. There's going to be a great party tomorrow night. Convince your friend to go with you to the party.

4 Unit 4 Shopping

4.1 Read and study.

To **go window-shopping** is looking at the goods in the windows of shops, but not buying them. If you **talk shop** it means you talk about work, especially in circumstances where this is inappropriate. To **sink the shop** is to avoid talking about your work. **Shop-lifting** is stealing from shops. **All over the shop** is everywhere, in all directions, in a state of disorder or confusion. To **come to the right shop** is to address the place you need.

Money burns a hole in one's pocket – one has an irresistible urge to spend money as soon as one has it.

Money for jam – money earned for little or no effort. To **make a killing** – earn a lot of money very easily. To **be a money spinner** – be a successful way of making money. To **have money to burn/ spend money like water/ live in the lap of luxury/ be well-off/well-to-do/well-heeled** – have so much money that one can spend as lavishly as one wants.

To **pay through the nose** – pay a lot of money. **For a song** – very cheaply. To **cost an arm and a leg/ to cost a pretty penny** – be extremely expensive. If something is a **rip-off**, it means that it is not worth the money that you paid for it. To **spend a small fortune** – spend a lot of money.

To **be on the breadline** – to be very poor. To **tighten the belt** – to spend less than one did before, because one has less money.



"Money to burn? He could buy
and sell the likes of us!"

4.2 Read the following passage, translate it into Russian.

Bill is a generous man who is happy to **pick up the tab/ bill** for anything. He managed to rise to the top of his profession in the police force, but it was **at a considerable price**². His marriage suffered as a result. This was largely because his dedication to his work **put paid to**³ his wife's career as a nurse as soon as their first child came along. Unfortunately, Bill is **paying the price for**⁴ his ambitiousness now as his wife has left him and taken their son.

¹ pay for something, often something that is not your responsibility

- ² by sacrificing a lot or by doing something unpleasant in order to get it
³ stopped someone from doing something that they were planning to do
⁴ experiencing the unpleasant consequences of

Read and learn:

If you say something or someone is **flavour of the month**, it means that that thing or person is very popular. This is a reference to supermarkets' practice of putting a particular flavour of something – strawberry ice cream, for example – on special offer for a month: **Flavour-of-the-month** actress, Becci Carr, stars in tonight's TV drama.

The phrase **be past** or **pass one's sell-by-date** is often used humorously to refer to a person or thing that is not wanted or used any more because they are too old. It refers to the way supermarket food is marked with a sell-by date after which the product must be removed from the shelves before it goes bad: I certainly feel as if I've passed my sell-by date this morning.

4.3 Match the idioms and their Russian equivalents:

to go to pot	набить цену
at all costs	наводнить рынок
to jack up the price	сногшибательная цена
to flood the market	купить kota в мешке
to feather one's nest	дешево и сердито
buy a pig in a poke	вылететь в трубу
knockdown price	карманные деньги
hit smb's pockets	любой ценой
cheap and nasty	бить по карману кого-либо
pin money	быть одураченным
to be bought and sold	нагреть руки

4.4 Put these expressions describing how much money someone has on a scale from poor on the left to rich on the right:

living in the lap of luxury, **on the breadline**, well-to-do, well-heeled,
living from hand to mouth, in the red.

4.5 Which person in each pair of speakers is probably more satisfied?

1) Anne: Our new business venture means we're going to have to tighten our belts.

Bob: We're making a killing with our new business venture.

2) Colin: Our new car cost a small fortune.

Daisy: Our new car was a rip-off.

3) Ed: My daughter spends money like water.

Fred: My daughter's quite well off.

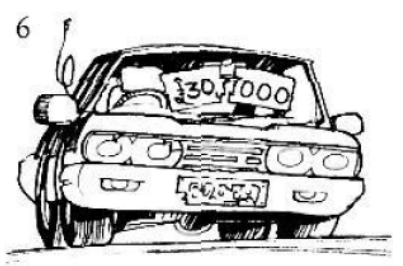
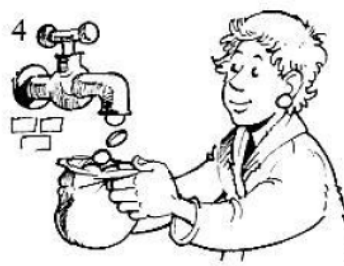
4) Gill: This business venture has put paid to our hopes of success.

Harry: This business venture has brought success, but at a considerable price.

4.6 Complete each of these idioms with one word.

1. Gina is _____ a killing in her new job.
2. I was put in the position where I had no choice but to _____ up to the tab.
3. We spent a weekend at the hotel living in the _____ of luxury.
4. Our neighbours spent a small _____ on their new conservatory.
5. The first book Marvin wrote turned out to be more of a _____ than anything he has written since then.
6. As Zak has lost his job, we're going to have to _____ our belts for a while.
7. We had to pay through the _____ to get tickets for the match.
8. If you don't study now, you'll _____ the price later on in the year.
9. Another expression that means spend money like _____ is spend money like there was no tomorrow.
10. He started his own business after _____ a small fortune on the stock exchange and deciding that he should put his luck to good use.

4.7 Which idioms do these pictures make you think of?



4.8 Complete the conversation with the correct idioms in the correct form:

on HP,
shop with someone,
shop around,
sell like hot cakes,
do a roaring trade,

out of stock,
bring prices down,
knock money off,
put prices up,
take goods on approval.

AT THE SHOP

“Hello. Are you shopping here nowadays? Haven't I seen you in Sharp's a couple of times?”

“I'm just comparing prices.”

“Oh, I always do. It pays to 1. I used to 2 Sharp's, but I don't buy much there now. This shop's much cheaper. They even let you 3 so that you can't do

that at Sharp`s. And here you can buy 4, on a monthly basis. You can`t do that at Sharp`s either. Mr Sharp does what he wants with his prices. He 5 regularly, but he never 6. I bought a coffee-maker here last week. It had a small scratch on it, so they even 7. Sharp`s wouldn`t have done that. Mr Sharp is quite friendly, but they say his wife`s very peculiar. Oh, look! Here are those new cheese graters. The shop assistant said they`re 8 and will soon be 9 again, so I`ll buy one now. Oh, just look at the queue at the check-out! This shop obviously 10. By the way, my name`s Doreen Watson. What`s yours?"

"Sharp!"

Act out the dialogue.

4.9 Study the idioms and use them in the correct form in the situations below.

You pick up bargains.

Things can cost a bit over the top.

Things can be dirt cheap.

Something which is very expensive can set you back a bit.

You can pay through the nose.

Things can cost an arm and a leg.

You can be ripped off.

A shop can knock money off an item.

1. – I checked the prices in that restaurant yesterday. Pizzas start at £8! – £8! That`s ... , isn`t it?
2. – Have you seen John`s new car?
– Yes, lovely, isn`t it? I bet it ... !
3. – What have you been doing this morning?
– Just shopping. I ... a few bargains in the sales.
4. – Renting a flat in London is getting more and more expensive. It`s ridiculous.
– I know. You have to ... for anything with more than two rooms.
5. – Where do you get your blank videos from?
– A little shop behind the library. They`re ... there.
6. – Hey, I love your new jacket. It is new, isn`t it?
– Yes, I got it last weekend. It wasn`t cheap. It cost me
7. – Sorry I`m late. I had to get a taxi here. He charged me £12. Is that normal?
– £12? I`m afraid you`ve just been
8. – £50 for a CD player? How did you manage to get it so cheap?
– It`s an ex-display model so they ... £45 ... the list price.

Note: an informal and amusing way of asking the price of something is "What`s the damage?"

4.10 Divide the following expressions into two groups.

A: Poor:

B: Not exactly poor, but certainly not rich:

a) living on the breadline,

e) my account`s in the red,

b) enough to get by on,

f) a bit hard up,

c) not very well off,

g) can`t make ends meet,

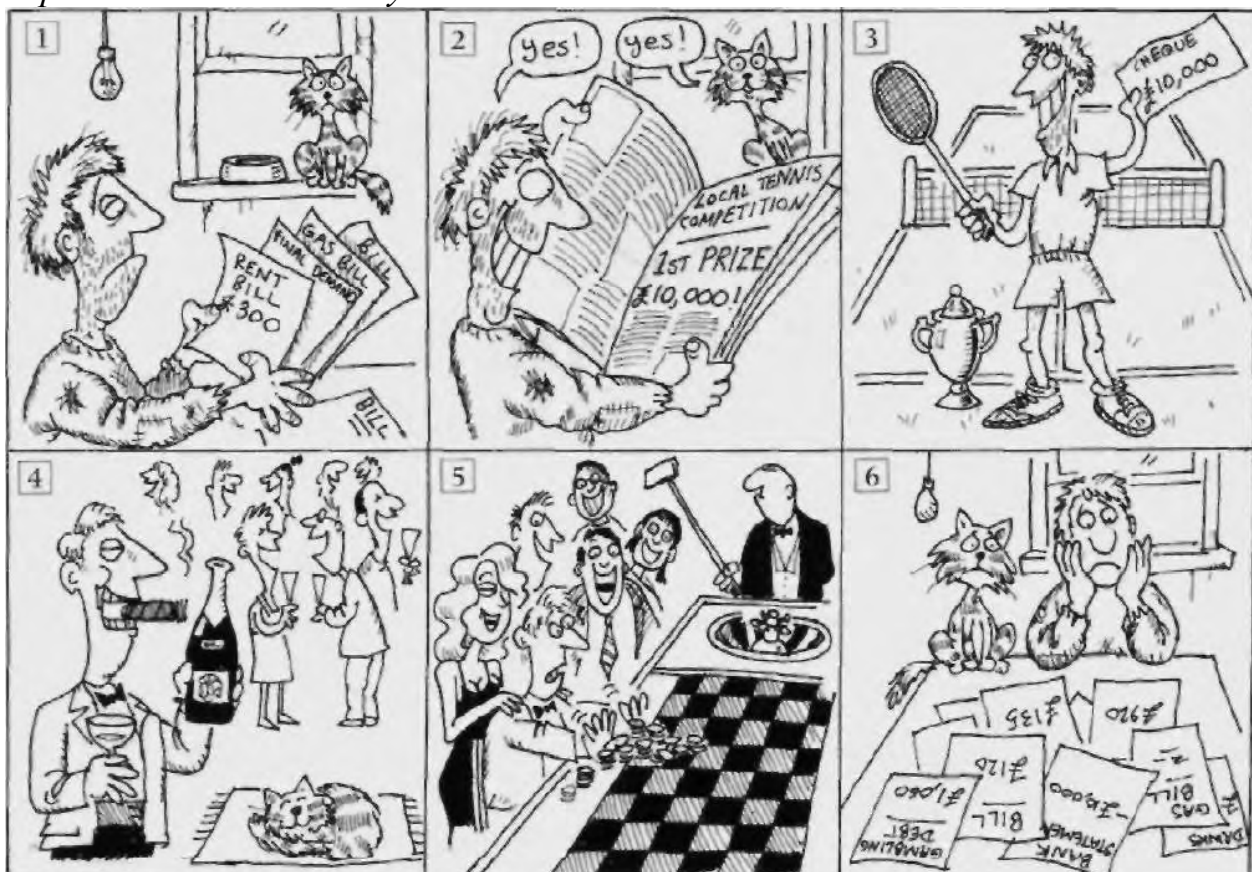
d) without a penny to his name, h) living from hand to mouth.

Now complete the situations using the above.

1. – We're going up to London for the weekend. Do you want to come?
– I'd love to but I've just paid out £600 on the car so I'm a
2. – What was that letter from the bank about?
– I'm afraid we're ... again.
3. – What's the pay like where you work?
– Not very good, but it's OK. It's
4. This is a modern, industrialized society but millions of people in this country are still living ... , just surviving.
5. I was thinking of inviting Jane and David to come with us to the opera, but I don't think they could afford to. David hasn't got much work at the moment so they're not ... at the moment.
6. My sister's husband has just died and she is left alone with four children. I don't know how she manages to
7. He's lost everything – job, house, car. Now He's living on the streets
8. My job isn't bad but I don't earn enough to save much or buy any nice things. I'm basically

Note: the 'breadline' is the situation where you are just able to feed yourself and your family. If you had any less, you would go 'below the breadline' and not be able to survive.

4.11 Look at the picture story below. Practise telling it with the idioms of the topic. Then write the story.



4.12 Read the English proverbs and their Russian equivalents, learn them.

Penny wise and pound foolish – it is foolish to lose a lot of money and to save a little money – экономить на мелочах.

e.g. He drives thirty miles to buy petrol for a few pence a gallon less than it costs here. He's really penny wise and pound foolish.

Cut the coat according to the cloth – to spend only as much money as you can afford – по одежке протягивай ножки.

e.g. The allowance was a small fraction of their normal income, but to that they could have adjusted themselves. What happens, happens, and you cut your coat according to your cloth and you don't whine.

Lend your money and lose your friend – хочешь потерять друга одолжи ему денег.

Money begets (breeds, draws) money – деньги к деньгам

e.g. ... it came to pass that the fortune of Lucy acquired several additions. "Money draws money", the proverb says.

Money has no smell – деньги не пахнут

Money makes the mare go – за деньги и кляча поскачет

e.g. Both would say that it was money that made the mare go ...

4.13 Read the joke.

- My uncle is so mean with money that he refuses to let his children go to school.

- Why?

- Because they have to pay attention!

4.14 Speak on one of the following topics using the idioms.

1. I'd like most to buy ...

2. The dearest thing I've ever bought ...

3. The car/ house I would like to own someday ...

5 Unit 5 Eating

5.1 Here are some common idioms using 'eating' words. Match them up with their meanings:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1) It's not my taste. | a) I am extremely hungry. |
| 2) I had to eat my words. | b) I don't like it. |
| 3) I've had my fill. | c) It wasn't popular. |
| 4) That didn't go down well. | d) I was proved to be wrong. |
| 5) I bit his head off. | e) I spoke sharply to him. |
| 6) I made a meal of it. | f) I don't want any more. |
| 7) I could eat a horse. | g) I love chocolates and other sweets. |
| 8) I've got a sweet tooth. | h) I took too long to do it. |



“How dare you accuse me of biting your head off?”

Complete the dialogues with the idioms. You will need to change some of them a little.

- Are you still hungry?
– Yes,
- I thought you liked opera.
– No, ... in music at all.
- What do you think of the new tax on plane tickets?
– It won't ... with business people or people living in outlying areas.
- Do you think Jane will have a dessert?
– I'm sure she will. She's always had
- I had said absolutely nothing, so I have no idea why Bill ... !
– I know. I spoke to him and he's sorry he said what he said. He's going to apologise to you personally.
- My teacher told me I'd fail all my exams. Then I passed with the top grades!
– I suppose you made him ... !
- I've been working on this essay for weeks. I don't know when I'll get it finished.

- You`ll have to hurry up. You`re ... !
- 8. - So, Nigel, you`re not standing for the committee again this year?
 - No, I`ve ... of the committees. I`m stepping down.

5.2 Read and learn.

The word **appetite** can be used to refer to a desire for food or for something other than food. In the same way, **whet your appetite** can be used to mean awaken a desire: Cinemas use trailers to whet viewers` appetites and make them want to see the whole film.

Sweet things are generally considered to be particularly pleasant and luxurious. **The icing on the cake**, for example, refers not only to the sugar coating on a cake but also to something that makes a good situation even better: This trophy is the icing on the cake for Julie who has had a great year as a tennis player.

Sour and **bitter** generally have unpleasant associations in idioms. If an experience **leaves a sour taste in your mouth**, you have an unpleasant memory of it. If you do something **to the bitter end**, you see it through to the end even though it takes a long time and is difficult.

5.3 Use the following idiomatic expressions in the situations below:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| a) left a bad taste in my mouth, | f) something to get my teeth into, |
| b) bit my head off, | g) a second bite at the cherry, |
| c) digest, | h) bite off more than you can |
| d) have your cake and eat it, | chew. |
| e) swallow your pride, | |

1. - I can`t afford the rent on my flat. My parents have said I can go back and live with them but I`d feel such a failure.

- I think you`ll just have to ... and accept their help.

2. - Keep away from Christine this morning. She`s in a bad mood.

- I know. She ... for no reason when I arrived.

3. So, Tom apologised for what he`d said to you?

- Yes, but the whole experience has

4. - I thought you liked your job. Why do you want a change?

- I need a fresh challenge - ...

5. - I`m going to try to fix the car myself.

- Well, if it`s difficult, don`t do it. Don`t

6. - So, what do you think about the new budget proposals, then?

- I haven`t really had time to ... all the details yet.

7. - Feel like a few days off, but I really need the overtime.

- The problem with you is you always want to

8. - I`ve failed me university entrance exam. I`m not sure if I can re-take it.

- I expect you can. You`re allowed ..., surely?

5.4 Read the sentences, pay attention to the idioms.

1. My friend is trying to lose weight by eating like a bird. 2. We have high tea at about 5 o'clock. 3. My brother cannot do without a square meal. 4. The Browns wined and dined their guests on Sunday. 5. The smell made my mouth water. 6. He's going to come a cropper I'm afraid. And pretty soon too. He's bitten off more than he can chew. (*Osborne*) 7. "You'll have a bite with us." "No, thank you, no." (*Cronin*) 8. But Wakefield's pride was severely hurt, and he answered disdainfully, take it all, man – take it all – never make two bites of a cherry ... (*Scott*) 9. When her children come home, they eat her out of house and home. 10. He has lost his appetite since his operation.

5.5 Translate the following proverbs.

- The glutton digs his grave with his teeth.
- The proof of the pudding is in its eating.
- You can't eat a cake and have it.
- Eating and scratching wants but a beginning.
- Man does not live by bread alone.
- Too many cooks spoil the broth.
- First catch your hare then cook him.
- You cannot make an omelette without breaking eggs.
- Enough is as good as feast.
- Hunger is the best sauce.
- One man's meat is another man's poison.
- Dog does not eat dog.
- After dinner sit a while, after supper walk a mile.
- You are what you eat.
- As you brew, so must you drink.
- Hunger breaks stone walls.
- There is no such thing as a free lunch.
- A hungry belly has no ears.
- The nearer the bone, the sweeter the flesh.
- Praise is not pudding.

Learn the proverbs. Make up a situation illustrating one of the proverbs for your fellow students to guess the proverb you have chosen.

5.6 Rewrite the following text in idiomatic English.

My brother usually eats a lot of food. He has for meals a day: he eats early in the morning, in the afternoon, in the early evening and late at night. He always has a good satisfying meal. The boy likes sweets and cakes most of all. When he sees them he wants to eat them immediately. He says they are soft and delicious. When he eats he makes a loud noise with his lips because he is hungry. At school he has a quick meal between his main meals. The boy also takes some food, wrapped in paper, to eat at school for lunch. My mother says he eats her supply of food quickly and she has to buy more food.

My sister eats very little. She eats only particular things. She often eats a cake before a meal and then she doesn't want to eat at the meal. She's in the habit of saying: "I'm full, I'm not hungry." My mother often tells her that a person has a desire for food when he starts eating.

As you see, different people like different things. Your character can be decided by the kind of food you eat, too.

5.7 Translate into English.

1. Возился я целый день, не присел, маковой росинки во рту не было. (Чехов) 2. «Пахнет у вас вкусно, аж слюнки текут!» - заметил Гусаков и перешел в комнату, без стеснения разглядывая закуски. (Кетлинская) 3. В начале двенадцатого, ощущая уже аппетит, возвращались в роту и там получали по два тонких ломтя черного хлеба, чтобы заморить червяка перед обедом. (Станюкович) 4. Поссорься с одним – с другим, так и придется зубы на полку положить. (Островский) 5. «А что вы сами-то разве не станете кушать?» - спросил Антон Иванович. «И! ... Мне и кусок в горло не пойдет.» (Гончаров) 6. У них бывают такие вкусные блинчики к кофе, что пальчики оближешь. (Степанов) 7. Владимир, живя теперь, как многие живут на Руси, без гроша наличного, без постоянного занятия, питался только что не манной небесной. (Тургенев) 8. Полина Карповна стала было и его угощать конфетами, но он съедал фунта по три в один присест. (Гончаров) 9. Марья на ужин состряпала такие пельмени, что язык проглотишь. (Мамин-Сибиряк) 10. Я почувствовал, что я просто дармоед: ничего не делаю, ем чужой хлеб ... (Успенский)

5.8 Read and translate the text. Pay attention to the idioms in bold type.

IT'S A PIECE OF CAKE

Or, in other words, it's very easy! There are quite a few expressions in English which are based on English food.

If you're **in the soup**, you're in trouble, but you're not very intelligent if you're **half-baked**. **Bread** is a slang expression for money, and wanting **jam** means you want some luxuries as well as the basic things in life. If you know **which side your bread is buttered**, you know when you are well off. An **old salt** is a sailor, but if you take something **with a pinch of salt** you doubt whether it is true. If you're as keen as **mustard**, you're very enthusiastic about something, but if it's not your **cup of tea**, you don't like it very much. When you **sugar the pill**, you disguise the unpleasant part of something, and if the thing is **sugary**, it is too sentimental. A person who is **worth his salt** is a good worker, but someone who is **saucy** is rather impudent. If you **cook your goose**, you ruin your chances, and if you **cook the books**, you falsify the accounts. Finally, a **storm in a tea-cup** is a lot of fuss about nothing.

5.9 Read the story and answer the questions. Copy the idioms in bold type.

A REAL LEMON

The used car I bought for three hundred dollars was a **lemon**. My friends said I was **nuts** to believe the **baloney** the seller gave. The seller said that the car was

like new, with only ten thousand miles on it. She called it reliable transportation at a very low price. She said she was really selling it for **peanuts**.

Starting the engine of the car was **a piece of cake**. I just turned the key – no problem. However, soon I was **in a pickle**: the brakes didn't work! The owner of the Cadillac I hit **went bananas** when he saw the damage to the front of his car. He started shouting at me and wouldn't stop. Now I have to pay him two thousand dollars to repair his car. But My friend Nina was **a peach**. She took my car to the garbage dump so that I didn't have to see it again.

1. Does something that is a lemon work well? Have you ever bought a lemon?
2. Is something that is a piece of cake easy to do or hard to do? Name some things that are a piece of cake for you to do.
3. What does it happen to the person when he goes bananas?



He was worried before the exam, but for him it was a piece of cake.

*5.10 Answer each question with **yes** or **no**.*

- 1) When the president gave Lou her award, they shook hands, and the audience applauded politely. Did the audience go bananas?
- 2) Our basketball team won by a score of 120 to 60. Did we cream the opponent?
- 3) On our return home, we found the front door open. Was anything fishy going on?
- 4) Does a sausage dog look after sausages?
- 5) Can you eat traffic jam?
- 6) John has a good job and today he won a million dollars in the lottery. Is he in a pickle?
- 7) Bob Kent thinks his daughter is the best. Is she the apple of his eye?
- 8) The salesperson told me he could give a big discount, just for me. Was he probably talking baloney?
- 9) Linda promised to spend Saturday helping me cook the food for the party. Is Linda a peach?
- 10) Mary went to a fancy store and paid full price for her furniture. Did she buy the furniture for peanuts?

5.11 Read the pop star's diary and fill in the gaps.

10.30 am

I don't like to get up at the ___ of dawn but today I got up earlier than usual. After breakfast, I drove down to the shops and bought a new mobile phone to contact all my famous friends. It's great, it fits into my pocket and it's as light as a ___.

1.00 pm

Had lunch at Bratney Square's house. The vegetables were nice but the meat was tough as old ___.

5.12 pm

Went for a walk and saw Madonna jogging in the park. She runs ten kilometers a day. She's as fit as a ___.

3.00 pm

Drove back home, but ran over a champagne bottle and got a puncture. The front wheel was as flat as ___.

3.30 pm

Saw Kylie Mini at the supermarket. I called to her, but

she didn't answer. (Apparently, she's as deaf as a post.)

5.00 pm

Bumped into Robbie Millions at the recording studio. I accidentally spilt my coffee all over the words to his new song. I went as red as a ___. But Robbie didn't mind. He said he didn't like the song much anyway. He was as cool as a ___.

7.30 pm

Babysat for my friend Victoria Buckingham. It's a piece of ___. The child was as good as a gold.

8.00 pm

Watched an awards ceremony on TV. I wasn't I invited? It left a ___ taste in my mouth!

10.30 pm

Went home and got ready to go to the new disco in town. It was as cold as ___ outside so I wore my cool new coat.

4.30 am

Got home. Ready to ___ with fatigue. I was absolutely exhausted after my hard day.



5.12 Fill in the following idioms in the sentences below:

- a) stew in his own juice,
- b) butter him up,

- c) cheesed off,
- d) egg on our face,

- e) take that with a pinch of salt, g) went pear-shaped,
f) coach potato, h) salt of the earth.

1. My brother works hard during the week but at the weekends he spends most of his time lying on the sofa watching TV. He can be a real ____ .
2. I really like Janet. She`s uncomplicated and honest. What you see is what you get. She`s always helping people. She`s ____.
3. – What`s the matter with you? You look totally fed up.
– I am. I was supposed to have a day off on Friday but I`ve just been told I can`t because there`s too much work. I`m really ____.
4. The whole peace settlement ____ when the terrorists planted a bomb in the main railway station.
5. – A few days before we ask our boss for anything, we start being extra nice to her.
– We do the same with our boss! We just ____ a bit. It`s never failed yet!
6. – There`s a story going about that we`re being sold to Koreans.
– I`d ____ I don`t know where nonsense like that starts!
7. – I`m going to phone Mike to see if he`s ready to say sorry about that argument.
– No, don`t do that. It`s his fault, so let him ____ for a while.
8. – We ended up with ____ .
– How come?
– Well, after we had insisted on everyone else doing things correctly, we discovered that we were the ones who had been breaking the rules!

5.13 *What might Jo say in each situation? Match the remarks with the situations.*

- You can`t have your cake and eat it!**
I was left with a sour taste in my mouth!
It provides the bread and butter.
He had egg on his face!
It`s the best thing since sliced bread!

- 1) Jo`s husband asks her what she thinks of some new computer software she`s using.
- 2) Jo asks her brother how he likes his new, rather boring work.
- 3) Jo`s husband asks her how she felt after a meeting at work where people said some very unpleasant things to each other.
- 4) Jo tells her husband about her boss – whom she doesn`t like – who made a mistake in some basic figures at a meeting where all the main company managers were present.
- 5) Jo`s son tells her that he`s going to spend his (not very large) savings on an expensive new guitar as well as going on a trip to Australia.

5.14 Make up short conversations in the following situations. Use the idioms of the topic.

1. Your friend always embarrasses you when you go to a restaurant because of the way he/ she eats. Talk to your friend about it.
2. Your roommate takes you to a Japanese restaurant for your birthday. Explain to your roommate that you hate Japanese food.
3. You are in an airplane and the flight attendant brings you a meal. It has meat in it and you are vegetarian. Explain why you can't eat it.

6 Unit 6 Clothing

6.1 Read the story and answer the questions.

IN THE BOSS'S SHOES

Some people get angry easily. You have to be careful and **handle them with kid gloves**. My boss is always angry. He's always **hot under the collar** about something. If sales are bad, he gets very nervous. He's afraid that he's going to lose everything. He thinks he's about **to lose his shirt**. But the business never makes very much money. We always run **on a shoestring**. In business, you have to be calm and keep your temper. You have **to keep your shirt on**. Our business might be better if my boss could stay calm. Still, I prefer to be me than to have my boss's job, I don't want **to be in his shoes**. He's under too much pressure.

- 1) If you get hot under the collar, how do you feel? What makes you get hot under the collar?
- 2) If you keep your shirt on, do you get hot under the collar?
- 3) Many people would like to be in someone else's shoes. Whose shoes would you like to be in?

6.2 Read and translate the following text.

ARE YOU TOO BIG FOR YOUR BOOTS?

Many colloquial expressions in English are based on the clothes that people wear. Here are some of the most popular ones.

To **tighten your belt** is to economize, and to **be tied to your mother's apron strings** is to be still under her control. If someone tries to **button-hole** or **collar you**, they try to get your attention forcefully. A **stuffed shirt** is a pompous person, and a **shirty person** is bad tempered (perhaps from **getting someone's shirt off** – making them angry enough to fight). Somebody who **gets hot under the collar** is very angry. To **be in someone else's shoes** is to be in their position, and to **have something up one's sleeve** is to hold something in reserve. If you **put on your thinking cap**, you think very carefully about something, and if you **pull your socks up**, you try to make more effort. To **take off your hat to someone** is to respect them, and to **keep something under your hat** is to keep it secret. If you

handle something with kid gloves, you treat it very carefully, and if you **do something on a shoe-string**, you do it on a very low budget. To **give someone the boot** is to dismiss them from a job, and to **cap it all** (or to be the final thing); if you **are too big for your boots** you behave as if you are more important than you really are.

Now, put one of those expressions in bold type into the following sentences.

1. I'll tell you a secret but you must ...
2. You've got to be careful what you say to him. If you mention politics he gets ...
3. The boss is really angry with you. I wouldn't like to be ...
4. We haven't got much money this month, so we'll have to ...
5. If you don't work harder, you won't pass the exam. You really must ...
6. That man is very boring, and he's always trying to ... me to talk about his work.



It was wartime and we had to tighten our belts.

6.3 Match the idioms with their meanings.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 6.4 (have a) bee in one's bonnet | • beyond what is fair or socially acceptable |
| 6.5 below the belt | • dress in nice or sexy clothes |
| 6.6 bursting at the seams | • unprepared |
| 6.7 caught with one's pants down | • be in charge, make the rules |
| 6.8 dress to kill, dress to the nines | • in the nude |
| 6.9 hand-me-down | • let someone else do all the work |
| 6.10 in one's birthday suit | • something that is annoying someone |
| 6.11 off the cuff | • stop talking |
| 6.12 put a sock in it | • used clothing |
| 6.13 ride one's coattails | • a person or thing that appears friendly or harmless but is really hostile and dangerous |
| 6.14 wear the trousers | • not fitting anymore |
| 6.15 a wolf in sheep's clothing | • said without planning |

6.4 Translate the sentences into Russian.



She`s dressed up like a dog`s dinner.

1. It was a group project, but everyone rode Andrew`s coattails. 2. Put a sock in it! I`m trying to tell a story. 3. My cousin was dressed to kill on her birthday. 4. I ate too much. I`m bursting at the seams in these jeans. 5. Milan has had a bee in his bonnet all day, but he won`t tell me what`s wrong. 6. His comment about Manfred`s handicap was below the belt. 7. We buy hand-me-down skates because the kids` feet grow so quickly. 8. What do you mean she won`t let you come out with us? Who wears the trousers in your house? 9. The swimmers in the lake were in their birthday suits. 10. I didn`t have a speech prepared. Everything I said was off the cuff. 11. I`m sorry, madam, we don`t have any of these jumpers in size 14. We`re completely out of stock. I don`t think we`ll be getting any more of them till next year. 12. He doesn`t worry about his appearance or what is in fashion. He always wears clothes that are out of fashion. 13. I`d enjoy weddings more if I didn`t have to be dressed up like a dog`s dinner.

Aunt Maggie was dressed to the nines at the party.



6.5 Match these meanings with the idioms in bold type in the sentences

below:

a) tell nobody,

d) old-fashioned, out of date,

b) admire,

e) do something miraculous,

c) he doesn`t know what he`s

f) now, without planning.

talking about,

1. Don`t listen to what Robin is saying. He`s talking **through his hat**.

2. I love Italy. If I could get a job there, I`d go **at the drop of a hat**.

3. I`m going to tell you something but you must promise to **keep it under your hat**.

4. Cassettes? Nobody uses them now. They`re **old hat**. It`s CDs or mini-discs now.

5. Richard's going to replace the heating system in his house all by himself. **I take my hat off to him.** I'd never do it without professional help.

6. So, England are losing 1–0 with two minutes to go. They really need to **pull something out of the hat now.**

6.6 Put the following words into the sentences below:

shirt, shoes, sleeves, coat,
belts, socks, caps, trousers.

1) I've nearly finished decorating the living room. One wall just needs another ___ of paint and that it's finished.

2) There's a lot of unemployment in this area. People are having to tighten their ___ just to survive till better times return.

3) I'm sorry you're having a difficult time at work but you can't just quit. You just have to roll up your ___ and get on with it like everyone else.

4) My boss is going to a new job in New York. We're all going to miss her. It won't be easy to find someone to fill her ___ .

5) Jerry is the most generous man I know. He'd give you the ___ off his back.

6) Sorry, Sally, I have to say this. You're going to fail this course unless you pull your ___ up.

7) Don't bother asking Steve about coming for dinner, ask Lydia. She's the one who wears the ___ in their house.

8) Listen, everybody. We need to decide what to do for Joanne's leaving party and what present to give her. So get your thinking ___ on!

6.7 Answer each question with **yes** or **no**. Explain your answer.

1. Is it a waste of energy getting hot under the collar?
2. If you do something on a shoestring, do you spend a lot of money?
3. If you want a more interesting job like one of your friends has, do you want to be in his shoes?
4. Would you call a rock singer a stuffed shirt?
5. If you go on a picnic, do you dress to kill?
6. Is a strong person tied to someone else's apron strings?
7. If you lose your shirt, are you an untidy person?

6.8 Fill in the following sentences in the dialogues below:

- a) **Don't get your knickers in a twist.**
- b) **Don't get shirty with me.**
- c) **I've got something up my sleeve.**
- d) **Just speak off the cuff.**
- e) **It fits like a glove.**
- f) **I wouldn't like to be in her shoes.**
- g) **We do everything on a shoestring.**
- h) **I'll collar him.**



The dress fits her like a glove.

1. – The colour suits you. How about the size?
– Perfect
2. – The dinner's not ready. I still haven't washed my hair. The place is a mess. Jo and Lucy will be here any minute. What am I going to do?
– Just calm down!
3. – We just can't compete with bigger companies.
– I know
4. – It's Stuart's birthday tomorrow and we haven't bought or planned anything, Tim.
– Don't worry
5. – I've asked Cathy to break the news to the people who are losing their jobs.
– Poor Cathy
6. – Where have you been? We've been waiting an hour. You're so inconsiderate!
– Hey!
7. – I've got to give a short speech tomorrow night at the annual dinner.
– Oh, don't worry!
8. – I need to speak to John to see if he's free to play golf this Saturday.
– I'll see him tonight ... then and ask him.

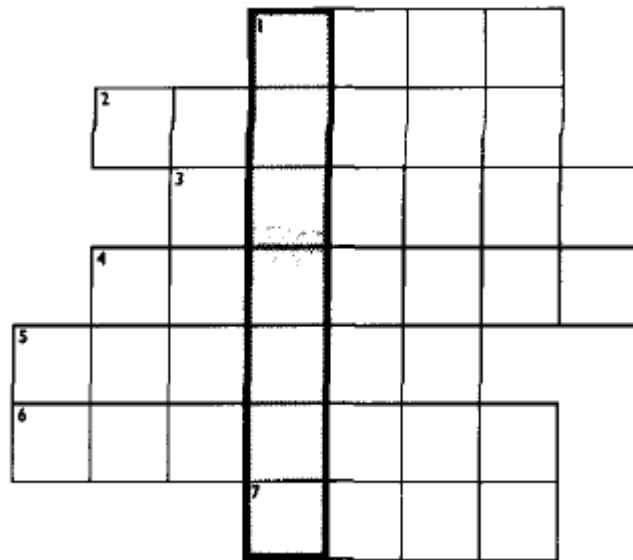
6.9 Learn the following proverbs.

- Clothes do not make the man.
- No one but the wearer knows where the shoe pinches.
- Near is my shirt, but nearer is my skin.

Make up the situations to illustrate the proverbs.

6.10 Complete the crossword. When you have finished, the words in the tinted box will spell another word.

1. My speech wasn't prepared. It was off the ____.
2. Mike had an important meeting in another city. He got hot under the ____ because the plane was delayed.
3. If a person is tempted to spend money, it burns a hole in his ____.
4. To do something at the drop of a hat means to do it ____ planning.
5. He didn't want to come out last weekend, because his ____ disapproves of us. He's really tied to her apron strings.
6. We've been negotiating my new pay and conditions, but I've kept the other job offer up my ____ for the time being.
7. To put a ____ in it means to stop talking



7 Final test

1. Their house is going to _____.
a) bricks and mortar; b) rack and ruin; c) rough and tumble.
2. ____ your socks up!
a) tighten; b) pull; c) keep.
3. Which idiom does the picture make you think of?



- a) at the drop of a hat;
- b) keep smth. under one`s hat;
- c) pull smth. out of the hat;
- d) take one`s hat off to smb.;
- e) talk through the hat;
- f) it`s an old hat.

4. We`ll be late for the meeting. It`s such a bad traffic _____.
a) juice; b) salad; c) routine; d) jam.
5. Friends may let you down, but your family will always stand by you. Blood is thicker than _____.
a) tea; b) wine; c) tears; d) water.
6. She is so quick to criticize other people. I think she should learn to set her own _____ in order first.
a) home; b) house; c) business; d) place.
7. The policeman said to the small boy, "Sonny, if you throw stones at the street lights you`ll end up in the _____."
a) gravy; b) pie; c) fat; d) dough; e) soup.
8. What is the opposite of the proverb "Absence makes the heart grow fonder."
a) Out of sight, out of mind.
b) Birds of a feather flock together.
c) Let bygones be bygones.
d) When the cat is away, the mice will play.
9. When Mary told John that he should have better manners and not to speak to her like that, this only added _____ and a terrible argument took place.
a) salt to the soup; b) curry to the custard; c) fuel to the fire; d) pepper to the pot.
10. – If you could get a much better salary by emigrating to another country what would you do? – I would hesitate, I`d go _____.
a) at the drop of a hat; b) at a tap of the pocket; c) at the wave of a handkerchief;
d) at the tying of a shoe; e) at the twitch of the sleeve.
11. John met Mary at the seaside during the holidays and at the end of a week they were both _____ in love.
a) hand over fist; b) hand in glove; c) eye to eye; d) head over heels.

12. The rest of the family were respectable, honest people but he was always in trouble. I'm afraid he was _____.

a) in the red; b) a black sheep; c) under the hat.

13. A stitch in time saves _____.

a) seven; b) ten; c) nine; d) many; e) much.

14. That's a high salary for an easy job. It's _____.

a) my cup of tea; b) money for jam; c) a piece of cake.

15. Choose the equivalent of the proverb "Без труда не вынешь и рыбку из пруда"

a) No pains, no gains. b) By doing nothing we learn to do ill.

c) An early bird catches a worm. d) Early sow, early mow.



16. Which idiom does the picture make you think of?

a) tie the knot;

b) break the ice;

c) rub shoulders with each other;

d) go through fire and water;

e) in the family way;

f) extremes meet.

17. He had to _____ his words.

a) eat; b) swallow; c) chew; d) bite.

18. _____ is a very important person.

a) A bad egg; b) An apple of one's eye; c) A big cheese.

19. I had to pay through the _____ for car insurance when the boys started to drive.

a) pocket; b) nose; c) purse; d) hat.

20. Watching that cookery programme on TV has really _____ my appetite for trying some new recipes.

a) watered; b) wetted; c) whetted.

21. Although the pop group DK1 is _____ of the month at the moment, their popularity is unlikely to last.

a) bargain; b) flavour; c) taste.

22. We've got a big project in the _____.

a) pipeline; b) head; c) job; d) staff.

23. I love getting up _____ the crack of dawn.

a) in; b) on; c) into; d) at.

24. What is the idiom to express the idea of "having a great wish to be at home when one is away from it"?

a) be homesick; b) have no roof over one's head; c) keep open house.

25. I bought a pig in a _____.

a) pole; b) poker; c) poke; d) polo.

Bibliography

- 1 Дубровин, М.И. Русские и английские идиомы / М.И. Дубровин. – М: ИЛБИ, 2001. – 224 с.- ISBN 5-87483-053-7.
- 2 Котий, Г.А. Русско-английский словарь крылатых слов и выражений / Г.А. Котий. – М.: Флинта: Наука, 2006. – 40 с.- ISBN 978-5-89349-678-9.
- 3 Кунин, А.В. Большой англо-русский фразеологический словарь / А.В. Кунин. – М.: Живой язык, 1998. – 944 с.- ISBN 978-5-8033-0339-8.
- 4 Seidl, J. Exercises on idioms / J. Seidl. – Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995. – 94 p.- ISBN 0-19-432772-8.
- 5 Hancock, P. Is that what you mean, too? / P. Hancock. – Penguin Group Ltd., 1992. – 135 p.- ISBN 0-14-081338-1.
- 6 Longman pocket dictionary of idioms. – Harlow: Pearson Education Ltd., 2001. – 298 p. – ISBN 0-582-7764-14.
- 7 McCarthy, M. English idioms in use / M. McCarthy, F. O'Dell. – Cambridge University Press, 2003. – 191 p.- ISBN 978-0-521-78957-8.
- 8 Speake, J. The Oxford dictionary of idioms / J. Speake. – Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000. – 396 p. – ISBN 0-19-280111-2.