

7. IDIOMS ARE NO PIECE OF CAKE TO LEARN

- Listen to the recording and fill in the blanks
- Vocabulary, idiomatic expressions and phrasal verbs

1. The word “**baffling**” means (more than one answer may be correct):

- a) cute b) puzzling c) strange d) unfathomable e) annoying f) atrocious g) weird

2. The word “**bucket**” can be used as a verb or a noun and means (more than one answer may be correct):

- a) fence b) container c) suede d) rain heavily e) hack

3. What do the following idiomatic expressions have in common?

- a) give up the ghost b) pop your clogs c) on one's last legs d) be brown bread e) meet your maker

4. What do the following idiomatic expressions have in common?

- a) jump down one's throat b) hit the roof c) blow one's top d) go ballistic e) lose it
f) fly off the handle g) go berserk h) go bananas i) go ape

• Choose the correct word to be used in the idiomatic expressions below

1. I want a qualified plumber, not just any _____. (anyone or everyone - ordinary people in general).
a) man in the street b) Joe Blow c) Joneses d) Tom, Dick, or Harry

2. The bridegroom got _____ on the day of the wedding. (A loss or lack of courage or confidence.)
a) cold hands b) cold mind c) cool head d) cold feet

3. I wish I'd got to bed earlier last night - I feel like death _____. (very ill indeed)
a) cooled down b) frozen up c) overheated d) warmed up

4. Actually, you don't have a _____. You have a beer belly! (a well-muscled abdomen)
a) six-pack b) turtle c) tortoise d) toned pack

5. When push comes to _____, you know I'll be on your side. (when matters must be confronted)
a) fall b) hit c) shove d) show

• Find the correct phrasal verb which matches each pair of sentences

get down – take on – tuck in – go off – clear up – take up – put off – make up – fall out – make up for

1. I like the taste of Gorgonzola cheese, but the smell _____ me _____. = repel or repulse - cause to lose interest
- The group's drummer is ill, so they have had to _____ their rehearsal until next Friday. = delay; postpone
2. Put the milk in the refrigerator or it will _____. = become spoiled or rancid, stale or rotten
- I used to like horror movies, but I've _____ them lately = stop consuming or liking
3. Jill opened her purse, turned it upside down and all her money _____. = drop or tumble out of something.
- Jane and Ann are really good friends, but they have _____ and are not speaking to each other = quarrel
4. Is it true that your mother is an astronaut, or did you just _____ that ____? = invent
- 'Don't let the sun set on your anger,' they say. So let's kiss and ____! = resolve a quarrel
- We drove as fast as we could, trying to ____ lost time = compensate for.
5. Every night, Dad tells the children a story, _____ them ____ and kisses them goodnight. = put to bed - make comfortable
- The food looked so delicious that we all started to _____ without being asked. = to eat heartily
6. It's raining quite heavily, but I hope it will ____ later in time for the barbecue = become sunny,
- After a party, I was left to _____ all the mess! = tidy up

Idioms are no piece of cake to learn. - Idioms and phrasal verbs

British people often talk too fast _____, and use jokes, slang, idioms and references specific to their own culture, they use baffling abbreviations such as '**OOO**', instead of simply saying _____ “**out of the office**”. An idiom involves a number of words whose meaning _____ from simply adding together the meanings of the individual elements themselves. For example, ‘*she kicked the bucket*’, _____ ‘_____’ – you just have to know the meaning _____. Other examples include ‘*She jumped down my throat*’, or ‘*He hit the roof*’. The literal meaning is not _____. All languages have idioms, but the range, variety and unpredictability of English idioms is difficult for foreign language learners _____.

There are other aspects of English that are extremely complex: consider phrasal verbs — verbs followed by prepositions, where a change in preposition changes the meaning. Learners _____ feel *put out* when they *put someone up* for the night, only to discover that they *can't put up with* them. They may want to *put off* learning English