

Key

Exercise 2

Match idioms with their definitions

Part 1

1) to allow yourself to behave much more freely than usual and enjoy yourself	let her hair down
2) madly in love	head over heels
3) to unburden oneself; to confess something; to criticize or make a personal complaint to someone	get all off one's chest
4) to suddenly <i>become</i> too frightened to do something you had planned to do, especially something important	get cold feet
5) to <i>make</i> someone extremely angry	make one's blood boil
6) A phrase that encourages one to improve one's mood, especially when sad or discouraged.	chin up
7) to be waiting eagerly to hear about something	all ears
8) to accept criticism or punishment for something you have done	face the music
9) learnt in such a way that you can say it from memory	by heart
10) to intentionally ignore someone or treat someone in an unfriendly way	give a cold shoulder

Part 2

1) to pay for something, esp. something expensive	<i>foot the bill</i>
2) to start working or studying hard	<i>knuckle down</i>
3) working hard at manual labour	<i>elbow grease</i>
4) to pay too much [money] for something	pay arm and leg
5) too old for a particular activity or purpose	long in the tooth
6) to ignore something that you know is wrong	turn a blind eye
7) One is being prevented from acting, helping, or intervening as one should or desires to due to circumstances beyond one's control, such as rules, conflicting orders, or higher priorities.	one's hands are tied

Exercise 3

Answers

- 1) We'll **foot** the bill here and you can pay for coffee and cakes in the next bar.
- 2) He told his students to stop messing about and **knuckle** down if they were serious about passing the exam.
- 3) If you want those windows clean, you'll have to put some **elbow** grease into it.
- 4) I paid an **arm** and a **leg** for these jeans. They cost an absolute fortune!
- 5) I'm getting a bit too long in the **tooth** to be going to clubs. I can't dance the night away like I used to.
- 6) The police officer saw them smoking a joint but decided to turn a blind **eye** because it was a very happy occasion and he didn't want to spoil the fun.
- 7) I would love to be able to help you but because of my job and the way the law is regarding this matter, my **hands** are tied. (prevented from intervening by laws or circumstances)
- 8) He was shunned by everybody and at the annual family dinner he was given the cold **shoulder** by everybody except his mother. (Made to feel unwelcome)
- 9) The disgraced actor hid away from the media for a whole month but in the end he decided to **face** the music and hold a press conference. (Confront unpleasant circumstances, criticism or punishment)
- 10) She wanted the job really badly and nearly got cold **feet** just before the interview was due to start, but in the end, her application was accepted. (Get nervous and not do something)
- 11) He banged his hand on the table several times and shouted for everybody to be quiet. By then everybody was all **ears**. (Listening attentively)
- 12) The team-leader seemed to be enjoying herself at the party. It was nice to see her let her **hair** down for a change. (Relax and have fun)
- 13) They sat with each other all evening and neither of them looked at anybody else. They are clearly **head** over heels. (Deeply in love)
- 14) He has had a lot of bad luck but he still manages to keep his **chin** up. (Remain cheerful)
- 15) She was a taxi driver in London and knows all the streets by **heart**. (Committed firmly to memory)
- 16) It makes my **blood** boil when people mistreat animals. (Make angry)
- 17) He shouldn't keep his problems bottled up like that. It would be better if he got it all off his **chest**. (Talk to somebody about one's problems)