



I WANT TO USE MORE IDIOMS, BUT I DO NOT FEEL CONFIDENT. WHAT _SHOULD I DO P

YOU SHOULD TRY TO FIND 4 WAY TO USE THE IDIOM IN CONTEXT (SPEAKING OR WRITING) AND CHECK WITH A NATIVE SPEAKER TO SEE IF YOU HAD DONE IT CORRECTLY. AFTER 2 OR 3 TIMES, THE IDIOM WILL FEEL MORE FAMILIAR!



LONG IDIOMS SCARE ME! HOW CAN I REMEMBER ALL THE PREPOSITIONSP

LONG IDIOMS, WITH ARTICLES AND PREPOSITIONS CAN PROVE TO BE PARTICULARLY CHALLENGING. MPEC COACHES CREATED THIS WORKSHEET TO HELP YOU MEMORISE AND USE SOME LONG IDIOMS WITHOUT FEAR OF MAKING A MISTAKE

LONG IDIOMS english coach 3 THEIR MEANINGS mpec

A BLESSING IN DISGUISE MEANING: A GOOD THING THAT INITIALLY SEEMED BAD A CRACK AT SOMETHING AN ATTEMPT TO DO SOMETHING; A TURN TRYING (TO DO) SOMETHING. ADDING INSULT TO INJURY

MEANING: TO MAKE A BAD SITUATION EVEN WORSE

BEAT AROUND THE BUSH

UNCOMFORTABLE

MEANING: AVOID SHARING YOUR TRUE VIEWPOINT OR FEELINGS BECAUSE IT IS

BEATING A DEAD HORSE

MEANING: GIVING TIME OR ENERGY TO SOMETHING THAT IS ENDED OR OVER (THE) BIRDS AND THE BEES

A EUPHEMISM FOR SEX EDUCATION, ESPECIALLY WHEN TAUGHT INFORMALLY.

MEANING: DOING SOMETHING THAT IS POINTLESS

GIVING THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT MEANING: BELIEVING SOMEONE'S STORY WITHOUT PROOF EVEN THOUGH IT MAY SEEM UNBELIEVABLE GIVING SOMEONE THE COLD SHOULDER MEANING: IGNORING SOMEONE GOING ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE

FIT AS A FIDDLE MEANING: BEING IN GOOD HEALTH FINDING A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK (IT IS LIKE ...) SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING THAT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO LOCATE

MEANING: NOT TO COUNT ON SOMETHING HAPPENING UNTIL AFTER IT'S ALREADY HAPPENED FEELING UNDER THE WEATHER

MEANING: NOT FEELING WELL, OR FEELING SICK

DON'T JUDGE 4 BOOK BY ITS COVER MEANING: NOT JUDGING SOMETHING BY ITS INITIAL APPEARANCE DOING SOMETHING AT THE DROP OF A HAT MEANING: DOING SOMETHING AT THE MOMENT OF BEING ASKED DON'T COUNT YOUR CHICKENS BEFORE THEY HATCH

MEANING: MAKING A CHOICE BETWEEN TWO UNPLEASANT CHOICES COSTS AN ARM AND A LEG MEANING: SOMETHING THAT IS OVERPRICED OR VERY EXPENSIVE

CAUGHT BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

MEANING: NOT HAVING THE CAPACITY TO TAKE ON A NEW ASSIGNMENT OR TASK that is just too taxing BY THE SKIN OF YOUR TEETH MEANING: JUST BARELY MAKING IT

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS MEANING: THE CHOICE OR SOLUTION HAS ALL OF THE ADVANTAGES OF TWO CONTRASTING THINGS AT THE SAME TIME BITING OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW













ON & SHORT LEASH (TO BE) to be strictly controlled (by someone); to not be allowed VERY MUCH INDEPENDENCE OR AUTONOMY OFF ON A SIDETRACK (BE OR GET SOMEBODY) ADDRESSING A TOPIC OR TOPICS NOT RELEVANT TO THE MAIN DISCUSSION.

MEANING: DOING & GOOD JOB, BEING PROMPT, OR BEING RESPONSIBLE

MAKE (ONE'S) WAY THROUGH to stay continuously engaged in a task, especially with METICULOUS ATTENTION OR FOCUS. OFTEN USED WHEN THE TASK IS LONG-TERM

ONE THAT IS NOT ACCURATE.

ON THE BALL

KILLING TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE

MAKE (SOMEONE OR SOMETHING) OUT TO BE (SOMETHING) to characterise something in a certain way, often

LIVE ON (ONE'S) NERVES TO BE IN A CONSTANT STATE OF ANXIETY, FEAR, OR WORRY.

LETTING THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG MEANING: SHARING INFORMATION THAT WAS INTENDED TO BE A SECRET

LETTING SOMEONE OFF THE HOOK MEANING: NOT HOLDING SOMEONE RESPONSIBLE FOR SOMETHING

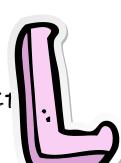
MEANING: ACCOMPLISHING TWO DIFFERENT TASKS IN THE SAME UNDERTAKING KILL THE GOOSE THAT LAYS THE GOLDEN EGG to ruin or destroy something that brings one wealth.

HITTING THE NAIL ON THE HEAD MEANING: PERFORMING A TASK WITH EXACTNESS HAVE A HIDE LIKE A RHINOCEROS to have the ability to ignore verbal attacks or criticism from others.

HEARD IT ON OR THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE MEANING: HEARING RUMOURS ABOUT SOMEONE OR SOMETHING













WAIT ON SOMEONE HAND AND FOOT MEANING: TO SERVE SOMEONE VERY WELL, ATTENDING TO ALL PERSONAL NEEDS WAIT FOR THE OTHER SHOE TO DROP MEANING: TO WAIT FOR THE NEXT, SEEMINGLY UNAVOIDABLE (AND TYPICALLY NEGATIVE) THING TO HAPPEN. WANT THE FIRST CRACK AT (SOMETHING) TO HAVE THE FIRST CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING.

TRYING TO AVOID THROWING CAUTION TO THE WIND MEANING: BEING RECKLESS OR TAKING A RISK

MEANING: AN ISSUE, PERSON, OR PROBLEM THAT SOMEONE IS

STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH MEANING: READING OR HEARING SOMETHING FROM THE SOURCE SHOW (SOMEONE) WHAT (ONE'S) MADE OF MEANING: TO DEMONSTRATE ONE'S TRUE TALENT, FORTITUDE, ABILITY, COURAGE, OR WORTH (TO SOMEONE).

MEANING: WHEN THE PERSON YOU HAVE JUST BEEN TALKING ABOUT ARRIVES

to DISCOVER OR UTILISE THE STRENGTH OR SKILL NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH SOME DIFFICULT TASK RUN (SOMETHING) BY (ONE) AGAIN TO EXPLAIN SOMETHING TO ONE OR INFORM ONE ABOUT SOMETHING FOR A SECOND, THIRD, ETC., TIME.

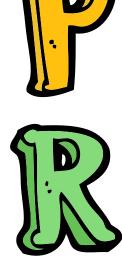
MEANING: THE BEST OR MOST IDEAL OPTION IN A GROUP. PICK UP THE BILL MEANING: TO PAY A BILL, ESPECIALLY WHEN PAYING FOR OTHERS.

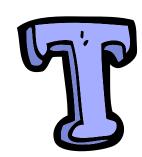
RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

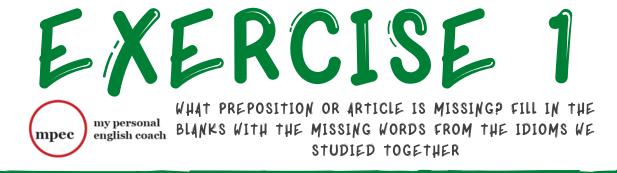
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM







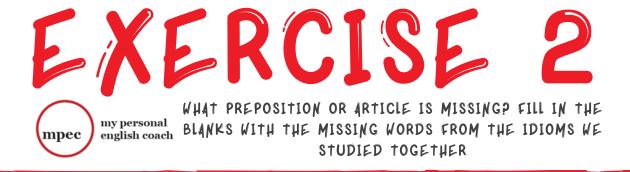


1.I LET THEM HAVE THE FIRST CRACK PRODUCING MY FILM, BUT THEY WEREN'T INTERESTED, SO I TOOK MY SCRIPT TO ANOTHER STUDIO.

2.YES, I DID HAVE SURGERY A FEW MONTHS AGO, BUT I'M FIT AS A FIDDLE NOW.

- 3. WE'VE ALL MOVED ON FROM THAT PROBLEM, SO THERE'S NO USE A DEAD HORSE.
- 5. THE GROWING BUDGET DEFICIT IS THE IN THE ROOM THAT NOBODY WANTS TO TALK ABOUT.
- 6.YOU'RE MY SISTER! CAN'T I GET THE OF THE DOUBT, INSTEAD OF YOU BELIEVING THE WORST ABOUT ME?
- 7.DON'T LET MY MOTHER WATCH ANY OF THOSE SAPPY MOVIES-SHE CRIES AT THE OF A HAT.
- 9.0H MAN, MY CAR WOULDN'T START THIS MORNING-I JUST MADE IT HERE BY THE
- 11. A: "HEY EVERYONE, SORRY I'M LATE!" B: "WELL, SPEAK OF THE! WE WERE JUST SPEAKING TALKING SOMETHING FUNNY YOU WERE SAYING THE OTHER DAY."

- 14. WELL, I HAVEN'T FIXED A MOTOR IN NEARLY 10 YEARS, BUT I'LL CERTAINLY A CRACK IT.
- 15. ANN IS EXHAUSTED AGAIN. SHE'S ALWAYS BITING MORE THAN SHE CHEW.
- 16. MY MOM TALKED TO ME ABOUT THE AND BEES THIS MORNING-IT WAS SO MORTIFYING!
- 17. FIRST, THE BASEMENT FLOODED, AND THEN, TO INSULT INJURY, A PIPE BURST IN THE KITCHEN.
- 18. THIS REPORT MAY LOOK DULL, BUT JUDGE A BOOK ITS COVER-I WILL HAVE YOU RIVETED BY THE FACTS AND FIGURES IN NO TIME!
- 19. COLLEGE TUITION AN ARM LEG NOWADAYS.



- 1. I'M SO GLAD THAT MY ASSISTANT IS ALWAYS THE BALL BECAUSE I'M TOO SCATTERBRAINED TO MANAGE MY SCHEDULE ON MY OWN.
- 3.1 BELIEVE THAT LIVING AT COLLEGE GIVES YOU THE BEST OFWORLDS: A PLACE WHERE BOTH STUDY AND SOCIAL LIFE CAN THRIVE.
- 4. WOULD YOU PLEAST STOP BEATING THE BUSH? ARE YOU LEAVING THE COMPANY OR NOT?
- 6.1 DON'T KNOW IF TOM'S RELATIONSHIP WITH JEREMY IS HEALTHY. IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S ALWAYS ON HIM HAND FOOT.
- 7. TRYING TO FIND MY CONTACT LENS ON THE FLOOR WAS LIKE LOOKING FOR A NEEDLE IN A
- 8.BEING LATE FOR WORK TURNED OUT TO BE A BLESSING IN I WOULD HAVE BEEN IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT TRAFFIC JAM HAD I LEFT THE HOUSE ON TIME.
- 9.LET'S GIVE HIM THE BENEFIT OF THE BEFORE WE START ACCUSING HIM. THERE MAY BE A GOOD EXPLANATION FOR THE MISSING MONEY.
- 11.1 TRIED TO ADDRESS THE CUSTOMER'S PROBLEM, BUT SHE KEPT GOINGON A SIDETRACK AND I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HER TRUE COMPLAINT WAS.

- 14. I HEARD THE GRAPEVINE THAT STACY AND MARK ARE GETTING A DIVORCE.
- 15. THE ODDS WERE THEM, BUT THE HOME TEAM ROSE TO THE CHALLENGE AND MANAGED TO WIN THE CHAMPIONSHIP.



1.1 LET THEM HAVE THE FIRST CRACK AT PRODUCING MY FILM, BUT THEY WEREN'T INTERESTED, SO I TOOK MY SCRIPT TO ANOTHER STUDIO.

2.YES, I DID HAVE SURGERY A FEW MONTHS AGO, BUT I'M AS FIT AS A FIDDLE NOW.

- 3. WE'VE ALL MOVED ON FROM THAT PROBLEM, SO THERE'S NO USE BEATING A DEAD HORSE.
- 4. GIVE SARAH A CRACK AT THE EQUATION. I BET SHE CAN SOLVE IT!
- 5. THE GROWING BUDGET DEFICIT IS THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM THAT NOBODY WANTS TO TALK ABOUT.
- 6.YOU'RE MY SISTER! CAN'T I GET THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT, INSTEAD OF YOU BELIEVING THE WORST ABOUT ME?
- 7.DON'T LET MY MOTHER WATCH ANY OF THOSE SAPPY MOVIES-SHE CRIES AT THE DROP OF A HAT.
- 8.YOU'RE PREPARING YOUR ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BEFORE EVEN BEING NOMINATED? DON'T COUNT YOUR CHICKENS BEFORE THEY'RE HATCHED.
- 9.0H MAN, MY CAR WOULDN'T START THIS MORNING-I JUST MADE IT HERE BY THE SKIN OF MY TEETH!
- 10. MY FATHER EXPECTS MY MOTHER TO WAIT ON HIM HAND AND FOOT.
- 11. A: "HEY EVERYONE, SORRY I'M LATE!" B: "WELL, SPEAK OF THE DEVIL! WE WERE JUST SPEAKING TALKING SOMETHING FUNNY YOU WERE SAYING THE OTHER DAY."
- 12. MUM SAID THAT DAD WOULD PUNISH US WHEN HE GOT HOME FROM WORK, SO NOW WE'RE JUST WAITING FOR THE OTHER SHOE TO DROP.
- 13. YOU CAN'T LIVE LIFE COMPLETELY RESERVED, YOU KNOW. YOU'VE GOT TO THROW CAUTION TO THE WIND EVERY NOW AND THEN.
- 14. WELL, I HAVEN'T FIXED A MOTOR IN NEARLY 10 YEARS, BUT I'LL CERTAINLY TAKE A CRACK AT IT.
- 15. ANN IS EXHAUSTED AGAIN. SHE'S ALWAYS BITING OFF MORE THAN SHE CAN CHEW.
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- 1. I'M SO GLAD THAT MY ASSISTANT IS ALWAYS ON THE BALL BECAUSE I'M TOO SCATTERBRAINED TO MANAGE MY SCHEDULE ON MY OWN.
- 2.1 WAS BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE, FOR IF I DIDN'T TAKE OUT ANOTHER LOAN-AND GO DEEPER INTO DEBT-I COULD NOT PAY OFF THE DEBTS I ALREADY OWED.
- 3.1 BELIEVE THAT LIVING AT COLLEGE GIVES YOU THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS: A PLACE WHERE BOTH STUDY AND SOCIAL LIFE CAN THRIVE.
- 4. WOULD YOU PLEAST STOP BEATING AROUND THE BUSH? ARE YOU LEAVING THE COMPANY OR NOT?
- 5.WE WERE OUT CELEBRATING VALERIE'S BIRTHDAY LAST NIGHT-THAT'S WHY WE'RE ALL UNDER THE WEATHER TODAY.
- 6.I DON'T KNOW IF TOM'S RELATIONSHIP WITH JEREMY IS HEALTHY. IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S ALWAYS WAITING ON HIM HAND AND FOOT.
- 7. TRYING TO FIND MY CONTACT LENS ON THE FLOOR WAS LIKE LOOKING FOR A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK.
- 8.BEING LATE FOR WORK TURNED OUT TO BE A BLESSING IN DISGUISE. I WOULD HAVE BEEN IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT TRAFFIC JAM HAD I LEFT THE HOUSE ON TIME.
- 9.LET'S GIVE HIM THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT BEFORE WE START ACCUSING HIM. THERE MAY BE A GOOD EXPLANATION FOR THE MISSING MONEY.
- 10. FIRING THE PROGRAMMER WHO CREATED YOUR MOST SUCCESSFUL APP IS LIKE KILLING THE GOOSE THAT LAYS THE GOLDEN EGG.
- 11.1 TRIED TO ADDRESS THE CUSTOMER'S PROBLEM, BUT SHE KEPT GOING OFF ON A SIDETRACK AND I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HER TRUE COMPLAINT WAS.
- 12.YOU'VE SPOTTED THE FLAW, SALLY. YOU HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD. BOB DOESN'T SAY MUCH, BUT EVERY NOW AND THEN HE HITS THE NAIL RIGHT ON THE HEAD.
- 13.AT FIRST, SAM WAS SUSPECTED OF STEALING MONEY FROM THE SAFE, BUT HE WAS LET OFF THE HOOK AFTER SECURITY CAMERA FOOTAGE SHOWED IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE.
- 14. I HEARD THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE THAT STACY AND MARK ARE GETTING A DIVORCE.
- 15. THE ODDS WERE AGAINST THEM, BUT THE HOME TEAM ROSE TO THE CHALLENGE AND MANAGED TO WIN THE CHAMPIONSHIP.
- 16.A: "IS OUR TEST REALLY GETTING RESCHEDULED?" B: "YEP, OUR TEACHER WAS AHEAD OF ME IN THE LUNCH LINE, SO I HEARD IT STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH."