

English Idioms in Use Quiz

Felicity O'Dell

What do these idioms mean? Choose the correct option.

- 1) Harry's bark is worse than his bite.
 - a Harry owns a very fierce dog.
 - b Harry is not in very good health.
 - c Harry talks more than he eats.
 - d Harry is not as frightening as he seems.

- 2) His smart new laptop fell off the back of a lorry.
 - a His new laptop is already broken.
 - b His new laptop is stolen property.
 - c He bought his new lorry very cheaply.
 - d His was given a new laptop as a surprise present.

- 3) My brother is driving me round the bend at the moment.
 - a My brother is not a good driver.
 - b My brother is taking me on holiday.
 - c My brother is being very annoying.
 - d My brother is giving me a lot of help.

- 4) Hilary arrived at our house out of the blue this morning.
 - a Hilary was dressed unusually smartly.
 - b It was a lovely day when Hilary arrived.
 - c We weren't expecting Hilary to arrive.
 - d Hilary was feeling depressed.

- 5) Cecilia poured her heart out to me.
 - a Cecilia told me her secret feelings.
 - b Cecilia was very angry with me.
 - c Cecilia and I did some exercises.
 - d Cecilia and I fell in love with each other

Complete these idioms. Choose the correct option.

- 6) The singer said she was **over the** at receiving such an important award.
a rainbow
b moon
c stars
d sun
- 7) My new colleague is a bit of a **rough** but I think I'm going to like him once I get used to him.
a stone
b rock
c diamond
d pearl
- 8) I wouldn't behave like that if I were **in your**
a shoes
b trousers
c socks
d boots
- 9) Marco never stays in one place for long. He always gets feet and sets off on his travels again.
a chilly
b itchy
c dusty
d shaky
- 10) I'm afraid I can't give you the answer **off the top of my** but I'll find it out for you.
a tongue
b hand
c mind
d head

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Answer key

- 1) d
- 2) b
- 3) c
- 4) c
- 5) a
- 6) b
- 7) c
- 8) a
- 9) b
- 10) a