

Idioms and Phrases

Read the examples of idioms given below:

Idiom	Meaning
To keep one's shirt on	To control one's temper
To be under one's thumb	To be under someone's complete control
To have a swollen head	To admire oneself greatly
To blow one's own trumpet	To praise oneself
To be hand in glove with	To engage in wrong doing
To be in a soup	To be in trouble
To know A-Z of	To know everything about a subject
To go on a wild goose chase	To be a part of a vague activity
To leave no stone unturned	To explore every alternative

Exercises:

A. Use the correct form of suitable idioms from those given above to complete the following sentences.

1. It is difficult to _____ when Ravi keeps arguing.
2. All this praise about her intelligence has given Usha such a _____ that she cannot talk to anyone without showing off.
3. You must take Abel's advice. He knows _____ of the share market.
4. Don't believe this man. He is _____ with the thief.
5. I had warned them that there was no use in working on the project. It was a _____.
6. The parents _____ to enable their disabled child get a good education.
7. It is difficult to listen to Don Gonzalo. He _____ as soon as he opens his mouth.
8. If you break rules, you'll land yourself _____.

Answer:

1. keep my shirt on;
2. swollen head;
3. A to Z;
4. hand in glove;

5. wild goose chase;
6. left no stone unturned;
7. blows his own trumpet;
8. in a soup.

B. Match the idioms and phrases in section A with the meanings in section B.

A	B
1) to look something up	a) to admire
2) to look up to	b) to look at with scorn
3) to look down at	c) to search for information
4) to let off	d) to stop others from going ahead
5) to hold up	e) to break up
6) to knock down	f) to await eagerly
7) to look forward to	g) to be allowed to go free
8) to put off someone	h) to obstruct others from work
9) to put up with	f) to be going on
10) to see red	j) to affect
11) to be in full swing	k) to tolerate
12) to get in one's way	i) to irritate
13) to tell upon	m) to be very angry

Answer:

1. c;
2. a;
3. b;
4. g;
5. d;
6. e;
7. f;
8. 1;
9. k;
10. m;
11. i;
12. h;
13. j