

*Gyula Dávid*

A CONCEPTUAL  
IDIOMS  
DICTIONARY



DEBRECENI EGYETEMI KIADÓ  
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# A CONCEPTUAL IDIOMS DICTIONARY

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*Gyula Dávid*

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Read by  
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# I. INTRODUCTION

## *Why should idioms be used?*

Idioms are an important part of language that make it

- colourful
- funny
- interesting
- challenging
- amusing

There is no avoiding them as native speakers use them, so at least we need to understand idioms.

## *How to understand idioms?*

Idioms are phrases which can not be translated word for word. However, their meanings can be understood through the **metaphors**, **metonymies** and **blends** that group them by their meanings and guide you in their use. This workbook offers clear guidelines to help you grasp the senses of idioms through these three figures of speech and facilitates practising them in the tasks at the end of each unit.

To illustrate the structure of the workbook a few examples are mentioned below (**concepts** are bold type, **METAPHORS**, **METONYMIES** and **BLENDS** capital-bold type, while *idioms* are in italics).

The concepts **success** and **failure** are expressed with the metaphors **SUCCESS IS UP /FAILURE IS DOWN**, which include dozens of related idioms such as *at/on the crest of a big wave*, *be flying high*, *come through/pass with flying colours*, *come up on the rails*, *get off to a flying start*, *go up in the world*, *a high-flier* and *hit the heights*, just to mention a few. These metaphors are based on our physical and cultural experiences and they constitute a system. For instance, **success** is seen as reaching a high point, whereas failing or being defeated are metaphorically identified with falling, which is part of the Source Domain of MOTION. Thus **failure** is seen as the mapping of sinking, falling and downward motion as is reflected by the idioms: *abandon a sinking ship*, *bite the dust*, *fall between two stools*, *down the tubes*, *fall at the same hurdle* and so on.

Other Source Domains such as **HEAT/COLD**, **CONTAINMENT**, **SENSING**, **MOTION**, **WAR**, **FOOD** and so on are also drawn on to express abstract ideas. For instance, **HEAT** is closely related to emotions or activities that are known as producing heat through physiological processes, as is demonstrated by the metaphors **DIFFICULTY IS HEAT** (*make it hot for someone*, *when the heat is on*), **BEING NERVOUS IS BEING IN A HOT PLACE** (*a cat on hot bricks /a hot tin roof*), **POSTPONEMENT IS COLD TEMPERATURE; ACTIVITY IS WARM TEMPERATURE** (*be/keep something on ice*, *on the back burner; on the front burner*), **PREPARATION IS HEAT; BEING UNPREPARED IS COLD** (*blaze a trail for something*, *catch someone cold*).

Another source domain mapped onto abstract target domains is **FOOD**. As food is an essential component of our daily life it plays an important role in expressing concepts. Thus the metaphors and relevant idioms are as follows: **THE PERSON INVOLVED IN THE RELATIONSHIP IS FOOD** (*a man-eater*, *sugar daddy*), **FORCE IS MAKING SOMEONE EAT OR DRINK** (*ram something down someone's throat*, *You can lead a horse to water (but you can't make him/it drink)*), **FAILURE IS FOOD AND COOKING** (*burn your fingers*, *a dead duck*, *too many cooks [spoil the broth]*) and so on.

It is to be noted, that metaphors are basic constituents of conceptual integration (blending), where information, shared by mental input spaces is included in the Generic (Mental) Space, and

the information of the two input spaces clashes. As a result of compressing mental spaces, an emergent structure with novel information appears in the blend. This information is as challenging as is different from the generic information. However, to be able to see how the blend works, we need to decompress it. In fact, metaphorical processes such as mapping Source Domain constituents onto those of the Target Domain, should be viewed within the framework of Conceptual Integration (since they are more complex than mapping can show it), or more specifically, double-scope blending, where two Input mental spaces clash, which leads to a novel emergent structure. Idiomatic language offers an excellent opportunity for double-scope integration. This process can be observed in the whole workbook.

The dictionary is divided into three distinctive levels:

- A) concepts
- B) related metaphors, metonymies or blends
- C) related idioms

### ***Which idioms to use?***

Just like other parts of language idioms may go through changes (some become outdated while new ones are created). Some are born in the course of (historical) events, while others are brought about simply to entertain listeners by making the language more colourful. What matters is that almost all follow patterns of the world around us and emerge through re-applying schemas of bodily sensation and of the physical world around us for creating abstract images (e.g. *sweetheart* combines the sweet taste of food and the BODY-PART-FOR-LOVE metonymy into a blend with a new emergent structure). Dictionaries do signal it when idioms have become obsolete or they are not very common any more.

### ***The structure of the workbook***

The Conceptual Idioms Workbook focuses on 45 major concepts, which contain about 1000 idioms. Each unit introduces the **concept** through examples of *idioms* grouped by **metaphors**, **metonymies** or **blends** you can practise them in the exercises in the second half of the units. There is **an answer key** at the end of the workbook. Information in brackets shows the register of the idioms: informal (=inf.), humorous (=hum) and **taboo**.

## II. CONCEPTS

### 1. ACHIEVEMENT

Conceptual metaphors are based on the mapping of source domains rooted in physical and spatial reality onto abstract target domains. Major constituents of human life as well may emerge to serve as target domain entities. Achievement can also be seen as a result of these mappings. In a broader framework, conceptual integration involves the integration of these metaphorical processes which are then manifest through novel emergent structures (where 'achievement' is viewed through 'gambling', 'hunting' and so on.

#### ACHIEVEMENT IS GAMBLING

**by fair means or foul** used when someone is ready to use even unfair means in order to achieve something *From the moment of first settlement, whether by fair means or foul, the regime was created for a constitutional duality.*

**do the trick** something can be achieved by doing a trick *MSNBC producer flipping out · That should do the trick.*

#### ACHIEVEMENT IS HUNTING

**give it the best shot** to make very big efforts to do something *Greg will be a tough opponent to beat, but I'll give it my best shot.*

**kill two birds with one stone** to achieve things with one attempt *Until then, he exercises his natural right to visit them whenever he wants, killing two birds with one stone by giving his baby-mother a good slap.*

#### ACHIEVEMENT IS A JOURNEY

**first past the post** to achieve something before others or come in first in a race *In Canadian elections, both federal and provincial, winners are chosen through the plurality, or first past the post system.*

**go (a)round in circles** not to achieve much as the same problems keep coming up *To me this suggests a frightening trend in management speak. Mark Thompson has pretty much said that the BBC's new media plan is to go round in circles.*

#### ACHIEVEMENT IS CONTAINMENT

**in the can** something finished successfully *None may have a bigger effect than chucking ever more people in the can.*

**in the frame** to be likely to achieve a good result *West Ham United have confirmed that four names remain in the frame to be the club's next manager.*

#### ACHIEVEMENT IS BUSINESS

**deliver / come up with the goods** to achieve what you are expected to *So far the team's new player has failed to deliver the goods. He hasn't scored in his first five games.*

**do the business** (inf.) to achieve what other people want you to *Alistair Darling fails to do the business for companies.*

## ACHIEVEMENT IS VALUE OR ORNAMENT

**a feather in your cap** an achievement to be remembered *While John Kerry was adding Hawaii, Idaho and Utah to the feathers in his cap, John Edwards, his only remaining rival for the Democratic Nomination, tried to stay undaunted.*

**the jewel in someone's crown** a very valuable thing obtained or a great achievement *India has famously been called "the jewel in the crown" of Britain's empire.*

### 1. Choose the most suitable idiom.

1. Researchers are doing their best to be ..... in producing the vaccine for H1N1.  
A/ in the can                      B/ first past the post                      C/ killing two birds with one stone
2. All you need to do is just ..... Nothing else is needed.  
A/ do the business                      B/ be past the post                      C/ have a feather in your cap
3. When his opponent started staggering Clay knew the gold medal was already .....  
A/ in the can                      B/ a jewel in his crown                      C/ first past the post
4. They could actually .....: meet aunt Emily and taste her delicious cakes too.  
A/ be first past the post    B/ deliver the goods    C/ kill two birds with one stone
5. The new cultural-centre is ..... It really fits the centre and is a very impressive building.  
A/ a jewel in their crown                      B/ going around in circles                      C/ by fair means or foul
6. All I can promise is that I'll .....in the exam.  
A/ give it my best shot                      B/ be in the frame                      C/ go round in circles
7. The junior team is supposed to be .....this year, since they have won all their past matches.  
A/ killing two birds with one stone                      B/ in the frame                      C/ a jewel in their crown
8. No matter how many times they had attempted to find the ruins of the ancient temple, they seemed to be .....with nothing on the horizon.  
A/ in the can                      B/ given the best shot                      C/ going around in circles

### 2. Complete the gaps with the right idioms.

1. Few people had seen the film, but the critics knew that the film would soon be.....
2. The Adriatic coastline is regarded by Croatians as a.....
3. Edmund Hillary and his Sherpa were..... when they climbed Mount Everest before anyone else.
4. We aren't getting anywhere. We are just .....
5. We were hoping to ..... – go and see the sights in Greece and attend the events of the Olympic Games.
6. He was determined to become prime minister, .....
7. Jack knew that he would never get the job of his dreams unless he.....

8. Everyone knew that only Manchester United was ..... to get into the Champions' League.
9. The victory of a second-league team over the champion of the first league will always remain .....
10. Nowadays the most difficult thing is to..... wherever and whenever you are expected to.
- 11 The mid-fielder knew that he could only keep his place in the team if he .....
12. The media is good at influencing the public by inviting public figures to express the views they support. It always .....

## 2. ADVANTAGE

We can gain advantage in our own cultural environment while playing **games**, in **business transactions**, it can be achieved by a **creative activity**, it can be sensed physically as a winner assumes a **high position** in the social hierarchy and you need a certain **sense** to do so. This is clearly reflected by the metaphors below.

### ADVANTAGE IS A GAME

**bend / stretch the rules** you do something illegal for your own advantage or for that of other people  
*The members and the bidding cities might still bend the rules, but at least both temptation and opportunity would be weaker – and the Olympic spirit that little bit stronger.*

**hold all the aces** to be in a stronger position than other people because you have all the advantages  
*Retailers hold all the aces in European machinery market.*

**an own goal** something done to gain some advantage, but which leads to even a worse situation  
*Own goal. Bad news for people with big salaries and grumpy spouses.*

**a slam dunk** an advantage over someone/something *Turning to “family values”, homosexual marriage should have been a slam dunk for Mr Bush – something that revved up the Christian right while reinforcing more widespread doubts about Massachusetts liberalism.*

### ADVANTAGE IS UP

**be/get one up on someone** you have done something that is an advantage over other people *14 Years later, we get one up on the Rangers.*

**have/get a leg up /give someone a leg up**  
 to have an advantage *After all, Michael Jackson himself has named one of his own children Prince Michael, which should get the kid a leg up if and when he decides to meet his cousins Freddy and Ella any time soon.*  
*If sustained, the DPP's new popularity could give the party a leg up into power.*

### ADVANTAGE IS BUSINESS /POSSESSION OR OBTAINING STH

**a bargaining counter** an advantage you can exploit when negotiating with someone else *For a long time, the Turks have used their occupation of the northern part of the island of Cyprus as a bargaining counter in their hard-fought campaign to be admitted to the European Union.*

**give a sharp edge to something** to give someone advantage to something *They still give a sharp edge to the conflicts of the present day, most obviously in Iraq, where thousands of lives have been lost in Sunni-Shia violence.*

**lose your edge** not to have an advantage any longer *Google's threat: China may lose edge to India.*

**what you lose on the swings you gain on the roundabouts / swings and roundabouts** used to describe a situation where you have both advantages and disadvantages *There are compensations: what you lose on the swings you gain on the roundabouts. And let's face it, a cup of tea or a cup of coffee are all very well but they are not so much fun as polygamy.*

**ADVANTAGE IS CREATION**

**feather your nest** to exploit one's position to gain advantages *Learn to Feather Your Nest with Timeless, Affordable Style a lá Mary Carol Garrity.*

**make hay while the sun shines** to take advantage of a good opportunity that may be gone soon *Mr Kerry is making hay at the moment with the charge that Mr Bush's opposition to stem-cell research is as uncompassionate as it is unscientific.*

**ADVANTAGE IS SENSING**

**in the clear** to have an advantage over other people in a competition *Research firm emails 20000 addresses in the clear. Polls revealed that the opposition parties were ten per cent in the clear*

**sweet spot** an advantage *That is the Segway's transportation sweet-spot: distances that are too far to walk, but short enough that taking a huge sports-utility vehicle is overkill.*

**1. Complete the sentences with the right idiom.**

- |  |                               |                                 |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>in the clear</b>  | <b>an own goal</b>            | <b>feathering their nest</b>    |
| 1. Exit polls revealed that the opposition parties were ten per cent .....   |                               |                                 |
| <b>make hay while the sun shines</b>   | <b>a slam dunk</b>            | <b>to lose his edge</b>         |
| 2. With so many new experts trained Joe seemed likely to.....  |                               |                                 |
| <b>make hay while the sun shines</b>   | <b>get one up on</b>          | <b>lose their edge</b>          |
| 3. Most interviewees wish they could ..... the others so as to get the job.  |                               |                                 |
| <b>get on up on</b>  | <b>stretched the rules</b>    | <b>be feathering their nest</b> |
| 4. Pamela gave in as she knew it very well that her husband .....and he was not likely to agree with her.                |                               |                                 |
| <b>a bargaining counter</b>  | <b>swings and roundabouts</b> | <b>had all the aces</b>         |
| 5. News of the economic difficulties the company faced was used as .....in the talks of the two parties.                 |                               |                                 |
| <b>in the clear</b>  | <b>the aces</b>               | <b>a slam dunk</b>              |
| 6. The life of managers is..... : they get a high salary, but they have to spend a lot of time away from their families. |                               |                                 |

## 2. Match the two parts of the sentences.

1. Most models have to make hay while the sun shines A so that the farewell party could be a memorable experience to everyone.
2. Many politicians are said to hardly wait to feather their nest B have given a sharp edge to local epidemics.
3. Most stars score an own goal C is their high speed.
4. She seemed to get a leg up D that they knew their environment like the back of their hands.
5. Another sweet spot of Maglev trains E owing to her father's reputation.
6. No doubt, a slam dunk for the home team was F whilst their party is in power.
7. Unfortunately, lack of medicine and scarcity of food G until their beauty fades away
8. The rules were bent and closing hours extended H by revealing their weaknesses to the media.

## 3. AGE

**Aging** is considered a journey that we carry out from birth to death. The idioms related to the concept highlight various phases of a time-travel: a starting point, youth (*at your mother's knee*), or various stages of old age (*be past your prime, be over the hill, be past it* etc.). Correspondence between Space and Time can be observed when they are compressed in the blend. Time viewed in terms of spatial scenarios emerges at the end of the process of integration.

In addition, age is reflected through the Input space of **animals** and Input space of **objects** identified with various phases of our lifespan (e.g. *no spring chicken*). The two Input spaces (aging and journey) are blended and the emergent structure presents a rich blend with novel information (e.g. Aging is a journey or an old person is unlike a young animal. See above)

### AGE IS A JOURNEY (WITH A STARTING POINT, DEPARTURE, JOURNEY AND DESTINATION)

**at your mother's knee** the time when you were still a child *Many were taught at mother's knee to teach the value of a penny saved is a penny made or a stitch in time saves nine as examples remembered. Even today I pass them on to my children and grandchildren – and now to you the public.*

**(be) over the hill** to be considered too old to do an activity or carry out a job *100's of Jokes and Cartoons presents a special humor page for baby boomers, those of us who are over-the-hill, aging and getting older.*

**be past it** to be old and not fit enough to do things you used to *Odd glitch, and I'm very glad to be past it!*

**be past your prime** not young any more *Other senior figures, some of them well past their prime, are at each other's throats over whether the party must urgently move to the right, which is where its supporters feel most comfortable, or to the centre, where elections are usually won.*

**out-of-date** something that is old and cannot be used as well as before *Some laws are out of date, others are new and untested.*

### AGE IS A PERSON, ANIMAL OR OBJECT

**(be as) old as the hills** very old and perhaps not up-to date *These traditions have been as old as the hills.*

**be long in the tooth** a humorous way of expressing that someone is getting old, whereas in fact this may not always be the case *Hominid extinction theory long in the tooth.*

**be no spring chicken** said about someone who is quite old *Joan Rivers, who's not exactly a spring chicken, thinks that Sacha Baron Cohen- the invisible man who plays Borat – is exactly where comedy should be now.*

**not make old bones** not to live a long life *The age loved a youthful demise, and anyone could see that Stevenson was not going to make old bones.*

**old hat** not new or modern enough to function well *But then they had a big reorganisation and decided Jennings was old hat.*

### **Decide whether age is viewed through the JOURNEY or the ANIMAL, PERSON, OBJECT metaphor.**

1. *Most girls learn to do knitting or embroidery at their mother's knee.*
2. *Sportsmen of about thirty or so are a bit long in the tooth to be successful.*
3. *Most out-of-date computers are simply thrown away in Japan.*
4. *Though our educational system was said to be old hat a couple of years ago, we're beginning to realize that the situation is not so bad compared to other countries.*
5. *These traditions have been as old as the hills.*
6. *The educational systems in the developing countries fostered by charity organisations have come of age and only need temporary support.*
7. *All university professors can stay on at work until they are 70, but they are in fact over the hill facing serious health-related problems.*
8. *Though some women pretend that a mini-skirt still suits them at a ripe age everyone sees that they are no spring chickens.*
9. *When you are over seventy or so and you still believe that you can climb high mountains you have to realize that you are past it.*
10. *Rock stars of the eighties are well past their prime though some of them still manage to attract old fans to their concerts.*

## **4. AGREEMENT**

It is not a mere coincidence that this concept employs the clashing of two distinctive mental spaces (reflected by the ideas, attitude and potential planning of two or more parties). Whenever we come to an agreement our ideas fall in with each other as identical. In terms of an imaginary spatial scenario two sets of divergent thoughts and ideas follow a convergent route to finally coincide with each other. The process of conceptual integration (blending) is manifest in the process, as Input space 1 (ideas of partner 1) and Input space 2 (ideas of partner 2) merge to produce the emergent structure of an agreement. In fact, this way of compressing more than 2 Input spaces (i.e. pools of more than two speakers) is possible and common. In the process of reaching an agreement selective projection may eliminate elements not related strictly to the notion of reaching a common goal (i.e. gestures, promises, shaking hands are considered irrelevant, though they are part of the scenario).

### **AN AGREEMENT IS A MEETING POINT/ A CONTACT POINT/ SAMENESS**

**bang/knock people's heads together** to be forced to make an agreement with someone *Will Mr Putin knock heads together in Russia's security service, which has been most hostile to letting foreigners into sensitive nuclear sites?*

**be in line (with someone) (on/over something)** to agree with someone about something *But the Ayatollah also has insisted that Iran's new constitution must be in line with Islamic principles, and recognize Islam as the nation's religion.*

**be in line/ step with something** in agreement *"Given New Labour's track record in news management, we can be confident that his announcement will be in line with the leaks of the past few days, which have suggested that he will raise this year's projected public borrowing requirement from £10 billion to £17 billion.*

**be of like/one mind /be of the same mind** to agree with each other about something *We're of the same mind.*

**close to a truce** almost reaching an agreement *And two weeks ago it seemed close to a truce with the Kremlin.*

**Find common ground /on common ground** to come to an agreement *A more moderate U.S. approach to Hizbullah could, in turn, persuade the group to seek and perhaps find some common ground with the Lebanese opposition, despite Nasrallah's fiery rhetoric last week.*

**go along with someone** to agree with someone *I was so revolted that I wrote a letter to the headmaster and I said I couldn't go along with this.*

**join the choir** to agree with other people *Even serious analysts are joining the choir.*

**a meeting of minds** said when different people have the same idea/ initiative etc. *If Mr Bush wants democracy for the Arabs, and they want it for themselves, why is there no meeting of minds?*

**the middle ground** the common point people can agree on *Intelligence agencies counter that this would jeopardise investigations. Still, some middle ground might be found.*

**not be on the same page (AmE)** you agree with someone about what you want to do *Everybody is on the same page after Tony Franklin's departure as offensive coordinator.*

**ride in tandem with someone/ something** to agree with someone/something completely *While John Paul's papacy, in its early years, sometimes rode in tandem with American policy, Vatican diplomacy in recent years distanced itself from the United States – in order to discourage anti-western Muslims from thinking they should also be anti-Christian.*

**(not to) see eye to eye (not)** to agree with someone *My father and I see eye to eye on most things.*

**sign on the (dotted) line** to agree to something formally and sign an agreement *In fact, it's vitally important that you're well versed in their intricacies before you sign on the dotted line.*

**sing from the same hymn sheet / sing from the same song sheet** to agree about something and express it to the public *If only we could get everyone to sing from the same hymn sheet.*

## **AN AGREEMENT IS A BUSINESS TRANSACTION**

**a gentleman's agreement** an unwritten agreement made between parties who trust each other *He notes that at the moment "the business is generally run as a series of gentlemen's agreements.*

**give the nod** to agree with someone about something *Some disputes can be settled in court – boundary disputes by the International Court of Justice, for example, accusations of war crimes or genocide by the International Criminal Court – but only where governments give the nod.*

**give/pay lip service to something** to agree to something but not do anything about it *So if you live in South Carolina, please vote for McCain. ... Well, they all pay lip service to it.*

**give your blessing to something** to agree to something *On July 7th, the day that the European Commission gave its final blessing to a French government-aid package for Alstom, a troubled engineering group, Mr Monti introduced new rules to govern future state bail-outs. If the house is worthy, give it your blessing of peace.*

**give a nod to someone** to agree to something *Such talk alarms the Europeans: Britain's foreign secretary, Jack Straw, has said it is "inconceivable" that America would strike at Iran, or give the nod to Israel to do so.*

**nod your head** to agree with someone *When Chirac in 2002 called for a campaign against "barbaric behaviour" on the roads, many French citizens nodded their heads in agreement.*

**see eye to eye** to agree with someone *Putin and Bush don't see eye to eye.*

**with a nod and wink** to agree with someone/something *Already the trade embargo is widely breached – even, where Turkey is involved, with a nod and wink from the United States, supposedly its fiercest upholder.*

**Decide whether the idioms are related to the BUSINESS (B) or the MEETING/ CONTACT POINT (MC) metaphor.**

1. *When the new proposal was submitted and their similarities were discovered everyone spoke of a meeting of minds.*
2. *When you think that the terms of the agreement are acceptable just sign on the dotted line.*
3. *Out -of- court agreements between airline companies and the relatives of the deceased need the middle ground between the parties.*
4. *Shall we go to the cinema? I am game.*
5. *Don't think that the farmers were happy to accept low purchase prices. It was in fact the crisis that banged people's heads together.*
6. *We're in line with each other over several issues.*
7. *It isn't always easy to find common ground when you are at loggerheads with someone.*
8. *There are very few countries where you can still rely on a gentleman's agreement.*
9. *"Given New Labour's track record in news management, we can be confident that his announcement will be in line with the leaks of the past few days, which have suggested that he will raise this year's projected public borrowing requirement from £10 billion to £17 billion."* *Spect. 30 Nov. 2002 p. 7*
10. *We felt that we had to meet them halfway if we wanted to be on friendly terms with them again.*
11. *We were on the same page as to how to start and carry out the project.*
12. *I am afraid I can't see eye to eye with you in this matter.*
13. *He was very happy to sign on the dotted line again after years of unemployment.*
14. *Due to heavy pressure from outside the employees of the company started singing from the same hymn sheet.*

## 5. ANGER

Very rich blended structures are manifested during the integration of the human emotion 'anger'. The metaphors below project correspondences between **health-related** (pain or bad feelings, disease and heat) aspects, **mental and physical distortions** (madness or aggressive behaviour and distorted figure), **behavioural aspects** (physical attack and agitated behaviour) and **pressure / tension** and **ANGER**. The idioms below all emerge owing to the compression of the emotion and various input spaces. Owing to the high number of idioms within each group, we come to realize that 'a bear with a sore head' or 'touching nerves' both mean metaphorically 'anger'.

## ANGER IS PAIN OR BAD FEELINGS

**(be) like a bear with a sore head** to behave in an irritable way or be angry *Like a bear with a sore head. I am sick, and I hate being sick. I feel like an elephant is sitting on my chest and my head hurts.*

**hard feelings** to be angry with someone *No hard feelings, I hope.*

**leave a bad / sour taste in someone's mouth** other people's behaviour makes you angry *Second, there were some 30 members of the US Congress in Cancún and they surely left with a sour taste in their mouth.*

**a sore point / a sore spot** something whose mention makes someone angry or upset *Defections are a sore point with the Grand National Party.*

**touch nerves** to make someone angry *Other proposed reforms are also touching nerves.*

## ANGER IS PHYSICAL ATTACK

**bite/snap someone's head off** to speak to another person angrily *Ask her to step down from the board? She'd bite my head off!*

**cut your own throat** to hurt someone out of anger while not caring about the boomerang effect of your act *But it is hard to see him ditching his brother or brother-in-law, the two key men in a security state, without cutting his own throat, metaphorically, if not literally.*

**eat someone for breakfast** to speak to someone in an angry or arrogant way *He eats people like you for breakfast.*

**give someone hell** said when you are spoken to angrily *She gave me hell for being twenty minutes late.*

**have the knives out** to react to something angrily *Why are knives out for Palin?*

**hit the ceiling/roof / go through the roof** to get angry about something and even start shouting *Marge went through the roof when she heard she'd been fired.*

**If looks could kill...** an angry look *Well, when we mentioned her daughter's escape with Pete. You can imagine. If looks could kill...*

**jump down someone's throat** to react in an angry or impatient manner to something someone says or does *It's fine if you don't agree with me, but you don't have to jump down my throat.*

**kick yourself** to be angry with yourself for making a mistake or missing a chance *You'll kick yourself if you miss it.*

**on the warpath** to become very angry about something *Grounded Jet Airways staff on the warpath.*

**shoot daggers at someone** to look at someone in an angry way *I put a cigarette in my mouth and saw her shooting daggers at me from all the way across the room.*

**tear someone limb for limb** to threaten someone with violence *Even the look on her face is scary, like she wants to tear someone limb from limb.*

**wring someone's neck** to be very angry with someone *Oh, I'd like to wring her neck.*

## ANGER IS MADNESS OR AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR

**be as mad as a hornet (AmE)** to be very mad *We were both as mad as a hornet to hear that we had been deceived.*

**draw blood** to get angry or upset about something *He always draws blood with his film reviews.*

**drive someone to distraction** to make someone angry or annoyed *The mosquitoes drive me to distraction.*

**drive/send someone round the bend** to make someone angry *The child's permanent whimpering drove her mother round the bend.*

**foam at the mouth / froth at the mouth** to be very angry about something *Be extremely angry, as in She was foaming at the mouth over.*

**gnashing of teeth (hum)** to be(come) very upset or angry about something *Since November, liberal commentators have been wailing and gnashing their teeth over the willingness of many poor Americans to vote Republican for cultural and religious reasons.*

**go ape / go apeshit (taboo)** to get very angry about something *Banana chandelier will make you go ape.*

**grind your teeth** used in a situation when you are angry but helpless and can't change the outcome of a situation *The forint may yet stay aloft – and thus leave Mr Gyurcsány still pleading with the markets, grinding his teeth at Mr Járαι.*

**have a cow** to be upset and angry about something *She had a cow when she found out he'd been smoking.*

**have a short fuse / on a short fuse** to get angry and lose your temper *Actually I don't have a short fuse today – as per my post title – but thought it sounded more interesting.*

**have kittens** to be extremely angry about an event *I am a very short temper person and don't have any patience for anything.*

**pull/tear your hair out** someone is very upset or angry about something *Please stop tearing out your hair.*

**rattle someone's cage** you do something to someone else which makes them behave in a very angry or silly way *President Clinton wants to “adapt the international financial architecture to the 21<sup>st</sup> century”;; Tony Blair, Britain's prime minister, wants “a new Bretton Woods for the new millennium”; Alan Greenspan, head of America's central bank and a man not given to hyperbole, has called this once-boring subject “a cage-rattler”.*

**show your teeth** to show how angry you are *Come on, let him know you're angry – show your teeth!*

## ANGER IS HEAT

**breathe fire** to be(come) very angry about something *Especially since the election last June of its fire-breathing president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, he who denies the Holocaust and calls for the removal of Israel, Iran is often portrayed as dangerous, irrational and unpredictable.*

**have steam coming out of your ears** to be upset or very angry about something *I have steam coming out of my ears!”*

**a head of steam** to become more and more angry *There's no question, though, that the drive to stop capital punishment has picked up a head of steam.*

**it makes one's blood boil / one's blood boils** to make someone very angry *Whenever Jim criticizes his father, it makes my blood boil .*

**a lightning rod for something (US)** describes a person who is blamed or criticized for something *But Mr Valder promises to be a lightning rod for other dissident liberals, in a campaign where the coalition will be running neck-and-neck with the opposition Labour Party.*

**lose your cool** to get angry and lose your temper *When things don't go your way, no matter how trivial, how do you react? Do you lose your cool and explode?*

## ANGER IS PRESSURE

**blow a fuse/gasket (inf)** you lose your temper and cannot bottle up your anger any more *His paper was furious about Euan's tuition, and he has blown a couple of gaskets since on other issues.*

**blow your stack/top (inf)** to become extremely angry *Now the possibilities are endless, at least until you blow your mental stack.*

**burst/bust a blood vessel (inf)** to get very angry about something and begin shouting *He nearly burst a blood vessel when he heard what they'd done to his car.*  
**someone's blood is up** to get upset or angry about an event *Whenever his blood was up he became very agitated and even violent.*

#### **AN ANGRY PERSON'S FIGURE IS DISTORTED**

**be bitter and twisted** to be crestfallen and angry about things of the past *I'm at least as funny as Festa, and a lot more bitter and twisted overall.*  
**get bent out of shape (AmE) (inf)** to be upset or very angry about an event *Pugmug is just being himself, don't get too bent out of shape over it.*  
**in a flat spin / in a spin** to be very much confused excited or angry in a particular situation *Brad Pitt caught in a spin between bodyguard and the paparazzi.*

#### **ANGER IS A DISEASE**

**spit blood** to get so angry in a situation that you are unable to control your feelings about it *After her speech, people who she had criticized were spitting blood.*  
**what's eating someone? (inf)** used when you want to know why someone is so annoyed or angry about something *What's eating you, Mother Nature? Is it us? I always pictured you as a nice lady, but after this much snow you are one mean slut.*

#### **ANGER IS TENSION**

**flip your lid (inf)** to get very annoyed or angry about something and lose your temper *The fact that the book contain passages that take the Mickey out of sex – not that it takes much, in my opinion, to do that – and that all my farces have been banned by high-minded book-sellers in Britain at one time or another, made even me flip my lid at the thought of having a class of 13-year-olds reading Wilt and asking me what words like fellatio mean.*  
**get a rise out of someone** to succeed in making someone very upset or angry with your remarks *Ignore him – he's just trying to get a rise out of you.*  
**go nuclear** to become very angry about something *The Senate republicans, urged on by the Christian Right, had been all set to "go nuclear" on May 24<sup>th</sup>, and revoke the Democrats' parliamentary right to delay George Bush's judicial nominations.*

#### **ANGER IS VISUAL / AUDIBLE / VERBAL THREAT**

**be like a red rag to a bull/ a red rag to a bull/ a red flag before a bull** something is mentioned that makes a person very annoyed or angry *Simply mentioning the word "nationalism" to him is like a red rag to a bull.*  
**a black/dirty/filthy look** to look at someone to express how much annoyed or angry you are *She gave us a dirty look.*  
**(have) a face like thunder /with a face like thunder** to look at someone angrily *Her mother's got a face like thunder.*  
**look daggers at someone** to look at someone in an angry way *He looked daggers at her across the room when she mentioned his divorce.*  
**see red** to get very annoyed or angry *"Greenness" makes me see red. Seattle, you're really getting on my nerves.*

#### **ANGER IS A BUSINESS TRANSACTION**

**give someone the evil eye** to give someone an angry look *Though she didn't say anything she gave me an evil eye and I knew what she thought.*

**give someone a piece of your mind (inf)** to tell someone angrily your opinion about them *Why, you ought to give him a piece of your mind!*

**give someone a rocket (inf)** to tell someone off angrily for doing something *My parents gave me a rocket for leaving a mess behind.*

**give someone the rough edge/side of your tongue** (old-fash) to speak to someone in an annoyed or angry way *When it came to discussing my plans of planting trees alongside her fence the old woman gave me the rough edge of her tongue.*

#### **AN ANGRY PERSON IS SUPERIOR TO OTHER PEOPLE**

**climb/get on your high horse; (opposite) come/get (down) off a/your high horse** to become arrogant and angry with someone about something *What's it like being on your high horse? Nice view, but I tend to get dizzy.*

**get/put someone's back up** to make someone angry *Bill's arrogance really got my back up.*

**in high dudgeon (hum)** to be angry about being offended *She was in a high dudgeon over the events of last evening.*

**scream / shout something from the rooftops** you express your anger (with someone) about something to many people *I wish I hadn't shouted from the rooftops about their nasty trick. We've fallen out and we'll never make up again.*

#### **ANGER IS CONTROL OVER OTHER PEOPLE/ LOSS OF YOUR OWN CONTROL OR UNITY**

**be fit to be tied (AmE)** very angry or excited about something *I've been waiting for two hours and am fit to be tied.*

**drag/haul someone over the coals/ashes** to speak to someone in an arrogant and angry way *Weren't you the one hauling Dhoni over the coals last year for employing an 8-1 field against the Aussies?*

**fly off the handle (inf)** to react angrily to an event or to someone's behaviour *Aghast, Clerk's media advisor, Chris Lehane, took him aside and warned him that a national politician could not afford to fly off the handle that way that the general's diatribe had been "too hot" for TV.*

**go ballistic / nuclear (inf)** to suddenly become angry, violent and even start shouting *Gun ranges are loud especially when there's a woman in the next bay going ballistic with a 9mm.*

**go bananas (inf)** to become very excited or angry about something *Szamuely went bananas when he read Imre Kertész's statement after being informed of the prize.*

**go/fall to pieces** to become very upset or angry about something and lose your temper *But each time I go out with someone new you walk by and I fall to pieces.*

**go mental (inf)** to get upset or angry about something *Old, young, or even younger, with go mental fundamental everyone can go mental at the same time.*

**go off the deep end (inf)** to become upset or angry about a situation *In 1997, he was the king of the world. Then he literally went off the deep end.*

**go spare** to become upset or angry about something *She'd go spare if she found out he was spending all that money.*

**let fly (something)** to suddenly become angry about someone and begin shouting *I was so angry I let fly at them as soon as they came in.*

**lose your rag** to become angry all of a sudden *Person A "Do you see that? Phil's groping my girlfriend!" Person B "Ok mate, don't lose your rag."*

**someone has it in for someone else** someone is angry with someone else and wants to cause harm to them one way or another *There's someone on board whose father was one of those who had it in for Linnet's old man.*

## ANGER IS UP

**all his hackles were up** to be very angry *When I arrived, all his hackles were up because he evidently felt that I, as Eccles's creature, was likely to poach on his reserve.*

**put someone's back up** to make someone angry *Why does he put so many backs up?*

**raise hell/Cain** to complain about something angrily and noisily so as to obtain it *Many kids tend to raise hell to their parents about their friends' getting new mobile phones until they get one themselves.*

*The news of new taxes raised hell among entrepreneurs and farmers and soon protest marches flooded the capital.*

**raise someone's hackles / someone's hackles rise** to make someone annoyed or angry by doing or saying something *Alas for Dr Foster, his checklist immediately raised hackles within the computer industry, since much existing "grid computing" software fails to meet these criteria.*

## ANGER IS AGITATED BEHAVIOUR

**take a hike / take a walk** to tell someone angrily to leave you alone *In the current political climate, it would be tempting for the Italian or French governments simply to tell the commission to take a hike.*

**turn in your grave / turn over in your grave (AmE)** someone dead would be very angry to see what is happening now *It should surely be Ruskin, were it not for the fact that the 'sculpture' chosen to represent him would almost certainly cause this most fastidious of aesthetes to turn in his grave.*

*Put the idioms into the right groups of metaphors, metonymies or blends.*

A) ANGER IS AGITATED BEHAVIOUR

B) ANGER IS CONTROL OVER OTHER PEOPLE/ LOSS OF YOUR OWN CONTROL OR UNITY

C) ANGER IS UP

D) AN ANGRY PERSON IS SUPERIOR TO OTHER PEOPLE

E) ANGER IS VISUAL / AUDIBLE / VERBAL THREAT

F) ANGER IS TENSION

G) ANGER IS A DISEASE

H) AN ANGRY PERSON'S FIGURE IS DISTORTED

I) ANGER IS PRESSURE

J) ANGER IS MADNESS OR AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR

K) ANGER IS PHYSICAL ATTACK

L) ANGER IS PAIN OR BAD FEELINGS

M) ANGER IS HEAT

N) ANGER IS A BUSINESS TRANSACTION

1. take a hike / take a walk
2. all his hackles were up
3. get someone's blood up
4. jump down someone's throat
5. look daggers at someone
6. have a cow
7. hard feelings
8. be like a red rag to a bull

9. fly off the handle
10. /pull/tear your hair out
11. rattle someone's cage
12. eat someone for breakfast
13. touch nerves
14. on the warpath
15. turn in your grave
16. drag/haul someone over the coals
17. climb/get on your high horse
18. spit blood
19. have steam coming out of your ears
20. be bitter and twisted

## 6. ARGUING

Arguing creates correspondences between a variety of input spaces. For instance, an arguing person in Input space 1 is compressed into a blend with a set of Input spaces exploiting domains of **animals**, **heat**, **battle**, **game** as well as **finding your way** (an element of the SPACE domain). The variability of scenarios projects correspondences between an arguing person (Input1) and generally fight between animals (Input 2). However, the typical clash between members of the 'animal' input for dominance, 'hierarchy', 'food' eliminates these aspects through selective projection and highlights verbal aspects. At the end of the compression of two mental spaces, we envisage arguing people as locking horns, ripping out fur, being involved in a violent clash or fighting over a bone. This compression only becomes funny when we decompress the idiomatic image and discover what relevant features of human and animal behaviour are blended into the emergent structure humans adapting animal behaviour.

Arguing is also identified with battles between humans, where the arsenal of weapons corresponds to means of argumentation, ways of attacking to the intensity of verbal exchange. Another form of conceptual integration is compressing scenarios of playing games and verbal exchanges. In these scenarios, various aspects of playing games correspond to strategies of argumentation (e.g. *political football* is linked to **gaining benefits**, while *a shouting match* describes **the intensity of arguing**).

Owing to the physiological features of rising body temperature, high tension and so on, arguing is also viewed through rising heat. In this integrative process we come to create correspondences between the **intensity of argumentation** and the **heat** or **coolness** of human temperament.

### AN ARGUING PERSON IS AN ANIMAL

**a bone of contention** a question people argue or quarrel about for quite a while

*The biggest bone of contention is PEPFAR.*

**a dog fight** violent arguing *With the Farnborough International air show opening in Britain on July 19<sup>th</sup>, the ritual dog-fight has already begun between the two rival companies which now enjoy a duopoly for large commercial jets carrying over 100 passengers.*

**fight like cat and dog** to discuss something violently *"The city sees it as a dog and cat fight," Espinosa said.*

**the fur flies** to dispute something violently *The fur is already flying.*

**lock horns with someone** to argue about an issue *It may have slowed Iran's plans by a couple of years, delaying the confrontation over Iran's nuclear programme to 2006 rather than 2003, a*

*time when many European countries were locking horns with America over the invasion of Iraq.*

**piggy in the middle** someone involved in a conflict or fight between other people or groups *Piggy in the middle and the phone bill that never was.*

### **ARGUING IS HEAT**

**add fuel to the fire/flames** to make a conflict even worse *The gloating admission, in which Mr Bin Laden taunted Mr Bush for putting the “butting of goats” above the “butting of aircraft into skyscrapers” – a reference to the fact that the president continued to read a children’s book about a goat when told of the attack on New York – gave more fuel to the critics of the global jihad.*

**Cool it! (inf)** stop arguing *Diana Vickers reportedly tells Eoghan Quigg to ‘cool it’ following speculation that they are an item.*

### **ARGUING IS WEAPONS /ARGUING IS A BATTLE**

**at each other’s throats / at one another’s throats** refers to permanent arguing / fight between people *Other senior figures, some of them well past their prime, are at each other’s throats over whether the party must urgently move to the right, which is where its supporters feel most comfortable, or to the centre, where elections are usually won.*

**cross swords(with someone)** not to agree with another person or even argue with them over an issue *The French see Mario Monti, the current competition commissioner, as an ultra-liberal: he has crossed swords with Paris several times.*

**the gloves are /come off** the people involved in arguing have decided to go on more energetically and with more determination *The gloves may come off, though, now that Mr Feingold’s opponent in the general elections is known – and now that local Republicans think they have a chance of winning.*

**go at it hammer and tongs / hammer and tongs** to argue with someone noisily and with a lot of energy *Dakotans see more attack ads in a week than most people see in a year, and the candidates have gone at each other hammer-and-tongues in no fewer than six debates.*

**sparks fly** used to refer to the situation when arguing happens in a very intensive and angry way *Sparks will fly; enemies will multiply. The two industrial giants have started fighting for new markets in Asia. We’ll soon see sparks flying.*

**throw down the gauntlet** a sign of challenging your opponent in a fight or arguing *The candidate flung down the gauntlet and challenged his opponent to a debate.*

### **ARGUING IS A GAME OR PLAY**

**argue the toss** to waste your time by arguing over useless and unimportant things *“I’ll argue the toss with anyone and everything that will come along”*

**a political football** an issue used in a debate to gain benefits from *This has led many to believe that broadband may well become the next political football to be kicked around.*

**a shouting match** arguing turning into shouting *Although the shouting match with Europe over aircraft subsidies has calmed down as both sides have sent their complaints to the World Trade Organisation, transatlantic trade relations are still testy.*

### **ARGUING IS FINDING OR LOSING YOUR PATH**

**get/wander off the point** used when you lose an argument *It is possible to do really badly in an exam essay if you misread the question or wander off the point.*

**trail your coat** you risk starting arguing over something with someone *If you trail your coat, you act in a provocative way.*

*Put the idioms into the right groups of metaphors, metonymies or blends.*

- A) ARGUING IS FINDING OR LOSING YOUR PATH
- B) ARGUING IS WEAPONS /ARGUING IS A BATTLE
- C) ARGUING IS A GAME OR PLAY
- D) ARGUING IS HEAT
- E) AN ARGUING PERSON IS AN ANIMAL

- 1. a political football
- 2. sparks fly
- 3. a dog fight
- 4. add fuel to the fire/flames
- 5. go at it hammer and tongs / hammer and tongs
- 6. argue the toss
- 7. a bone of contention
- 8. the gloves are /come off
- 9. cross swords
- 10. get / wander off the point

## 7. BAD

Integrated mental input spaces play a key role in unfolding dichotomies such as GOOD and BAD. Culture-related domains tightly-linked to our judgement of one set of values or the other are heavily drawn on to be compressed with BAD. For instance, **lack of motion or initiative**, the **black** colour, DOWN, **revenge**, as well as **unfavourable weather**. These notions take us far beyond individual value judgement. Much rather, they rely on universal, community-based acceptance of reality. For instance, the compression of BAD (Input space 1) with ‘black sheep’ (Input space 2), leads to the emergence of a culture-motivated metaphor: **BAD IS DARK COLOUR** expressed by the idiom: **the black sheep (of the family)**. The process of entrenchment is time-consuming, but the mention of ‘black sheep’ today marks a successful blend. It also corroborates that metaphor is a highly-productive key element of conceptual integration.

### **BAD IS LACK OF ACTIVITY**

**can't do something to save your life (inf)** to be clumsy or simply unable to do certain things *You cannot do anything to save your life.*

**no great shakes** someone or something is not as good as you thought *Although a quintessential Grand Tour prize, she is no longer deemed any great shakes as an antiquity, given her extensive period restoration.*

### **BAD IS DARK COLOUR**

**the black sheep (of the family)** to be considered bad by other members of the family *That Mr Lo was the son of a successful Hong Kong property tycoon helped only indirectly. For the erstwhile black sheep, it has been a meteoric ascent ever since.*

**(not as bad as) not as/so black as one/it is painted** someone isn't so bad as they were supposed to be *"The devil isn't as black as he's painted, gentlemen. Neither is New York."*

## **BAD IS REVENGE**

**get even (inf)** when you get even with someone you settle an account with them for causing you trouble *The ideas are quite funny and creative, and most people would therefore enjoy reading this even when they're not seeking to get even with someone.*

**give someone a dose/taste of their own medicine** to do bad things to someone for being treated badly or in a hostile manner *Give her a dose of her own medicine and make her wait for you.*

## **BAD IS PART OF A CHOICE**

**be the best of a bad bunch/lot** someone isn't so bad as the others *This picture isn't exactly what I would have chosen, but it was the best of a bad lot.*

**left, right and centre (inf)** bad things are happening everywhere *They were firing at people left, right and centre. The Postal Service has been losing customers left and right these past couple of years.*

**Out of the frying pan and into the fire.** from a bad situation into another *Bad for people, bad for profits. Out of the frying pan.*

## **BAD IS DOWN OR HIDDEN**

**blow/take the lid off something** to reveal facts about something bad caused by someone *But the fact is that it is just as difficult to take the lid off the pot.*

**go through hell / put someone through hell** a period of time when you are exposed to difficulty or suffering *"You're gonna have to go through hell, worse than any nightmare you've ever dreamed".*

*All the soldiers had to spend months in the jungle, often having nothing to clean their bodies with, and you can imagine that they went through hell.*

**kick someone when they're down** to make someone suffer even more when they are in trouble *His wife left him last month and I don't want to kick a man when he's down.*

**the lesser evil / (less bad) the lesser of two evils** the less bad thing you can choose out of two available *Those who still support the president claim he is the lesser of two evils.*

## **BAD IS UNFAVOURABLE WEATHER**

**feel the chill wind from somewhere** to feel a bad effect from somewhere *The garment industry is experiencing a worldwide recession, and many countries are feeling the chill wind from China.*

**It never rains but it pours.** when something bad happens it is usually followed by other bad things *It never rains but it pours. Just as bosses and boards had finally sorted out their worst accounting and compliance troubles, and beefed up their feeble corporate governance, a new problem threatened to earn them – especially in America – the sort of nasty headlines that inevitably led to heads rolling in the executive suite: data insecurity.*

### ***1. Fill in the gaps with the missing part of the idioms.***

1. All the soldiers had to spend months in the jungle, often having nothing to clean their bodies with, and you can imagine that they went ..... hell.
2. The refugees thought that escaping through the marsh was *the* ..... evil.
3. If you don't want to hurt them when *they* ..... down, don't mention Sally's divorce to them.

4. Those wicked creatures whose main aim is to destroy the basic system of society and families should *be given a ..... of their own medicine.*
5. Steve is *the black ..... of the family*, especially now that he has a criminal record.
6. I really appreciate his efforts. I rightly presumed that he was *the ..... of a bad bunch.*
7. The prices were raised *left, right and .....*
8. It is the task of the media to ..... *the lid off* cases of corruption so as to enforce a more honest public life.

## 2. Choose the right idiom to fill in the gap.

**It never rains but it pours.**                      **get even**                      **no great shakes**

1. Though vendetta i.e. murder out of revenge only used to be common a long time ago, many people want to ..... with their ill-wishers.

**get even**                      **taste a dose of their own medicine**                      **feel the chill wind from**

2. In addition to the storm caused by global climate change, fishermen ..... EU measures reducing quotas.

**isn't as black as he was painted**    **is the black sheep**    **can't do something to save your life**

3. You see, Norman..... In fact, he is rather helpful.

**the best of a bad bunch**                      **no great shakes**                      **left, right and centre**

4. As was suspected before, the stars supported by the media proved .....

## 8. BELIEF

The existence of human society has been closely related to beliefs and the emergence of religion. In elaborating the lexicon phenomena of human life such as **business transaction**, **story-telling**, **reading**, **religion** and **orientation** have been used as sources and parts of conceptual integration.

### BELIEVING IS A BUSINESS TRANSACTION

**Don't give me that! (inf)** you say this when you find something you're told incredible *Don't give me that! I've got a feeling that you want me back ... Oh Just don't give me.*

**give someone the benefit of the doubt** to be inclined to believe that what the other person is doing is good or right even though this may not be the case *Most shareholders seemed willing to give Mr Rose the benefit of the doubt and accept his promise of jam tomorrow rather than Mr Green's money today.*

**put your money on someone/something** to accept something as a fact and believe that it'll come true *I'd put my money on the China becoming stronger than Japan.*

**take the bait** believe something *Intrigued by my peculiar patter, a young lady took the bait. "You sound... You have an accent. Where are you-?"*

**take it from me** to believe me *Take it From Me: Life after Welfare. Take It From Me is the story of four women struggling against great odds to raise themselves out of poverty.*

**take someone at their word** to believe what someone says *But Immigration Canada declined to take him at his word.*

**take someone's word for it** to be sure that he/she is right *If, as her daughter hopes, Carolyn Crale did not kill her husband. But she did, old boy. Take my word for it.*

### **BELIEF IS A TALE OR STORY**

**a cock-and-bull story /tale** an incredible story *Jack told us some cock and bull story about getting lost.*

**an old wives' tale** something people used to believe in, but not any more *There are so many old wives tales floating around during pregnancy that it is hard to know fact from fiction, except in the case where the tale is really off the wall.*

**a tall story** something hard to believe *A tall story for our time. In the rise and fall of modern mankind, scientists are discovering that height bears a clear relationship to healthiness and social well-being.*

### **BELIEVING IS READING**

**in your book** your own opinion that may largely differ from that of other people *Ads in the New York Times and the general press will reach a million people who are NOT interested in your book.*

**read someone's lips** you're trying to convince people that what you're saying is right *They have listened to people saying "read my lips, no new taxes" and have reasonably concluded that a politician promising big tax cuts is either lying or cannot keep his promises.*

### **BELIEVING IS A RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY**

**in good faith** to believe that you're doing or have done the right thing and there is nothing to worry about *The purpose of this article is to clarify the concept of the duty to negotiate in good faith, either for Civil Law or Common Law system practitioners.*

**a sacred cow** a taboo topic you're not allowed to talk about or something you mustn't be critical of *From sacred cow to white elephant is a short jump.*

**sit in judgment on/over someone** to criticize someone you're not entitled to *Could you sit in judgement over another person's life?*

### **BELIEVING SOMETHING INCREDIBLE IS DOWN**

**fall for something hook, line and sinker** a gullible person believes whatever they're told *I'd never seen such a good-looking bloke – I just fell for him hook, line and sinker.*

**mud sticks** people tend to insist on old beliefs *Mr Kwasniewski could also be hurt if any mud sticks to him, however unfairly.*

**Pull the other leg/one (it's got bells on)!** you find what another person has said incredible *Pull the other one, it's got bells on.*

### **BELIEVING SOMETHING INCREDIBLE IS ABNORMALITY**

**eat your hat** you don't believe something *I don't think she stands a chance in the election and if she does win, I'll eat my hat.*

**live in cloud-cuckoo land** to believe that something will come true even though it is unlikely *How to live in cloud cuckoo land and justify it.*

***Put the idioms into the right groups of metaphors, metonymies or blends.***

**A) BELIEVING IS READING**

**B) BELIEVING SOMETHING INCREDIBLE IS ABNORMALITY**

**C) BELIEVING IS A RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY**

- D) BELIEVING SOMETHING INCREDIBLE IS DOWN**  
**E) BELIEF IS A TALE OR STORY**  
**F) BELIEVING IS A BUSINESS TRANSACTION**

1. fall for something hook, line and sinker
2. a sacred cow
3. an old wives' tale
4. give someone the benefit of the doubt
5. take someone at their word
6. put your money on someone/something
7. live in cloud-cuckoo land
8. mud sticks
9. Don't give me that
10. a cock-and-bull story /tale

## 9. CALMNESS

This concept draws on bodily sensation and our cultural beliefs about our environment. For instance, our physiological experience suggests that excitement is high body temperature while calmness is low temperature. Also, our interactions with our environment foster the idea of regarding some animals as meek while others as aggressive. A unique blend of past experience and verbal expression is embodied through metaphorical processes, whereby calm human features are integrated with animal nature, and calm people seem to have cold body temperature. In the emergent structures of blends you can find humans who have *cold blood*, *smooth ruffled feathers* and simply *turn another cheek* in a conflict.

### CALMNESS IS COLD BODY TEMPERATURE

**as cool as a cucumber** to remain calm in a tense situation *Everyone was surprised at her being as cool as a cucumber during the investigation.*

**cold blood** to be calm even in stressful circumstances *No less grisly, in many eyes, was an American television film of a marine shooting a wounded Iraqi rebel during the battle of Fallujah, in lukewarm if not in cold blood.*

**keep a cool head** to be calm and patient *Keeping a cool head. That is scary stuff, but some scientists remain unimpressed.*

**play it cool** to show that you are calm in order to deceive other people *Drivers try to play it cool before Chase starts.*

### CALMNESS IS KEEPING SOMETHING

**keep one's head/a cool head** to remain calm in a critical situation *When the rowboat capsized, George yelled that everyone should keep their head and hold. You need to keep a cool head when you start approaching the peak of the mountain, although, quite frankly, you feel like hopping for joy.*

**keep your chin up** to stay calm and preserve your good mood despite hardships *So the next time you get a lower grade than you expected, keep your chin up and try to do better next time!*

**Keep your hair on! (Br.E) (inf) / Keep your shirt on! (Am.E.)** to warn someone to calm down *"Keep your hair on. I'm coming!"*

## **A CALM PERSON IS A MEEK ANIMAL**

**be as gentle as a lamb /like a lamb** to be a kind and calm person *Is the middle of March like a llama? Anyhow, March usually comes in strong like a lion and goes out as gentle as a lamb.*

**smooth ruffled feathers** to calm people down when they are irritated by something *A bridal professional, as an independent third party, can often smooth ruffled feathers and mediate disagreements.*

## **CALMNESS IS ACCEPTING THINGS WITH PEACE**

**have the nerve to do something** to be calm enough to do something. *So will he have the nerve to shove through the economic and social reforms needed to lock Greece into the euro-zone?*

**take each day as it comes** do things without preparation of any kind *I've lived through a lot of changes recently, but I've learnt to take each day as it comes.*

**turn the other cheek** to stay calm and not to get angry when you are insulted *The pacifist ethic to bear insults without complaint and to turn the other cheek is related to the ethic to love one's enemy.*

**without batting an eyelid** to react to things calmly *The head of a rival says, without batting an eyelid, that it would be conceivable to raise \$100 billion in the next decade.*

## **LACK OF CALMNESS IS ELEMENTS OF NATURE**

**the calm before the storm** a sign of trouble or of a big *crisis* *He wants to go back to his country one day but, as he tells the Post, "the current calm in Baghdad is the calm before the storm."*

**pour oil on troubled waters** to make things even worse by doing or saying something *Chavez pours oil on troubled waters.*

### ***1. Complete the gaps with idioms.***

1. Marilyn was ..... Everyone liked her.
2. What I remember most clearly about climbing Mount Everest is that you are in fact passing some of the victims scattered around the peak, and you realize that you need to ..... , or else you'll go mad.
3. The very same night she was murdered in .....
4. Ambulancemen have to ..... when called in to an accident.
5. Everyone was surprised at her being..... during the investigation.
6. When the boss entered with a somber face we all realized that ..... was over.
7. Conflicts often arise because people offended are not willing to.....
8. The agent ..... when he heard their offer although he felt like crying out with joy.

### ***2. Choose A, B or C.***

1. We need someone who is good at..... down, since our life is becoming more and more hectic.  
**A. pouring oil on troubled waters**  
**B. smoothing ruffled feathers**  
**C. turning the other cheek**

2. The bank robbers even .....to count the money before ripping off.  
**A. had the nerve**            **B. took each day as it came**            **C. were as gentle as a lamb**
3. When everything seems to be ruined and devastated around you it's really hard to .....  
**A. keep your chin up**            **B. turn the other cheek**            **C. smooth ruffled feathers**
4. ....! *We won't be away long.*  
**A. Take each day as it comes!** **B. Be as gentle as a lamb!** **C. Keep your hair on!**
5. .... That was the only thing they could do when the storm began.  
**A. Keep a cool head!**            **B. Don't bat an eyelid!**            **C. Pour oil on troubled waters.**

## 10. CHANCE

Human experience suggests that a chance is a quick, perhaps never returning event. Our cultural medium exemplifies it by taking a chance for a **shot** in battle scene. There is shared cultural experience between communities, since Hungarian also refers to a chance through expressions such as 'elpuskázott alkalom' or 'Na ezt is jól elszúrtuk', which are closely related to scenes of fighting. Other elements of the metaphorical process exploit perception (more specifically **visual** perception and that of **time**) and various cultural scenarios embodied in experiencing a **journey** and participating in **games**. As a result, in a blend chances emerge as *miss your own shot*, *leave the field clear for someone*, the scenario of a concert as in *It's not over until the fat lady sings*, and *cross someone's path* as well as *the luck of the draw*.

### CHANCE IS A BATTLE

**a clear shot** an opportunity *All this gives Blair a clear shot at something no Labour Prime Minister has ever attained: a third term.*

**a good shot at something** a good chance to do something *In their place we suggest the current third-place candidate: a liberal sceptic and empiricist, a contemporary of Adam Smith and a man with a good shot at winning.*

**like shooting fish in a barrel** one of the contesting sides is an underdog and isn't likely to win at all *For a North American male, romancing English girls is like shooting fish in a barrel.*

**a long shot** you don't think that you have a big chance to achieve something, but consider it worth trying *I know it's a long shot to win the race, but if you don't try it you'll never learn what you're capable of.*

**miss your own shot** to miss an opportunity *Hinault, who was known as the Badger, missed his own shot at a sixth victory when he helped American teammate Greg LeMond win in 1986.*

**Never say die.** You should not give up hope as long as you have a chance *This stage set doesn't look too promising, but never say die, it may still work out.*

### CHANCE IS VISUAL PERCEPTION

**get a look in (inf)** to have a chance to succeed in something *Before anyone else gets a look-in.*

**have something in your sights** to be likely to succeed in something *He's trying to build up his media empire and he has the owners of rival newspapers in his sights.*

**leave the field clear for someone** not to harm someone's chances by withdrawing from a competition or race *I'll just crawl back under my stone and leave the field clear for all you.*

**out of the picture** to lose the chance of being selected for a position *A re-run is almost certainly out of the picture, as both America and the UN said the election was free and fair enough.*

### CHANCE IS TIME

**anybody's race** anyone can have a chance for winning *The island's election is still anybody's race.*

**give someone /get an even break** to be given the same chance as other people *This guy has the talent. He just needs to get an even break and he could be up there with the best of them.*

**(have the right of/to) first refusal** to be given someone a chance to buy something before it is offered to other people *Dearborn Towers tenants have 'right of first refusal' on site.*

**It's not over until the fat lady sings. (inf)** there is still a chance to succeed in a race or competition *The opera ain't over until the fat lady sings."*

### CHANCE IS A JOURNEY

**cross someone's path** to meet someone by chance *At the most basic level, much of the company remains informal, thanks in large part to grasping bureaucrats who would inevitably demand pay-offs from any company that crossed their path.*

**in the / out of the running** you have /don't have a chance to get something *With Mr Gonzalez out of the running, Mr Bush may have opened the way for a more pro-life nominee. Ben in the running to finish as the top ranked Malaysian in Order of Merit.*

**on the off-chance** you hope for something though you know that its likelihood is very small *Sheila was aware of having little hope to win in the beauty contest and yet she entered it on the off-chance.*

**Pigs might fly. (inf)** used to express that something is very unlikely to happen

*And pigs might fly. That at least is the conventional wisdom in Sacramento, where the report is characteristically seen as overambitious.*

**too close to call** *have equally good chances as your competitor Over the next few weeks there will be lots of polls and some of them- such as a populous survey in the times of April 5<sup>th</sup> – will suggest that the race between Labour and Tories has become too close to call; a few may even give the Tories a narrow lead.*

### CHANCE IS A TRANSACTION /POSSESSION

**(get/have) two bites of/a second bite at the cherry** another chance. *Superannuation: husband cannot have two bites of the cherry.*

**not a cat in hell's chance / not have a cat in hell's chance / not have a chance/hope in hell / not a snowball's/dog's chance in hell** to have no chance at all to achieve something *'Cat in hell's chance' housing targets will be met ... homes this year did not " have a cat in hell's chance of being met this year or next. Analysts say that there is not a cat in hell's chance to change the tendency of a weakening economy.*

**not have a prayer** not to have a chance to achieve something *Joanne gets blindsided, may not have a 'Prayer'. No matter how talented they are, teenagers don't have a prayer to win Roland Garros as there's very tough competition there.*

### CHANCE IS A GAME

**a fair crack of the whip** an opportunity that may come up or given to people *At last, on February 11<sup>th</sup>, his opponents were entitled to think they might get a fair crack of the whip and, indeed, they chose that day to launch their programme.*

**the luck of the draw** something happens merely by chance *The luck of the draw saved the life of author C. Kenneth Ruiz. It was August 1942 and he was fresh out of the U.S. Naval Academy.*  
**stay in the game** have some chance *Néstor Kirchner must create conditions that will encourage the \$100 billion pool of offshore savings to return home but he will not be eager to placate creditors unwilling to “stay in the game”.*

**Put the idioms below into the right group of metaphors.**

- A) CHANCE IS A GAME
- B) CHANCE IS A JOURNEY
- C) CHANCE IS A TRANSACTION /POSSESSION
- D) CHANCE IS VISUAL PERCEPTION
- E) CHANCE IS A BATTLE
- F) CHANCE IS TIME

- 1. too close to call
- 2. leave the field clear for someone
- 3. like shooting fish in a barrel
- 4. It's not over until the fat lady sings.
- 5. cross someone's path
- 6. stay in the game
- 7. Pigs might fly.
- 8. miss your own shot
- 9. give someone/get an even break
- 10. out of the picture

## 11. CONFUSION

Based on what we have learnt about the formation of the idiomatic lexicon, we might suspect that experiencing confusion is manifested through expressions connected with bodily experience (**being trapped, poor visibility, vastness**) behavioural aspects (**leaving a course** referring to deviant behaviour) and cultural aspects (**playing a game**). Thus, during conceptual integration **confusion** emerges as *a tangled web, in a fog, at sea, be out of it and a game of cat and mouse.*

### CONFUSION IS BEING TRAPPED

**a tangled web** a confusing situation *Oh what a tangled web we weave, When first we practise to deceive! Sir Walter Scott, Marion, Canto vi.*

**tie someone in knots** to be confused or even worried about something *Charles Nicholl's long biography of the master is more gratifying to read, yet it ties itself in knots trying to follow every lead that Leonardo, his contemporaries and a legion of scholars have left behind.*

**tie yourself (up) in knots** to make yourself confused and worried *Why are you tying yourself in knots over why Mary cannot sort out her own life?*

### CONFUSION IS POOR VISIBILITY OR THE MEDIUM CAUSING IT

**blow smoke (Am.E.)** to confuse other people *Zealots blow smoke on property rights.*

**in a fog** to be in a confused state *I'm always in a fog. I just don't seem to think very well.*

**muddy the waters** to confuse a situation that has been clear before *Investors have started muddying the waters about the future of the company to put off share-holders and make them sell their shares. A fresh look at the muddy waters of psychopathy.*

### **CONFUSION IS A GAME**

**a game of cat and mouse** to use tricks that are likely to mislead your opponent *It is a game of cat and mouse with us both trying to find each other.*

**the numbers game** confusion caused by statistical data that may be misleading *According to them 100 000 filled Liberty Square although they weren't the only ones playing the numbers game.*

### **CONFUSION IS VASTNESS OR VARIETY**

**all over the shop** something is chaotic and confused *I've been so unimpressed by their campaign. They're all over the shop. How can I tell what's the best deal when lending rates are all over the lot?*

**(all) at sea** to be confused *This might not have mattered had not the company's long-term chief executive, Philip Graf, been equally at sea in the world of national newspapers.*

**at sixes and sevens** in confusion *Her outlook on life was so different from what he conceived a woman's outlook should be, that he was more often than not at sixes and sevens.*

**double-speak (mainly AmE) / double-talk** a confusing way of not telling other people the truth, but make it sound nicer in a rather complicated way *Some of this may be the necessary double-speak of an election campaign.*

**the right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing** to behave in a confused way *If you should ever be betrayed into any of these philanthropies, do not let your left hand know what your right hand does, for it is not worth knowing."*

### **CONFUSION IS LEAVING A COURSE /PLACE OR NORMAL BEHAVIOUR**

**be out of it** you are in confusion due to the effects of exhaustion, alcohol or drugs *Our spy reports that "she seemed out of it," that it appeared she'd been out all night, and that she'd clearly been crying, with mascara.*

**be punch-drunk** to be exhausted and confused so much that you cannot make a sober decision *The punch-drunk boxer used to be so prevalent that he was a cliché in real life and reel life. What happened?*

**a culture shock** to be confused when exposed to another culture that is very much different from your own *What a culture shock it was when the biologist had to spend a year with a tribe in the Amazonian rain-forest.*

**put/throw someone off the scent** to mislead and confuse someone with some information *The police were thrown off the scent for a while by false evidence given by two of the witnesses.*

**throw someone off (his) balance** to make someone confused by doing unexpected things *Protests throw Juppe off balance.*

***Put the idioms into the right groups of metaphors, metonymies or blends.***

**A) CONFUSION IS A GAME**

**B) CONFUSION IS LEAVING A COURSE /PLACE OR NORMAL BEHAVIOUR**

**C) CONFUSION IS BEING TRAPPED**

**D) CONFUSION IS POOR VISIBILITY OR THE MEDIUM CAUSING IT**

**E) CONFUSION IS VASTNESS OR VARIETY**

1. in a fog
2. double-speak
3. be punch-drunk
4. tie yourself (up) in knots
5. at sixes and sevens
6. at sea
7. put /throw someone off the scent
8. a game of cat and mouse
9. a tangled web
10. the right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing

## 12. CONTROL

One of the standard, prioritized concepts of human culture is evidently 'control', due to the hierarchical arrangement of human society. Instantiations of this are the metaphors: **CONTROL IS UP/HIGH IN HIERARCHY; BEING CONTROLLED IS DOWN**. At the same time, body parts play a crucial role in the implementation of control: 'hand' as in the metonymy **HANDS STAND FOR CONTROL** seemingly realization of physical, and 'head', as established mental authority as in **LACK OF HEAD STANDS FOR LACK OF CONTROL** focus on two distinct but complementary aspects, but both are manifest as **PART FOR WHOLE** metonymies. On exploiting scenarios of the physical, spatial environment, 'tightness' and 'looseness' play a key role in constructing an imaginary world of exercising power. This is clearly exemplified by the metaphors **CONTROL IS TIGHTNESS/LIMIT** and **LACK OF CONTROL IS LOOSENESS OR FREEDOM**. In these instances of conceptual integration the concept of control (Input space 1. is compressed with the physical domain of being locked up in tight space (Input space 2. as opposed to 'freedom' compressed with 'looseness'. Through the two blends we come to understand that the human mind may conceive of being tight as being controlled, whereas abundant space is identified with freedom.

### CONTROL IS A FIGHT

**get your claws/hooks into someone (inf)** to assume control of something in order to gain some benefit *She's got her claws in him already.*

**Grab/take someone by the throat** to try to control someone or defeat them *That's because this writer has opened with the first classic way to grab the reader by the throat -- with action*

**in the saddle** to be in control of something *Though most are from Australia, Britain and North America, where analytical philosophy is more firmly in the saddle, continental European and non-western thought also have their say.*

**pitch camp** to decide to live somewhere and have full control of the place *Climate protesters pitch camp in London.*

### HANDS STAND FOR CONTROL

**be in someone's hands** to have power over someone and control them *This power, in the hands of a party whose number two boasts that it will remain in office "until Jesus comes back", is unnerving.*

**bind the hands of** to control someone *So sovereign was it that children were taught that no Parliament could bind the hands of its successors.*

**fall into someone's hands** to be exposed to the power and will of another person *When she realized that her family had fallen into the hands of a confidence trickster she was in despair.*

**get out of hand** to lose control of something *So, as in the past outbreaks, the government slaughters by suspicion until the crisis gets totally out of hand.*

**get someone by the throat** to keep someone under control *“The Chinese have got the U.S. by the throat,” says William Barron, managing director of Deutsche Asset Management in London.*

**hand over the reins** to have control of *UK troops hand over Afghan reins.*

**have a/your finger on the button** to have control of a situation *You have your finger on the button of your own happiness.*

**heavy-handed** to have power over other people *But if the government steps in too heavy-handedly, imaginative ideas for remembering the past – and making it relevant to the present – could be lost.*

**hold someone/something in your hand** to have control over someone/something *During the first week of March, Lebanon’s political opposition seemed to hold the world in its hand.*

**hold a strong hand** to control a situation *But hardliners in Iran think they hold a strong hand.*

**in the hollow/palm of your hand** to have total control over someone *Health in the palm of your hand.*

**in someone’s hands** under someone’s control *The timing is, largely, in our hands and will be determined by the conclusions we reach later this year on the kind of party we want to be and on the person we want to lead it.*

**keep something out of someone’s hands** to keep something out of someone’s control *When, instead, Mr Juppé had to quit politics after being convicted of political corruption in January, la chiraquei, the president’s circle, stepped up efforts to keep the party out of Mr Sarkozy’s hands.*

**loosen the rein** to reduce control over someone/something *As always, leaders fear loosening the reins too much in a restive society.*

**make a grab for something** to try to obtain something *Then, in a bold move in 2000, she made a grab for the party leadership after helping bring down her mentor, Kohl, amid a series of campaign-finance scandals.*

**on a short/tight leash** under control *These disastrous rules were drawn up in response to the policies of Mr Suharto, who kept unions on a short leash. Literature, drama and especially mainstream media remain on a tighter leash.*

**relax the grip** to have smaller control over someone/something *But the Chinese authorities are equally sure that they cannot relax their grip too quickly on a financial sector that ensures employment and social stability through politically directed lending.*

**someone’s hands are tied** not to be able to control a situation *What do you do to be productive when your hands are tied?*

**stir the pot** to control a situation *It seems a fair interference that N 10. is not so keen to help IDS after all, and is in fact happy to stir the pot.*

**tighten the reins on something** to exert bigger control over someone or something *Meanwhile. Last week Condoleezza Rice, America’s secretary of state, announced a tightening of the reins on America’s aid.*

**tighten your grip on something** to control something more than before *The irony is that regulators seem determined to tighten their grip on hedge funds just as the funds’ moment of greatest glory has arguably passed.*

**tuck someone / something under the wings of someone / something** to put someone / something under control *Tucked more closely under the wing of the State Department, he will run the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and also provide “overall leadership”, as far as the law allows, for the disparate funds, initiatives and corporations that have sprouted on USAID turf.*

**tumble into someone's hands** to be controlled by *April 9, 2003, will be remembered as the day when much of Baghdad tumbled into American hands.*

**lead someone by the nose** to have a strong influence on someone else *They simply didn't know what they were doing and they were led by the nose by a manipulative government.*

**under someone's thumb** to keep someone under control *From the CBI to the lending policies of the six state-owned institutions that controlled most bank assets, the system was under Mr Hussein's thumb.*

## **CONTROLLING SOMEONE IS USING YOUR HANDS**

**at the wheel** to control a situation *The men from Price Waterhouse are at the wheel.*

**come/get to grips with something** to control a situation *"They have to come to grips with the fact that he is what Taiwan is about these days," says Natale Bellocchi, former head of the American Institute in Taiwan, Washington's unofficial embassy in Taipei.*

**have/keep someone on a short/tight leash** to have complete control of someone *For one, keep the military on a tight leash.*

**hold the purse strings** to control the budget of a family *Congress, which holds the purse-strings, has not helped much.*

**hold/keep something /someone in check** to keep another person under control *The natural order of things is that the predators of an animal keep the population in check.*

**an iron grip/have a grip on someone or something** to have strong control over someone / something *Mr Schwarzenegger, in his frantic effort to balance the budget, has actually strengthened the grip of the prison guards' union.*

**keep someone on a tight leash** to control someone strictly *For starters the deep divisions within the administration over North Korea policy will almost guarantee, says one official that Kelly "will be kept on a tight leash."*

**loose grip** weak control *Known for his loose grip on reality and looser control still over his tongue, Mr Nakamura told his staff that "the Japanese are writhing because they cannot revise the constitution, which was made by the allied forces to prevent Japan from waging war.*

**lose grasp on something** to lose control of something *even a country with a loose grasp on history has its historians, and these will fight their academic wars.*

**paddle your own canoe** to have control of the situation you are in *You'll find it better by far in the end to paddle your own canoe.*

**put your life in someone's hands** to allow another person to have full control over you (usually a doctor) *Someone may put their life in your hands.*

**shuffle a pack** to control a situation *The Dow is notoriously slow to shuffle its pack.*

**steer the battle on to somewhere** to direct the course of a competition to where you want to *Yet since January he has shown ruthlessness, plus an ability to go for Labour's weak points and steer the battle on to ground favourable to the Tories.*

**take something into your own hands** to start handling a situation on your own *"People realized that no one was going to help them and took matters into their own hands."*

## **LACK OF HEAD STANDS FOR LACK OF CONTROL**

**be off your head (inf)** to lose control of yourself due to taking drugs etc *But he defends – which is the other essential part of Rumpole – the right of people to be wrong, hateful, even completely off their heads, as long as they don't actually damage others in the process.*

**be out of your head (inf)** to behave in a crazy, uncontrolled way *Here's a cool video of them rehearsing "I Know What I Am", the song that sucked me in: listen, and try to get it out of your head.*

**like a headless chicken** without any control *I'm running around like a headless chicken. I can't believe it's been so long since I last wrote...!*

**lose one's head/cool** not to be able to control your emotions *I am afraid I rather lost my head.*

### **CONTROL IS HARDNESS ON THE CONTROLLED PERSON**

**an iron fist (in a velvet glove)** to control a situation with firm hands *On January 11<sup>th</sup> the Council of Guardians, the iron fist of Iran's formidable clerical establishment, let it be known that it was barring some 4,000 candidates, including 82 serving deputies, from standing in parliamentary elections due on February 20<sup>th</sup>.*

**rule (someone) with a rod of iron** to control someone strictly *He will rule them with a rod of iron; He will tread the wine press of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.*

### **CONTROL IS HIGH TEMPERATURE OR STEAM PRODUCED**

**fever pitch** to lose control of your emotions *Opposition to the governments welfare reform programme is reaching fever pitch today, with critics mobilising against the plans before the Queens Speech.*

**keep a lid on** something to keep control of a situation *It gives firms access to cheap labour abroad; and the threat that they will shift more production offshore also helps to keep a lid on wages at home.*

### **CONTROL IS TIGHTNESS/LIMIT; LACK OF CONTROL IS LOOSENESS OR FREEDOM**

**be in someone's pocket** to be controlled by someone else *The judge was in the defense lawyer's pocket.*

**come unglued** to become demoralized *"Right now things are starting to come unglued."*

**a free-for-all** you are allowed to do whatever you like *It may look like a free-for-all, but nowadays every move in the expansion of lucha libre is as carefully planned as those in the ring.*

**get your act together** to control yourself and manage things around you well *For this you must get your act together, so you can shift gears as required.*

**hands are tied** to be under control, not allowed to do what you want to *Allies say his hands are tied so long as he is unable to deliver on pre-electoral pledges to his pious constituents, especially to ease the ban on the Islamic headscarfs in government offices, schools and universities.*

**a hostage to fortune** not to be able to control what happens and accept whatever comes *Thus, a married man will be sooner trusted than one who is single ; because "he has given hostage to fortune," and possesses what Bacon calls "an impediment to mischief.*

**put the genie back into the bottle** to control a situation *If these regimes faced credible economic threats at the same time as being offered the right sort of security assurance by the United States, the nuclear genie might yet be pushed back into the bottle.*

**run a tight ship** to control a situation *"He'll never have men and women swooning at his feet. But he runs a tight ship."*

**run riot** to get out of hand *Rampant Gunners run riot.*

### **CONTROL IS UP/HIGH IN HIERARCHY; BEING CONTROLLED IS DOWN**

**an alpha male** to be dominant and control others in a relationship *The fight to be the alpha male in the market for corporate data-storage networks, which are huge consumers of network bandwidth, is between two focused makers of storage switches, Brocade and McData.*

**get on top of someone/something** to assume control of someone or something *But don't worry; you'll get on top of it.*

**He who pays the piper calls the tune.** the person covering the costs of a service has the right to decide what to ask for *But he who pays the piper calls the tune, and the biggest piper- payer is the American Treasury.*

**in the driver's seat** to be in control of a situation *Although Stephen Byers, the former transport minister, is more obviously in the shareholders' sights, e-mail exchanges within government show that the Treasury, represented had become set on gaining control of the company's operations without paying anything to the small shareholders who had been encouraged to invest by the previous government.*

**lead the pack** to control a group of people *"But without him leading the pack, we're trying to hold it together."*

**the men in (grey) suits** the ones who control an organization and are in charge of decision-making *And this week Alan Milburn, the health secretary, was said to be striking a blow for health professionals against the men in grey suits.*

**mind over matter** to be able to cope with your problems *Mind over matter was Mao Zedong's idea that rural peasants could be "proletarianized" so they could lead the revolution and China could move from feudalism to socialism.*

**under the watchful eyes of someone** to be controlled by *Kosovo has just held an election, under the watchful eye of its international overlords, and the main winner is the prime minister of Serbia, Vojislav Kostunica.*

**under the wing of someone** to be responsible for someone and have control of them *In Japan the picture is different because of the unusual success of the world's mightiest carmaker, Toyota, and (latterly) the recovery of Nissan under the Renault, a rival.*

***Put the idioms into the right groups of metaphors, metonymies or blends.***

**A) CONTROL IS UP/HIGH IN HIERARCHY; BEING CONTROLLED IS DOWN**

**B) CONTROL IS HIGH TEMPERATURE OR STEAM PRODUCED**

**C) CONTROL IS TIGHTNESS/LIMIT; LACK OF CONTROL IS LOOSENESS OR FREEDOM**

**D) LACK OF HEAD STANDS FOR LACK OF CONTROL**

**E) CONTROL IS HARDNESS ON THE CONTROLLED PERSON**

**F) CONTROLLING SOMEONE IS USING YOUR HANDS**

**G) HANDS STAND FOR CONTROL**

**H) CONTROL IS A FIGHT**

1. get on top of someone/something
2. like a headless chicken
3. an iron fist (in a velvet glove)
4. under the watchful eyes of someone
5. hands are tied
6. fever pitch
7. rule (someone) with a rod of iron
8. be out of your head
9. shuffle a pack
10. have a/your finger on the button
11. paddle your own canoe
12. put the genie back into the bottle
13. tuck someone/something under the wings of someone/something
14. keep a lid on

15. get your claws/hooks into someone
16. loose grip
17. mind over matter
18. keep someone on a tight leash
19. in the hollow/palm of your hand
20. be off your head
21. a hostage to fortune
22. lead someone by the nose
23. come unglued
24. stir the pot

## 13. CRAZE

Inputs of deficient mental states are compressed with absence of things, and they seem universal (in Hungarian we say ‘Nincs ki egy kereke’). At the same time, mental disorder is often characterized by recurrent ideas, ones you cannot get rid of. Thirdly, mental deficiency may turn into a dangerous state.

### CRAZE IS ABSENCE OR LOSING THINGS

**be out of your mind (inf)** to behave in a crazy way *You must be out of your mind to swim in that icy stream.*

**lose all your marbles** to behave in a crazy or insane way *She seemed to have lost all her marbles. Running around like a headless chicken.*

**not be all there** to behave in a foolish way *Unfortunately, the whole audience could see that he wasn't all there.*

### CRAZE IS A FIXED IDEA/TRAP

**a basket case** to be extremely nervous about something *Each side is indoctrinated to see the other as a basket case.*

**be as nutty as a fruitcake (inf)** to behave in a foolish or crazy way *Don't pay any attention to John; he's nutty as a fruitcake.*

**go nuts** behave in a crazy way *She didn't say too much because she did not want to come across as a pushy, arrogant American but she was thinking that 'in America we'd go nuts if we were told we would have to wait six weeks to see a specialist.*

**have bats in your belfry** to have strange or crazy ideas *If there are bats in your belfry, don't go batty.*

**have bees in your bonnet** to be crazy about something *To say that he had bees in his bonnet would be an understatement: there was a swarm of them, and some of the cases he took up worthier than others.*

**mad as a hatter** to be crazy *"Yes, but if someone acts peculiar or quirky you could say he or she is mad as a hatter," Jeff continued. "*

### CRAZE IS DANGER

**go over the edge** to start behaving in a crazy way *But although he rightly revered Orwell, he can't help going over the edge into the kind of bluster Orwell used to mock: 'The heroic supporters of the elected government in Spain went down a cascade of blood to the fascists' is the language less of history than of the flat, ephemeral pamphlet.*

**push/drive someone over the edge (inf)** to be made to behave in a crazy way *Which is not to say that the Republicans can rest easy. Even if there is nobody to push them over the edge, they are still dancing on the edge of a precipice.*

**send someone off their chump** to drive someone crazy *Living in a house full of women is enough to send any man off his chump.*

*Put the idioms into the right groups of metaphors, metonymies or blends.*

A) CRAZE IS A FIXED IDEA/TRAP

B) CRAZE IS ABSENCE OR LOSING THINGS

C) CRAZE IS DANGER

1. be as nutty as a fruitcake

2. lose all your marbles

3. have bats in your belfry

4. push/drive someone over the edge

5. mad as a hatter

6. send someone off their chump

7. go nuts

8. not be all there

## 14. CRITICISM

Verbal clashes draw on concrete interactions with the world, events experienced within the boundaries of cultural scenarios unfolded through blending input space information. Compressions of real-life scenarios (such as ‘war’, ‘destruction’, ‘physical attack’, ‘eating food’, ‘assuming a risky/humiliating position’, ‘exposure to harsh sounds’) are blended with the concept of criticism and owing to these empirical observations novel, rich emergent structures depict the concept. The general image characterizing the process of one’s being criticized is broadened by culture-specific input information.

### CRITICISM IS WAR

**be/come under fire** to be criticized angrily *Britain’s new education minister, Ruth Kelly, recently came under fire after admitting that she took “spiritual guidance” from the conservative Roman Catholic organization Opus Dei.*

**a cheap shot** unfair criticism *Yet “Fahrenheit 9/11” is unlikely to change anybody’s mind. Mr Moore takes too many cheap shots.*

**come under assault** to be strictly criticised by someone *As these reforms are debated, the scale and central importance of the patent system are also coming under assault.*

**come under attack** to be criticized by someone *He then had an unhappy stint as shadow foreign secretary, and resigned in 1999 after coming under attack from his own party for describing the Kosovo campaign as “just war”.*

**draw the fire on to someone (Br.E), draw someone’s fire (AmE.)** to criticize someone *And that makes it even easier for Mr Chávez to draw the fire on to his enemies.*

**fire a rocket into something** to criticise somebody/something severely *Henry Mintzberg, a consistently contrary professor of management at McGill University in Montreal, fired a rocket*

into the academic business community by arguing in “Managers Not MBAs” that the MBA , the bread-and butter of most business schools, “prepares people to manage nothing”.

**a hatchet job (inf)** to criticize someone indecently without any reason *So far his presidency has received a lousy treatment for three different sorts of writers: first, crude hatchet jobs by what his wife called the vast right-wing conspiracy; second, absurdly pro-Clinton apologies from loyalists who blame conservatives for everything; and lastly a chaotic meandering “diary dump” from the man himself.*

**in the firing line /line of fire** to be strongly criticized *For once, Mr Brown will find himself directly in the firing line as the government tries to do something unpopular with his own supporters.*

**out of the firing line** not to be criticized any more *Recent cuts in council budgets mean that concessionary fares were next on the firing line.*

**shoot down in flames** to criticize and turn down a proposal, a plan or an idea *A community about shot down in flames with no parachute.*

**take a pot shot** unexpected criticism of someone *Anyone want to take a potshot at me?*

**under siege** to be criticised *Mercer’s pension-consulting business is also under siege for the money managers it recommended, but the notion that any firm can add much value when it comes to choosing investment managers is dubious, to say the least.*

### THE CRITICISED PERSON IS FOOD

**eat someone alive** to criticize someone strongly *The defence lawyers are going to eat you alive tomorrow.*

**throw someone to the dogs/lions/wolves** to let someone be criticized and attacked by others *The danger is that, by throwing a few bosses to the lions, the government will satisfy the public’s thirst for blood and thus ease pressure for deeper, system-wide reform.*

### BEING CRITICAL IS SAFE/COMFORTABLE POSITION, WHILE BEING CRITICISED IS AN UNCOMFORTABLE ONE

**an armchair critic/expert** someone who criticizes you without any expertise *I fully support the shoot-to-kill policy but I am shocked at how many armchair critics are now all experts on the Met’s policies and procedures!*

**a back-seat driver** an incompetent person criticizing the one in charge *It’s bad enough to have a backseat driver yammering in your ear. What if she sounded like George Costanza’s mom?*

**give someone a hard/rough time (inf)** to cause someone some nuisance by criticizing them *That the Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee are giving him a hard time about Vanguard shows how high the stakes are.*

**a hot seat** a position often criticized by people *Eisner is hardly alone in the hot seat. Disney’s directors are being called to account.*

### CRITICISM IS DESTRUCTION

**hair-splitting** criticism *Some of this may seem like hair-splitting – for example, a normal interest-bearing loan is, in effect, the same as the bank’s hire-purchase system- but the distinction matters to many.*

**let rip** to criticize someone or something *20 Mar 2007 ... That was Al Gore’s pledge to Democrats after the 2000 election: “If I had to do it all over again, I’d just let it rip.”*

**take/pick someone/something to bits/pieces** to criticize someone or something harshly *The project was taken to pieces and sent back for revision.*

## CRITICISM IS PHYSICAL ATTACK

**aim a kick at** to criticize someone strongly about something *Now and again Auden slaps democracy on the back, and he aims a kick at the shins of fascism.*

**be on (someone's) back (infl)** to pressurize someone by criticizing them all the time

*She's on my back again about those sales figures - I just haven't had a moment to do them.*

**get a lot of stick** to be criticized for your *Matt Johnson: Liverpool can expect a lot of stick for its lack of sustainability.*

**get it in the neck (inf)** to be criticized for what you have done *Several groups of people can be expected to get it in the neck.*

**give someone a good kicking** to criticise someone harshly *Rather than asking people to vote for them, the Conservatives are willing the electorate to give Mr Blair a good kicking.*

**a kick in the stomach** strong criticism for something *The apparently firm proof of Coleman's guilt - a scientist still had a swab from the victim - was a kick in the stomach, as one Coleman supporter put it.*

**a kick up the backside (Br.E.) / in the pants (Am.E.) (inf.)** criticism that makes you realize what mistakes you've made *Mick McCarthy has warned Wolves they are due a kick up the backside as he revealed how he's 'a constant thorn' in their sides.*

**a punching bag** to be exposed to criticism *He has been a punching bag for Labour Party rebels ever since he and Blair oversaw the transformation of old-style socialist Labour into the business-friendly vote-getting machine it is today.*

**receive a bloody nose** to be exposed to severe criticism *When its commander tries to arrest a drug trafficker outside Kabul, the suspect summoned militiamen loyal to the minister. The police chief received a bloody nose.*

**step on someone's toes** to offend people by criticizing them *He stepped on other toes by alleging corruption in state firms at a public meeting with Mr Putin, provoking a sharp presidential rebuke.*

**throw punches** to criticize someone harshly *But, whereas at its meeting in Seattle, the punches were thrown by the heavyweights, this time developing countries were understandably dissatisfied with the commitment of industrial countries to agricultural reforms.*

**To be given/get a rap on/over the knuckles** to be criticized for your faults *The cabinet was given a rap for ignoring what they had promised to the population.*

## BEING CRITICISED IS HUMILIATION OR A HUMILIATING POSITION

**kiss (someone's) ass** criticism for flattering someone else to gain some advantage *I would never kiss someone's ass just to get attention.*

**lick someone's boots / shoes** to criticize someone for doing favours to someone to gain some benefits *It may work out for you if you lick enough boots, but usually it doesn't.*

**put the boot in(to someone)** to criticize other people *Such arbitrariness makes it seem as though the reforms come from urbanites putting the boot in to men of the soil - another aggravation to set alongside nit-picking farming codes and a ban on hunting, which was approved by the House of Commons on September 15<sup>th</sup>.*

**take something lying down** to accept criticism *11 Jun 2008 ... I Never Said I'd Take This Lying Down.*

## CRITICISM IS POWER OVER THE CRITICIZED PERSON

**bring someone down a peg or two** to criticize someone for being conceited and make them realize what they are like *He is the kind of person who should be brought down a peg or two or else they might think they're on top of the world.*

**over the top** to criticize someone about something *A lot of the limos look like they're from Playboy – which obviously would be completely over the top.*

**preach to the converted** criticism for wasting time and energy on something that has already taken place *Unfortunately, there appears to be a large number of Tory MPs who seem to think that their responsibilities end at preaching to the converted.*

**take someone to task (for something)** to criticize someone for something *We have gotten many letters that take us to task for including swear words in the dictionary.*

### **CRITICISM IS NOISE/HARSH SOUNDS**

**as biting as wind** very critical of something *While the author's wise words are often as biting as a Scottish wind (if you're of particularly weak constitution, nine out of ten hippy therapists wouldn't recommend this book) at least Duncan doesn't give reader unreasonable hope.*

**blow your own horn** criticizing someone for boasting about their achievements *He keeps blowing his horn all time as if he was the best expert in the world.*

**sharp-tongued** critical of someone *Porter Goss, the Republican chairman of the House intelligence committee, Murray had a reputation as a sharp-tongued partisan lawyer.*

*Put the idioms into the relevant groups of metaphors.*

**A) CRITICISM IS POWER OVER THE CRITICIZED PERSON**

**B) BEING CRITICISED IS HUMILIATION OR A HUMILIATING POSITION**

**C) CRITICISM IS NOISE/HARSH SOUNDS**

**D) CRITICISM IS DESTRUCTION**

**E) CRITICISM IS PHYSICAL ATTACK**

**F) BEING CRITICAL IS SAFE/COMFORTABLE POSITION, WHILE BEING CRITICISED IS AN UNCOMFORTABLE ONE**

**G) THE CRITICISED PERSON IS FOOD**

**H) CRITICISM IS WAR**

1. over the top
2. as biting as wind
3. give someone a good kicking
4. a back-seat driver
5. eat someone alive
6. a hatchet job
7. take/pick someone/something to bits/pieces
8. blow your own horn
9. an armchair critic
10. throw someone to the dogs/lions/wolves
11. in the firing line
12. take something lying down
13. get it in the neck
14. give someone a hard/rough time
15. hair-splitting

## 15. DIFFICULTY

Conceptual integration allows us to obtain a foot-hole in understanding the unconscious compressions of empirical observations with scenarios available. More specifically, ‘difficulty’ is regarded as a set of scenarios involving ‘journey’, ‘pressure’, ‘impaired vision/speech’, ‘bounded containment’, ‘unreachable height’, ‘being entangled’, ‘exposure to heat’ and ‘circular motion’. When the two input spaces of concept (input space I) and the scenarios (Input spaces 2-8) above and below are matched, salient aspects are projected selectively from both, and novel emergent structures are formed. We learn that a difficulty is, in fact, *a bumpy ride, digging your own grave* and that a difficult situation means that *the heat is on*.

### DIFFICULTY IS A JOURNEY/TRACKING OR BIG DISTANCE

**baby steps** initial difficulties *These are baby steps. But Megumi Suto, a professor at Waseda University’s Graduate School of Finance, says Japanese are not born risk avoiders.*

**a bumpy/rough ride** to be in a situation where it is too difficult to achieve good results *The unions are hostile and suspicious, and the PBGC – with an existing \$11.2 billion deficit – is worried about having to take on perhaps another \$8.5 billion of liabilities from United and US Airways.*

**no jog in the park (AmE)** something difficult to do *Making it happen, however, will be no jog in the park.*

**a stumbling block** something preventing you from doing something *“I don’t think this is going to be the stumbling block now,” al-Rubaie says, “because that paragraph in the TAL he has drafted himself.*

**through thick and thin** to do something in spite of the difficulties involved *The biologists were determined to reach the other end of the jungle through thick and thin.*

### DIFFICULTY IS PRESSURE

**at a pinch/push** with difficulty *At pinch, he might be able to secure a majority, through an incongruous deal with the leftish new Democrats.*

**be hard pressed** to find it difficult to cope with a situation *Although they are still available, I think we would be hard pressed to find one on short notice.*

**a tight spot/corner** a difficult situation *All clients of the bank indebted were in a tight spot and they could see no way out of it.*

### DIFFICULTY IS IMPAIRED VISION /OR SPEECH

**clear as mud** difficult to grasp the meaning of *Afghan mission still as clear as mud.*

**a cloud on the horizon** a sign of future difficulty *The outlook is bleak for laptops, hard drives and desktops – clouds are on the horizon and could change the way we use computers forever.*

**a frog in your throat** to find it difficult to speak and if you manage to you have a rough voice *If you are like me, there are times when you have that tickly “little frog” in your throat.*

### DIFFICULTY IS DOWN

**be in/get into deep water** to face some difficulty *Car damage rockets as motorists get into deep water.*

**dig one’s own grave** to cause difficulties for yourself *That year the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, digging its own grave as a superpower.*

**reach rock bottom** to be in a difficult and hopeless situation *Property stocks wilt Property shares reach rock bottom after summer.*

**throw someone in at the deep end** to cause difficulty to someone *The youngsters were thrown in at the deep end and they had to take part in a competition the next month.*

**when the chips are down** in a very difficult situation *However chaotic the boys' private lives, we were no doubt supposed to think, they sure as hell work as a team when the chips are down.*

### **DIFFICULTY IS CONTAINMENT /LACK OF DIFFICULTY IS EMERGING FROM CONTAINMENT**

**be the meat in the sandwich** to get into a difficult situation in a conflict between two parties *In the world of depraved humor, being the meat in the sandwich is often thought of as a good thing, one of the best-known cases of which was Lucky Pierre. But please don't ask me to explain, other than that there was Pierre, in the middle between two babes.*

**in deep water(s)** to be in a very difficult situation *"The world is set to jump off the top of a waterfall without knowing how deep the water is below."*

**in a hole** to be in a difficult and awkward situation *At Christmas 1984 I was editing the Spectator; and I was in a hole.*

**in the same boat (as someone)** to be in as difficult a situation as someone else *It was only after the Japanese attack on Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941 that he could join Churchill's fight in full. "We are in the same boat now, Roosevelt told Churchill by telephone that night.*

**out of a hole** to get out of a difficult situation *Still a long way for AIG to get out of the hole.*

**out of the wood** not to have any difficulties any more *But the Republicans are not out of the woods just yet – partly because they've chosen some awkward candidates for safe seats.*

### **DIFFICULTY IS BEING ENTANGLED**

**get your tongue round something** to find it difficult to pronounce a word *I could never get my tongue round French.*

**a Gordian knot (form)** a problem that is difficult to cope with *Having arrived at Gordium it was inconceivable that the impetuous young King would not tackle the legendary "Gordian Knot"*

**the mind boggles** something difficult to understand or accept *When I try to impose conditions and rules on that which is unconditioned, the mind boggles.*

### **DIFFICULTY (TO UNDERSTAND) IS SOMETHING TOO HIGH TO REACH**

**above /over someone's head** to be too difficult for someone to understand *They seemed oblivious of a large billboard advertisement above their heads for one of the Bay Area's many dot. coms, which flashed the message: "Say Goodbye to the Mall."*

**be on the hook** to be in difficulty *If Fannie and Freddie collapsed, shareholders' losses would be limited to their investment; but taxpayers would be on the hook for much bigger losses sure to follow.*

**leave someone high and dry** to let someone down / not to help someone in trouble *Fast-food outlets throughout Asia were advertising Australian or New Zealand beef, while restaurants like Yoshinoya, which had bet almost exclusively on the safeguards of the American beef industry, was left high and dry.*

**up the creek** to be in difficulty *In Up the Creek, some of the most experienced canoeists in North America confess their mistakes in true tales of hypothermia, near-drowning, close encounters...*

**up a gum tree** to be exposed to difficulties *Professor Marcia Langton and Wesley Enoch literally enter the ring to debate the notion 'poor bugger me leaves you up a gum tree'.*

**a tall order** something difficult to achieve *His goal, he says is to lay the foundations for a big increase in the company's SFr90 billion annual increase. That is tall order.*

## DIFFICULTY IS HEAT

**make it hot for someone** to cause trouble to someone *If you don't leave my daughter alone, he said, I'm gonna make it hot for you.*

**when the heat is on** when the situation is difficult *Yet when the heat is on and it has the chance genuinely to show the world as it really is rather than in the sanitised form sanctioned by US TV networks, it doesn't pull down its visor and run charging, axe aloft, into the flames.*

## DIFFICULTY IS CIRCULAR MOTION

**get /give someone the runaround** to make things difficult for someone by not telling him the truth *I am so frustrated about how they give the runaround.*

**the revolving door** a job that people only stay in for a short while *The care system is also something of a revolving door: half of the 55,300 looked-after children will end up back with their parents within three months.*

### 1. Choose one of the options.

**baby steps**

**tall order**

**frog in your throat**

1. After the first .....the enterprise began to get stronger and stronger.

**a cloud on the horizon**

**meat in the sandwich**

**rough ride**

2. The Central European countries felt that they were the.....; a kind of buffer-zone between the West and the Soviet Union.

**up the creek**

**in the same boat**

**out of the wood**

3. Fortunately, we are .....now and we can see the future more clearly.

**up the creek**

**in a hole**

**through thick and thin**

4. The biologists were determined to reach the other end of the jungle.....

**cloud on the horizon**

**frog in your throat**

**bumpy ride**

5. With the disappearance of the tornado another..... could be spotted.....; long heavy rains.

**be hard pressed**

**make it hot for you**

**be on the hook**

6. If you don't leave my daughter alone, he said, I'm gonna.....

**Gordian knot**

**revolving door**

**mind boggles**

7. How could they make such a silly mistake with their children in danger. The .....  
.....

**on the hook**

**at a pinch**

**a stumbling block**

8. When a country of this size is....., turmoil is inevitable.

**tall order**

**the meat in the sandwich**

**baby steps**

9. Paying the increasing overheads while the salaries are devalued seems a.....

**a tight spot**

**frog in his throat**

**a cloud on the horizon**

10. He had a .....and could only speak after coughing a bit.

## 2. Match the two parts of the sentences.

1. After the first baby steps the enterprise A. could see that he was in deep water. Began to get stronger and stronger.
2. The new employee dug his own grave B. scientists could do nothing about.
3. With so much debt to pay back and no job available Sam C. began to get stronger and stronger.
4. We'll have to lend each other a hand. You see, D. Jeremy left his friends high and dry.
5. Now that she is recuperating after the operation she eventually feels that E. they were up the creek.
6. To reverse climatic changes was a Gordian knot F. making nasty remarks about his boss behind his back.
7. Quite unexpectedly, however, G. we are in the same boat.
8. That was the moment when they realized that H. she is out of a hole.

## 16. EASE

Unlike the blends above describing 'difficulty', blends of 'ease' adapt somewhat different scenarios involving pleasant aspects of life. Thus, 'ease' is compressed with 'food', 'gentle motion', 'falling' 'children's play', and 'not needing your organs or limbs'. They all signify 'lack of efforts', which is compatible with the integration of the two kinds of input spaces.

### EASE IS FOOD

**meat and drink to someone** to like doing something that you can cope with easily *Buying non-core businesses from conglomerates, merging them with similar firms and slashing costs is meat and drink to such firms.*

**a piece of cake** an easy thing to do *"A piece of cake" is so easy to do that it is like eating a piece of cake.*

### EASE IS (GENTLE) MOTION

**at the touch of a button** easily *Most Americans now get their news from an ever proliferating range of sources: not just FOX or CNN, but also foreign newspapers and even the innumerable original documents that are now available at the touch of a button.*

**at the wave of a hand** with ease *By 1959, the designers of the "Miracle Kitchen" that went on show at the American National Exhibition in Moscow promised that the "household chores in the future will be gone for the American housewife at the touch of a button or the wave of a hand.*

**smooth the path/way** to make things easy for someone *The intervention of the riot squad smoothed the way for some of the crowd to get away.*

**a soft landing/touch** an easy solution *The good news is that Alan Greenspan has been telegraphing his intent to raise rates for more than a year, preparing the whole world for a soft landing.*

**while the going is good** as long as something is easy to do *At the start of this year, the Prime Minister and his allies made a failed attempt to persuade Gordon Brown to accept the Foreign Office after 6 May: soon the Chancellor may come bitterly to regret his failure to get out while the going was good.*

### EASE IS CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

**child's play** something very easy to do *And that was child's play, political pat-a-cake in the innocent days before the advent of war rooms, the Internet, a brace of cable news channels, talk radio and deep-pocketed advocacy groups.*

**kids stuff** something easy to do *Setting up the tent is kid's stuff even for their children.*

### EASE IS FALLING

**as easy as falling off a log** very easy *Turning a profit in Indian banking used to be as easy as falling off a log, if less energetic.*

**drop/fall into your lap** something you get without any efforts *Don't expect these to fall into your lap either, it will take time and effort or else everybody would be doing it.*

### EASE IS NOT NEEDING YOUR ORGANS OR LIMBS

**beat someone hands down** to win easily *Along the way, Samsung has also beaten Intel hands down in the battle to make flash memory, a small and fast storage medium for digital devices such as cameras and mobile phones.*

**choose/follow/take the line/path of least resistance** to choose the easiest option *By taking the path of least resistance for themselves and offering the life of least challenge to their students, academics have... become complicit with an ideology few would freely embrace, 'Ms Jones wrote in the THES.*

*You'll never get anywhere in life if you always take the line of least resistance.*

**Could do something with one arm/hand tied behind their back** to cope with a task easily *Her part in the film wasn't very demanding - she could have played it with one hand tied behind her back.*

**plain sailing** an easy thing to do *There could soon be a glut of container ships to serve China and America's west coast. So much for plain sailing..*

**someone could do something with their eyes closed/shut** to be able to do something very easily *I've driven along this route so often, I could do it with my eyes shut. Using this fax machine is really easy, you can do it with your eyes closed!*

#### ***1. Insert the right idioms into the gaps.***

1. Finding the exit out of the cave had been .....before, but this time it was hopeless.
2. They realized that they could carry on with their work.....
3. And there he was, a boy of 17, with a fortune.....
4. I could actually do that....., but I won't.
5. Saving the whale trapped on the beach didn't seem .....at all.
6. Creating new computer software was .....to Peter.

- A) with one hand tied behind my back      B) a soft touch      C) while the going was good  
D) a piece of cake      E) meat and drink      F) falling into his lap

#### ***2. Complete the missing parts of the idioms.***

1. When you have a degree taking another is actually ..... sailing.
2. It is no problem at all. We could do it with our ..... shut.

3. It is a child's ..... for Swiss people to learn a foreign language as they can already speak three.
4. Why always take the line of ..... resistance?
5. The intervention of the riot squad ..... the way for some of the crowd to get away.

## 17. EXCITEMENT

It may be suspected from our empirical observations that conceptualization and meaning construction draw heavily on bodily experience. Undoubtedly, experiencing excitement involves 'motion', 'heat' and the feeling of 'being elevated' owing to our physiological functioning. Compressed Input information exploits the matching traits and leads to images such as *have ants in your pants*, *high as a kite* and *light your fire*.

### EXCITEMENT IS NOISE AND MOTION, LACK OF EXCITEMENT IS EMPTINESS

**bells and whistles** extra features that make a product more attractive *His new car has all the bells and whistles, but it doesn't move through traffic jams any faster. The bells and whistles do not impress me.*

**a feeding frenzy** to be very excited about something *Some communities have become so alarmed at the feeding frenzy that they, rather than the regulators, are limiting the number of the branches.*

**for kicks** for fun *They killed for kicks, detectives said, randomly attacking people doing nothing more than walking home from work or waiting to order a cup of coffee.*

**go with a swing** exciting *A traditional jazz band – now that would help your party go with a swing.*

**have ants in your pants** to be very excited about something *Feel like you have ants in your pants? Well, it's time to dance!*

**lick your lips** to be thrilled about something that may happen *The wolf is licking its lips.*

**life in the fast lane** to live in a very exciting way *Increasingly, we live life in the fast lane. Most of us enjoy the buzz and sense of achievement as we make it through another hectic day.*

**quicken your/the pulse** to make someone excited about something *Just part of life in this fast lane, where the visibility undresses you to your soul. Meeting Monica always quickened his pulse, and he couldn't take his eyes off her.*

**run on empty** something is no longer exciting *Running on empty. Not many new ideas from the president.*

**a storm in a teacup** to deal with a small problem as if it was very big *Gordon Brown calls the attempt to force a vote on his future a "storm in a teacup" that was not "taking up much of my time.*

### EXCITEMENT IS UP

**high as a kite** very excited *Wallabies snacking in Tasmania's legally grown opium poppy fields are getting "high as a kite" and hopping around in circles, trampling the crops, a state official said.*

**in a flutter** to be tense and excited about something *Racing oasis that has Israel in a flutter.*

**jump up and down** to be very excited about something *For the same reason I jump up and down when the ice cream man comes ... So, they jump up and down.*

**larger than life** more exciting or interesting than you thought *“They are larger-than-life figures, like Japanese artists years ago.”*

**EXCITEMENT IS HEAT; LACK OF EXCITEMENT IS COLD**

**it leaves me cold** something that does not cause any excitement at all *While I enjoy the male writers she mentioned, their descriptions of lovemaking leave me cold.*

**light your fire** to make someone excited and enthusiastic *29 Jul 2008 ... Consumers say ‘Grandma’s homemade BBQ will light your fire!’.*

*Put the idioms into the right groups of metaphors, metonymies or blends.*

A) EXCITEMENT IS UP

B) EXCITEMENT IS HEAT; LACK OF EXCITEMENT IS COLD

C) EXCITEMENT IS NOISE AND MOTION, LACK OF EXCITEMENT IS EMPTINESS

1. larger than life
2. bells and whistles
3. a storm in a teacup
4. high as a kite
5. it leaves me cold
6. blow away the cobwebs
7. jump up and down
8. have ants in your pants
9. run on empty
10. light your fire

## 18. FAILURE

The dichotomy of ‘failure’ and ‘success’ obviously leads to different or even opposite mental representations. Both our physiological feelings of happiness and sadness involved in experiencing ‘success’ and ‘failure’ and our cultural environment of social hierarchies suggest that **FAILURE IS DOWN**, whereas **SUCCESS IS UP**. ‘Failure’ is **MISSING YOUR TARGET**, while ‘success’ is **HITTING SOMETHING**. Failing to do something means being **SHORT OF SOMETHING**, but ‘success’ means the opposite: **HARVESTING**. Conceptual integration reveals the nature of our way of thinking: now it is easier for us to understand why we mean ‘failure’ by saying ‘You are *fighting a losing battle*’. Although we do not fight real losing battles, we can see the mental correspondence between ‘lost battles’ and ‘failed causes’.

**FAILURE IS DOWN**

**a fallen angel** a famous person who has failed in his or her career *Ahmed Chalabi, the fallen angel of the Pentagon’s neo-cons, has put out feelers to run on a “Shia House” ticket with Mr Sadr, who holds sway over Baghdad’s crowded Shia slums.*

**fall through (s)** to fail *The plans of the group to start heliskiing fell through as there was a danger of avalanches set off down the slopes.*

**a sinking ship** something likely to fail *You simply aren’t the man you were. Indeed, you’re a sinking ship.*

### **FAILURE IS A BATTLE /DESTRUCTION /DEATH**

**blow up in someone's face** something that fails to work *The sudden drop of property prices blew up in their face and they couldn't gain enough money for another house.*

**a dead duck** someone considered a complete failure *As a pianist, he was said to be a dead duck, but he was excellent as a businessman.*

**fight a losing battle** to try to cope with a situation that is doomed to failure *You are fighting a losing battle. Can't you see that she won't even look at you.*

### **FAILURE IS MISSING YOUR TARGET /LOSING THINGS**

**drop the ball** to fail to achieve something *Davidow, then U.S. ambassador to Mexico, thought Mexico had dropped the ball after 9/11, withholding the moral support that America's other allies had offered.*

**miss the boat** you are too slow to react in a situation and miss a chance *I am afraid you have missed the boat. The sales are over.*

### **FAILURE IS DISTANCE /LONG TIME**

**not get anywhere** to fail to achieve something *However irritating we may find his performances (and I for one find his manner almost unbearable), we are not going to get anywhere by suggesting he is a nasty man.*

**not go far** fail to achieve much *We didn't go that far.*

**run around in circles** to spend a long time without achieving anything *I need some more data to work on, otherwise I'm just going round in circles.*

### **FAILURE IS BAD FOOD AND COOKING**

**burn your fingers** to fail to accomplish something *They have been offered a fat 43% premium above the pre-bid share price to get out of a dismal underperformer: RMC, whose main business is ready-mixed concrete rather than cement, operates mainly in slow-growing Europe, not least extra-slow Germany, where for years it has burned its fingers (and twice had been rapped by antitrust authorities).*

**get burned** to fail to do something *Don't go chasing hot asset classes like short-the-dollar funds, because you're almost certain to get burned.*

**too many cooks (spoil the broth)** if there are too many people involved in an activity it will lead to failure *You see, you shouldn't have commissioned so many workers. Too many cooks.*

**turn /go sour** to fail to work *So does one in the Phillipines, where Suez's joint venture, Maynilad Water, to supply part of Manila, went sour. You see, you shouldn't have commissioned so many workers. Too many cooks.*

### **FAILURE IS UNSTABLE OR NO FOUNDATIONS**

**hold a weak hand** to fail to do something *Washington holds a weak hand so long as it relies on foreign funds to finance deficit spending.*

**a house of cards** something likely to fail *Your dream of being promoted seems a house of cards.*

**off the rails** a plan or something else fails *The plans of many young people went off the rails as their parents couldn't afford to support them.*

**on the rocks** a relationship or enterprise is likely to fail *Debates over whether marriages should be maintained because of the children are quite common these days.*

**1. Insert the missing prepositions or adverbial particle into the idioms below.**

1. The plans of many young people went .....the rails as their parents couldn't afford to support them.
2. Plans to remove squatters seemed a house .....cards as human rights activists had a different reading of the law.
3. It is high time they started doing a decent job instead of running..... in circles.
4. Their plan to buy several properties for sale blew up..... their face when the property market collapsed.
5. All their hopes to benefit from rural development suddenly fell.....

**2. Complete the missing adjectives into the gaps.**

1. You are fighting a .....battle. Can't you see that she won't even look at you.
2. ....angels only had an option to travel around the country and give concerts as long as people remembered them
3. They hold a .....hand as long as they are expecting a wish-list from their son.
4. The relationship between the two teams is not rosy at all, as, in fact, it has gone ..... recently.
5. As a pianist, he was said to be a .....duck, but he was excellent as a businessman.
6. Regarding the country as a .....ship, thousands of refugees fled.

**3. Fill in the gaps with the right idiom.**

**miss the boat**

**hold a weak hand**

**get burnt**

1. John was well aware of the fact that he might ..... if the tax office suspected something fishy.

**getting your fingers burnt**

**turning sour**

**a sinking ship**

2. You had better invest in another kind of business to avoid ..... like last year.

**not getting anywhere**

**running around in circles**

**a dead duck**

3. It is high time they started doing a decent job instead of .....

**go far**

**be on the rocks**

**burn his fingers**

4. With this much enthusiasm he is unlikely to.....

**blown up in your face**

**have missed the boat**

**run around in circles**

5. I am afraid you ..... The sales are over.

**blow up in our face**

**fall through**

**drop another ball**

6. We cannot afford to ..... unless we accept saying goodbye to our dreams.

## 19. FRIGHT

It is common knowledge that feeling fear or fright is accompanied by both physiological symptoms and behavioural aspects. That is why a frightened person experiences cold body temperature, rising hair, shivering and paralysis of speech. There is quite a rich correspondence between our physical and emotional experiences, and that is how we realize through metaphorical or metonymic blends that ‘cold sweat’ and ‘rising hair’ mean ‘fright’.

### FRIGHT IS COLD

**in a cold sweat** to be very frightened *American diplomats still come out in a cold sweat when reminded of that dreadful summit, in December 1994, when President Bill Clinton and other 50 other leaders gathers in Hungary to proclaim a new peaceful ear in European security – while blood flowed in nearby Bosnia.*

**make someone’s blood curdle / run cold** to be frightened by someone or something *The news of her ex-husband out of prison again made her blood curdle.*

**send chills down/up someone’s spine** to experience something frightening *Seeing the brook running down the mountain as a huge river sent chills down his spine.*

### RISING HAIR STANDS FOR FRIGHT

**hair-raising** something frightening *The implications are hair-raising.*

**someone’s hair stands on end** to be very frightened *When someone gets electrocuted, does their hair stand wildly on end like you see in TV or the movies?*

### BEING FRIGHTENED IS SHIVERING WITH FEAR /PARALYSIS (IN SPEECH)

**be like a deer/rabbit caught in the headlights** extremely frightened and unable to act *After we confronted him about seeing Rielle, Edwards looked like a deer caught in headlights!*

**find your tongue** to have the courage to speak again after a long pause *Amy took a step forward and finally found her tongue.*

**give someone the creeps/willies** to frighten someone a lot *It may even be part of the artistic vocation – to take us to the edge, to give us the creeps.*

**quake in your boots/shoes** to be extremely worried about a situation *Just the sound of her voice made me quake in my boots.*

#### 1. Complete the definitions with the idioms.

1. If something is ..... you physically feel your hair standing on end out of fright.
2. You move back suddenly after being frightened by something when you .....
3. Experiencing something frightening may .....
4. You are extremely worried about a situation when you.....
5. Some people are only brave enough to speak after a long pause because they cannot .....
6. Sometimes others ....., i.e. they frighten me a lot.

## 2. Complete the idioms with the missing verbs.

1. As they saw the person believed to be dead enter the drawing-room, they .....  
in a cold sweat.
2. The news of her ex-husband out of prison again ..... her blood curdle.
3. Even the sight of a venomous snake could make her hair ..... on end.
4. When all the lights went out the mother and her daughter were like deer .....  
in the headlights. What to expect next? They thought.

## 20. HAPPINESS

Experiencing happiness corresponds to feeling elevation, lightness, which are physiological symptoms of 'happiness'. The metaphor below includes a group of idioms that seem universal through bodily sensation. (In Hungarian: 'a mennyekben érzi magát' or 'madarat lehet vele fogatni').

### HAPPINESS IS UP

**be on cloud nine (inf)** very happy *When she met Richard, a good-looking, funny and well-to do young man, she was on cloud nine.*

**be over the moon (inf)** to be very happy *You'll surely be over the moon to see your family again.*

**in seventh heaven** to feel extremely happy in a situation *Looking at the wonderful landscape with the infinite mountain ranges made them all feel in seventh heaven.*

**Keep your pecker up!** warning someone to be happy even if you face some difficulty or you are in trouble *'What am I going to do?', she asked almost bursting into tears. Keep your pecker up! That's what you can do.' his friend answered.*

**on top of the world** to be incredibly happy *She recalled her youth, the time when she was on top of the world, and began to smile.*

**a ray of sunshine** things or people you are made happy by *The promise of a long holiday was a ray of sunshine in Sue's life, and it helped her through hard times.*

**ups and downs** happy or sad *Everyone can have ups and downs in their lives.*

**with your tail up** very happy and confident *We'll go to court with our tails up.*

### Choose the right idioms for the definitions.

1. Feeling either very happy or utterly sad.
2. Warning someone to cheer up.
3. To feel a state of extreme happiness. (3 options!)
4. To experience happiness quite unexpectedly.
5. To feel both happy and confident.
6. To feel very happy.

## 21. HONESTY

The conceptual metaphors below correspond to our sensation of the outside world as well as our cultural heritage. A road that is straight or open offers clear visibility, so you can see what to expect. The same applies to human behaviour, so you compress straightness, openness and honest human behaviour. In many cultures, white (related to cleanliness) is the colour of innocence, so it has a vital conceptual representation: ‘honesty’.

### HONESTY IS STRAIGHTNESS

**straight from the shoulder** frankly and honestly *A community straight from the shoulder about rock and roll.*

**the straight and narrow** honest and moral *The Palestinians may have re-offended during the recent intifada but, according to Mahmoud Abbas, their new president, they are back on the straight and narrow.*

### HONESTY IS CLEANLINESS

**clean hands** to be honest *This clean hands policy should be deeply-rooted in all cultures, but it is not.*

**pure as the driven snow** very honest *But the handling of Bayram case will be a big test of the government’s claim to be pure as the driven snow.*

**whiter than white** very good and honest (usually implies the opposite) *I just cannot accept the reality of there being such whiter than white characters in politics.*

### HONESTY IS OPENNESS

**above board** an activity that is honest and legal *Even Lance Armstrong, the American cyclist who (inspirationally) recovered from cancer to become a multiple winner of the Tour de France, entered this year’s race – the sixth he has won – embroiled in a court battle with the authors of “L.A. Confidential”, a book alleging that his achievements were not wholly above board.*

**call a spade a spade** to talk about something openly and honestly *Too simple, perhaps, but the point holds: we need to take a fearless approach; to call a spade a spade.*

**lay/put your cards on the table** to express your ideas and feelings about something honestly *It’s high time we put our cards on the table and told them how we imagine the future.*

**speak your mind** to express your feelings honestly and openly *Simon always speaks his mind even if it hurts a couple of people.*

### *Choose the right idiom.*

**Why not call a spade a spade?**      **you are above board**      **you are whiter than white**

1. Don’t beat about the bush Geoff. ....

**were clean hands**      **put our cards on the table**      **were above board**

2. It’s high time we ..... and told them how we imagine the future.

**call a spade a spade**      **straight from the shoulder**      **played fair and square**

3. There wasn’t a shadow of a doubt that our team .....all through the season.

**straight from the shoulder**      **above board**      **the straight and narrow**

4. Parents should speak ..... or else their children won’t take them seriously.



**not see beyond (the end) of your nose** criticizing someone for considering only things affecting them right now and ignoring more important issues *Political analysts have confirmed that most of the population couldn't see beyond the end of their nose and would vote for whatever they could profit from right away.*

**tunnel vision** to insist on seeing the world only one way and discard any other aspect of it *Thinking that women should only be considered an important part of household was only common in ancient times, and today it can simply be called tunnel vision.*

**turn a blind eye to something** to pretend that you don't know about something that may be wrong or illegal *Less excusably, he says, many simply turned a blind eye to the risks of doping.*

### IGNORANCE IS COLD/LIFELESS

**cut someone dead** to ignore someone *Steve was upset when he was cut dead by his girl-friend having a date with another boy.*

**get/be given the cold shoulder** to be ignored by someone *I wonder why I was given the cold shoulder by Monica at Dave's party. Had I offended her?*

**leave somebody out in the cold** be ignored *High minimum wages make some workers better off, but at the cost of reducing the overall supply of jobs and leaving some would-be workers out in the cold.*

### *Match the phrases in bold type with the idioms below.*

1. We are **ignorant** about what happened in Angkor and how the civilization disappeared.
2. Our request to be given more support **was ignored** and we could only rely on ourselves.
3. Thinking that women should only be considered an important part of household was only common in ancient times, and today it can simply be called **a stubborn, limited way of seeing things**.
4. The chief executives **didn't really care about** the embezzlement, hoping to get a share of the money.
5. My father **wouldn't listen to** my request and left the room.
6. We had a crazy neighbour who would just **take no notice of** you without any reason.
7. Government official **pretend not to have seen it** when the ministers make a mistake for fear of being involved in a scandal.
8. Steve was upset when he was **ignored** by his girl-friend having a date with another boy.
9. I wonder why I was **completely ignored** by Monica at Dave's party. Had I offended her?
10. Although most people would like to stop immigration for good they **don't care about** the fact that the population is aging and are not willing to do dirty jobs.
11. Listen! You cannot **pretend not to be aware of** the realities of life any more.

1. fell on deaf ears
2. turned a blind eye to
3. tunnel vision
4. leave you out in the cold
5. cut dead
6. blind themselves to
7. hid your head in the sand
8. look the other way
9. turned a deaf ear to
10. was given the cold shoulder
11. in the dark

## 23. IMPORTANCE

Not surprisingly, whatever is considered important has a ‘big size’, ‘heavy weight’, ‘front’ or ‘central position’, and, in terms of culture, it ‘plays a key role’ on our game-centred culture. The metaphorical correspondences between the physical world, sensation, and our conceptual world is unique in richness, but it is logically manifested.

### IMPORTANCE IS BIG SIZE

**a big cheese** someone in a high position *Big cheeses from the ministry came to give us a lesson, but, actually, they seem to be out of touch with reality and practice.*

**a big fish (inf)** an important or influential person *Some big fish is coming round from the company seat next week.*

**a big noise/shot** an important or influential person *If you want to get a permit you’ll have to find a big noise.*

**a big wheel** to be in an influential position *The big wheel at the department is Mr. Timothy, so, if you have any queries, you should turn to him.*

**cut someone/something down to size** to show someone that they aren’t so important or good as they think *The newcomer was cut down to size soon after his arrival, as no one could stand his off-hand behaviour.*

**make a big play of something** to pretend that something is more important than it actually is *Simon complained that his wife had made a big play of how few dresses she had to make him play more.*

**small beer/potatoes** insignificant *The number of water- polo players in Hungary is small potatoes compared to the US, and yet the former Hungarian team is the world champion.*

**too big for your boots (inf)** someone pretending to be more important than other people *Peter has always been too big for his boots teaching you a lesson about your own profession no matter how little he knew about it.*

### IMPORTANCE IS HEAVY WEIGHT

**add his weight to** to contribute to a project or proposal by being included in it *If the mayor hadn’t added his weight to the project we would never have received the money.*

**carry weight** to be important *Described by friends as tough, intelligent and humorous, the deeply devout Mrs Erdogan carries considerable weight behind the scenes in an administration that is continually having to calculate when to assert, and when to restrain, its Islamist instincts.*

**give weight to something** to consider something important *And all economists now give weight to things like technology, productivity and oil prices in explaining recessions.*

**make your weight felt** to make others feel how important you are *And success would have shown that the European Union’s common foreign policy (the full EU backed the big three) could make its weight felt beyond its own backyard.*

### IMPORTANCE IS CENTRAL / FRONTAL POSITION, CLOSENESS OR ORDER

**be / take centre stage** to be the most prominent or important figure or thing *Ballast water management, greenhouse gas emissions from ships and ship recycling are among a host of environmental issues that will take centre stage at IMO.*

**in/on the front line** to be in a high position *Web browsers on the front line of exploitation.*

**not the only pebble on the beach** you aren’t the only important person *Bill knew she wasn’t the only pebble on the beach but he was determined to win her over.*

**on the map** to make someone or something well-known *This is clear-eyed filmmaking of a high order; putting South Korean cinema on the map.*

**a pecking order** an order showing who is more and who is less important within a hierarchy *The pecking order; the rivalry and the system of kick-backs is immensely complex and subtle.*

**play second fiddle** not to be the most important person in an organization *Rudy Giuliani might burnish Mr Bush's reputation for fighting terrorism, though he is not known for his ability to play second fiddle.*

**take a back seat to something** to be less important than something *In Detroit's macho culture, ambience has taken a back seat to horsepower.*

**take a front seat in** to be important *Chinua Achebe says on the front cover that Ms Frank's book will "take a front seat in contemporary American writing".*

### IMPORTANCE IS A GAME

**come into play** an important factor in something *But this being Turkey, other factors come into play.*

**a key player** an important person/factor *The installed base of operating systems is no longer making Microsoft any money – except to the extent that it favours Microsoft's other produced over their rivals –yet it remains a key player, as it were, in the market for new operating systems.*

**play a role in something** to be important *Germany's national-security advisor, Ernst Uhrlau, says that politics played no role in the decision to drop the Tatex case.*

*Logistics play a part, according to Erry Riana Hardjapamekas, the number two at the commission.*

#### 1. Complete the idioms with the missing words.

1. János Neumann was a leading .....in developing the archetype of today's computers
2. They insisted on seeing the boss and argued that no one playing a ..... could make a decision about the matter.
3. If the mayor hadn't added his .....to the project we would never have received the money.
4. Peter has always been too ..... for his boots teaching you a lesson about your own profession no matter how little he knew about it.
5. If you want to get a permit you'll have to find a ..... noise.
6. The number of water- polo players in Hungary is ..... potatoes compared to the US, and yet the former women's team is the world champion.

#### 2. Choose an idiom with the opposite meaning of the paraphrased expression.

1. an unimportant person
2. be insignificant
3. someone in a low position
4. the most important person
5. the only important person
6. unfamiliar
7. not take part in or contribute
8. to feel inferior

## 24. KNOWLEDGE

Perception of the world around us. Our imagination, one of our essential capacities, establishes correspondence between our perceived environment and mental abilities in our cognition. Thus, we compress our knowledge (learning and storing information) with sensing our environment (perceiving and storing information) to exploit patterns available. In the blend ‘light’ and ‘visuality’ expand into knowledge. Similarly, following the trails or a track is merged with the learning process. In our cognition, keeping track of things is identified with obtaining knowledge about the world. The emergent structure is highly imaginative and challenging.

### KNOWLEDGE IS VISUAL ABILITY OR LIGHT

**a dark horse** not to know much about someone or something *Lastly, there is the darkest horse of all: Hillary Clinton.*

**with your eyes open** to know enough about something *Pray With Your Eyes Open: Looking at God, Ourselves, and Our Prayers.*

### KNOWLEDGE IS UP / FIRST PLACE IN AN ORDER OR CLOSENESS TO AN ENTITY

**be ahead of the game** to keep pace with development and changes in your profession better than your rivals *We got ahead of the game by employing the best people in our research.*

**have your head in the clouds** not to be aware of things around as you are a bit absent-minded or introvert *John’s head is in the clouds again.*

**have (got)/keep one’s finger on the pulse (of something)** to have up-to-date information about things all the time *Matt Stone & Trey Parker have their finger on the pulse of the nation.*

**keep track of something** to know about something *The American armed forces have long stated that they do not keep track of how many people have been killed in the current conflict in Iraq and, furthermore, that determining such a number is impossible.*

**know something inside out (inf)** to know something very well *Why don’t you ask Mike? He knows the system inside out.*

**lose track of someone or something** not to know things *I lost track of the time, I missed the evening flight and I didn’t arrive until the next day.*

**know something like the back of your hand** to know someone or something very well *These are the people I grew up with. I know them like the back of my hand.*

**off the top of your head** to be able to answer questions and know facts without much hesitation *Starbucks is not alone in its emphasis on “social responsibility”, but the other firms Mr Schultz cites off the top of his head –Timberland, Patagonia, Whole Foods – are much smaller than Starbucks, which has 100,000 employees and 35m customers.*

### ***Find the right idiom for the paraphrased expression.***

1. A mysterious person you have no information about.
2. To know something very well (2 options)
3. To follow changes in your profession.
4. To be well/informed about things.
5. To answer spontaneously on the spot.
6. To be so much absorbed in things around you that you do not notice realities of life.
7. To be perceptive and open to the world.
8. To have information about something.

## 25. LISTENING

Metonymies are rich sources of conceptual integration. They create correspondences between unintentional perceptive activity and conscious intentional activity.

### EAR FOR LISTENING

**have half an ear on something** not to listen to something carefully *I had half an ear on the radio as he was talking to me.*

**have someone's ear** to be an important or influential person that other people listen to *Being his boss, Maria always has Geoffrey's ear, and, in fact, he only has eyes for her.*

**keep your ears open** to listen to whatever is said *How do you know? I keep my ears open, Bryan.*

**lend an ear** to allow someone to talk about their problems *Lend an ear they say. Lend an ear to people who need someone to listen them.*

**pin back your ears** pay attention to what I am saying *Pin back your ears - she could be about to say something important.*

*'And now, pin back your ears! I am going to tell you why Jessica was left by her husband last week.'*  
*'Why?' 'For Simona's money.'*

**prick up your ears (inf)** to catch a few words that someone says and get interested in the topic *The results of this high-octane brainwork are not always appealing to English-speakers; but when the topic is political Islam, and the authors are among the leading French (and international) authorities on the subject, people who care about the future of the world can hardly fail to prick up their ears.*

### **Match column A with column B**

1. I am afraid, I can't tell you exactly A/ the following night they threw a party of 40 people.
2. Being his boss, Maria always has Geoffrey's ear, and, in fact, B/'Why?' 'For Simona's money.'
3. The first time Dave pricked up his ears was when Teddy bears were mentioned. C/ as I only had half an ear on the news.
4. It was obvious to everyone that the politicians wouldn't listen D/ he only has eyes for her.
5. Although our next-door neighbours seemingly lent an ear to our grievances, E/ This would normally be unusual, but he was still, at 30, Mummy's darling.
6. And now, pin back your ears! I am going to tell you why Jessica was left by her husband last week F/ even if the whole population shouted from the rooftops.

## 26. MONEY

Both metaphors and metonymies integrate the physical world and financial aspects. 'Food' is a valuable product as is money in financial transactions. Also, features of humans are compressed with those of money to create blends which suggest that **money talks** and **smart money** that it is capable of thinking. Representations are also blended through metonymies, STAND-FOR-RELATIONSHIPS, into novel emergent structures such as in **hand over fist**.

## MONEY IS FOOD

**bread winner** someone who provides for their family *At their core, says Anke Hassel, a professor at the Berlin-based Hertie School of Governance, Germany's unions are still monopolistic organisations geared to defending male bread winners, from steel metalworkers to garbage men.*

**chicken feed** a small sum of money *I'm not going to mow lawns for \$5 an hour – that's chicken feed.*

**a golden goose** a source of making huge profit *Perhaps the biggest challenges of all involves resisting political pressures that might kill the golden goose – over-harsh anti-immigration policies, to name but one, that would diminish London's standing as Europe's only world city.*

**the gravy train** a way of making a lot of money quickly *The very same idea proved a gravy train and helped the tycoon make a fortune.*

**a meal ticket** regular income *Parking meters a meal ticket.*

**money for jam /old rope** easy money *It hardly needs pointing out that if Bhimji collects the £25000 top prize it will be money for old rope.*

*“Anything on the pads should be money for jam” or so my old school coach used to tell us.*

**not have a bean** to be very poor *Most people in the area are unemployed and don't have a bean to spend.*

**small beans** little money *Mr Abramovich, for whom the purchase of Chelsea was small beans, has been on a £200m buying spree that has inflated the price of the players.*

**a nest egg** a large sum of money put aside *The proposed individual investment accounts in Social Security (federal pensions) will give individuals more responsibility for managing their nest eggs.*

## MONEY IS A PERSON

**be on insecure footing** to be short of money, poor *You see, in the early years, when Randall was still on insecure footing I, well, lent him a little money.*

**money talks** if you have plenty of money nothing is going to stop you *Already, some athletes switch countries because competition for Olympic places at home is too fierce, or to get better training – or just because money talks.*

**the smart money** describes people who are good at making money *Free articles ebooks on budgeting, smart money tips and frugal lifestyle.*

## MONEY IS TREASURE

**a golden handshake** a big sum of money you get when they leave or have to leave a company *In their absence, pay has soared and a panoply of devices has arisen to protect bosses: poison pills, staggered boards, generous golden handshakes, gentle golden parachutes, and the like.*

**a pot of gold** a huge sum of money *But the stalemate has a price: aid is trickling in, but the pot of gold expected a year ago is still at the end of the rainbow.*

**strike gold** to earn a lot of money quickly / be successful *I knew I was right so I went back to the house one last time. I still didn't know what I was expecting to find, but I struck gold.*

## LITTLE MONEY IS SMALL SIZE

**on a shoestring** to live from hand to mouth *Launched on a shoestring, Bird made pagers before shifting to the wireless-phone business for foreign multinationals entering the China market.*

**pin money** very little money *If you work for pin money, you work not because you need to but because it gives you money for extra little ...*

## USING YOUR HANDS IS MAKING MONEY

**bring someone a windfall** a sum of money someone gains or wins unexpectedly *The first is that high oil prices have brought Venezuela a windfall that Mr Chávez is busily spending on social programmes (known as “missions”).*

**deep pockets** a lot of money available *In practice, its deep pockets have benefited Ms Hongsakul and reportedly at least two other nominally independent candidates as well.*

**hand over fist** to make or lose money quickly *At first it was easy and he was making money hand over fist.*

**line your pockets** to make money in an indecent way (e.g. by cheating) *The effect of this leak and others was to turn the owners of smaller teams, who thought they had rumbled GPWC-backed teams trying to line their pockets, against their bigger rivals.*

**a money-spinner** some kind of business that produces a lot of money *Gambling has been a money-spinner since Bugsy Siegel built the first casino in the 1940s.*

### *Choose an idiom for the context.*

**pin money**

**small beans**

**a golden handshake**

1. With ..... in your pocket it is quite pleasant to retire.

**a meal ticket**

**chicken feed**

**the smart money**

2. In his will Sam left ..... even for his step-daughter.

**on a shoestring**

**a money spinner**

**on insecure footing**

3. The wholesale of computer accessories is still ..... for many companies.

**deep pockets**

**on a shoestring**

**hand over fist**

4. On the Stock Exchange, investors can make or lose money ....., so many Europeans prefer to keep their money in a bank.

**a golden handshake**

**the gravy train**

**a nest egg**

5. The Smiths are saving up for their pension and hope to have ..... to live on.

**bringing home the bacon**

**hand over fist**

**a pot of gold**

6. Since my father's accident it is my mother who has been .....

**money for jam**

**chicken feed**

**the smart money**

7. Alex complains that he earns ..... and is thinking of looking for another job.

**lining their pockets**

**striking gold**

**not having a bean**

8. Many government officials are said to be .....with what they get from lobby groups.

## 27. OPINION

Interactions with our environment require the use of our senses, both audio and visual, clearly exploited by the conceptual metaphors related to communication. In addition, to enrich our imaginative world, mental space input information manifests the expression of opinion as ‘leaving a course’ during a journey.

### OPINION IS SOUNDS / VOICES

**bring in new voices** to listen to the opinion of new people *Incoming commission president José Manuel Barroso must face this challenge head on: if he wants to succeed, he must first loosen the EU’s ideological straightjacket and dare to bring in new voices: entrepreneurs, scientists, young people, expats who left Europe for lack of opportunities.*

**a change of tone/tune** to speak differently than earlier *Still, as news of Sharansky’s American stardom has made its way to Israel, Sharon has changed his tone.*

**a different tune** a different opinion *Now his tune is quite different – more corporate social responsibility than downsizing.*

**not mince your words** to say what you think of something *Nor did he mince words about the cause: nearly 10% of France’s population was Muslim – and this was breeding a new kind of anti-semitism.*

**say one’s piece** to express your opinion about something *All right, you’ve spoken your piece; now let someone else have a turn.*

**sing the same chorus** agree with each other *Sir Wilfred’s critics invariably sing the same chorus.*

**sing the same tune** to have the same view about something as before *I want to make sure we’re all singing the same tune before we give any interviews to the newspapers.*

### OPINION IS VISUAL EFFECTS

**black and white** two extremes /simply *She was just a girl who saw the world in black and white.*

**a black mark** others don’t think much of what you do *The 1988 mass executions of political prisoners in Iran cannot be called anything other than a black mark on the recent history of Iran.*

**in someone’s eyes** in someone’s opinion *In the 1990s, Mr Dahlan was the scourge of Hamas, a reputation that makes him, in the eyes of Israelis, Egyptians and Americans, the preferred Palestinian strongman in a post-withdrawal Gaza.*

**nail your colours to the mast** to stand by one side or another and express your opinion about it openly *It is time when we, as Christians, need to nail our colors to the mast and never waiver from Biblical principles.*

### OPINION IS LEAVING A COURSE / SPOT

**come off/push someone off the fence** to say what you think of something *After weeks of fruitless shuttle diplomacy by Alexander Haig, Mr Reagen’s erratic secretary of state, and increasingly bizarre behaviour on the part of Jeane Kirkpatrick, the pro-Argentine UN ambassador, the junta’s intransigence finally pushed the president off the fence.*

**shift your ground** to change your views about something *He’s impossible to argue with because he keeps shifting his ground.*

**sling/throw mud at someone** to say bad things about someone *Not if those queuing up to sling mud at the nuclear five, but chiefly America were to devote as much energy and more imagination to making life harder for the would be cheats.*

**stick your net out** to show what you think of something *Stick your neck out and get what you deserve.*

*Choose one of the three options of how opinion is expressed:*

- a) sounds or voices*
- b) visual effects*
- c) leaving a course*

- 1. not mince your words**
- 2. nail your colours to the mast**
- 3. sing the same tune**
- 4. shift your ground**
- 5. black and white**
- 6. in someone's eyes**
- 7. sling/throw mud at someone**
- 8. come off/push someone off the fence**

## 28. OPPORTUNITY

Blends, basic mental operations, exploit scenarios of daily life available to focus on vital conceptual relations. They project structures of inputs into the blended space. Input spaces such as a 'journey' or a 'game' involve potential benefits cropping up. Emergent structures manifest *catching waves*, *calling cards* and so on.

### OPPORTUNITY IS A JOURNEY

**catch the wave** to take a chance *You gotta catch a wave and you're sittin' on top of the world.*

**an easy rider** someone who accepts whatever they are offered and gives nothing in return / **an easy ride** a good opportunity *Sam was a typical easy rider, only returning to the settlement when he had a good chance to benefit from his trip. "Spain is considered an easy ride," says Ana Pastor, the opposition People's Party (PP) spokesman.*

**free rein** an opportunity *But until Indonesia gets a new president – a process which could well take four-and-a-half months – powerful individuals and institutions will have free rein to settle old scores.*

**a free ride** to benefit from something without doing anything for it *For the American government, the free ride may be coming to an end.*

**have the wind in your sails** to have an opportunity to do something *It is true that the Republicans have the wind in their sails at the moment.*

**miss the boat** to miss an opportunity *We don't want to miss another boat again.*

### OPPORTUNITY IS A GAME

**a bigger fish to come** a better opportunity *A guilty verdict would not itself prove Mr Skilling's guilt, but if prosecutors are unable to win a conviction in this relatively simple case, that might not bode for the more complex trials of the bigger fish to come.*

**a calling card** something you can use to your own benefit when it becomes necessary *His bio is his calling card: an orphan reared in what was once one of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, wealthier families (they owned Iron Beer City), a prep-school kid who began his legal career working for his father-in-law's rural Iowa firm.*

**deal all players a card** to give everyone an opportunity *My solution would be to deal all the players a Get Out of Jail Free card, to be kept until needed or sold, but what this would mean for Europe's own Monopoly money is another question.*

**Choose the right idiom for the sentences below.**

1. Sam was a typical ....., only returning to the settlement when he had a good chance to benefit from his trip.
2. Most TV viewers consider winning a trip abroad .....
3. Come on! ..... as long as you have it!
4. I assume we should do our best so as not to .....because we'll never be offered the same opportunity.
5. Russia has used China as ..... in blackmailing the US.
6. It only seems fair to ....., not only your chums.
7. It will seem .....for all to experience this incredible sensation.
8. You had better hurry up and not wait for.....

## 29. POSITION

See explanation of the concept **IMPORTANCE**.

### **AN IMPORTANT POSITION IS UP /BIG SIZE**

**at the top of the ladder** in a high position *Are you starting to feel the market crunch at the top of the corporate ladder?*

**be in pole position** to be in a very good position *“For the European Commission, the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Technology Initiative represents a major milestone in the way the EU conducts target-oriented research by partnering with the industry, which will increase the overall resources available for R&D and will allow for better coordination with National and Regional Programmes” said the Commissioner for Science and Research, Janez Potočnik. “It will bring Europe shortly in the pole position in the race for the development and deployment of these new technologies”.*

**a big cheese** someone in an important and influential job *Many business leaders, and some big cheeses in the Republican Party, want to embrace the idea.*

**in high places** in important positions *Economy overshadows election results; friends in high places but cuts expected.*

**stay in the saddle** to keep your favourable position *Staying in The Saddle. One of the few luxury companies still family operated, Hermes has grown but never abandoned its mission to produce top-quality leather goods.*

**top brass** high rank officers, leaders and managers *The presence of Fianna Fail's top brass reflects the party's populist roots as well as its need for money, but also something else: the importance of the horse in Ireland.*

**the top spot** a high position *Another sign of Mr Simitis's confidence is that other, less loyal, cabinet members have kept their jobs, including Akis Tsochatzopoulos, the old-style populist defence minister who was once a rival to Mr Simitis for the top spot.*

### **A GOOD POSITION IS CLOSENESS / A BAD POSITION IS RESTRICTION**

**be in the front line** to be in a difficult position *In the front line (Press release) Shoreline protection and other ecosystem services from mangroves and coral reefs.*



## 30. POSTPONEMENT

Based on our bodily experience and physiological processes, activities produce heat and warm temperature. Obviously, the opposite, i.e. lack of activity, produces cold temperature. This can be observed in other languages too (in Hungarian: 'jegeljük a tervet'). Employing scenarios and patterns of the spatial, physical world around us has offered several examples so far. Yet, compressing inputs of postponed activity, cold temperature and lack of motion leads to novel emergent structures where plans are 'put on ice' or 'they are shelved'.

### **POSTPONEMENT IS COLD TEMPERATURE; ACTIVITY IS WARM TEMPERATURE**

**be/keep something on ice** plans put off till a later date *For now, Spaniards will just have to keep their curiosity on ice.*

**on the back burner; on the front burner** to postpone doing something *In short, trade, after some years on the back burner, is back on America's political agenda – but for all the wrong reasons.*

*That project is on the back burner until we deal with higher priorities. ... That idea is simmering on the back burner for now.*

### **POSTPONEMENT IS LACK OF MOTION OR REMOVAL FROM ACTIVITY**

**put something on hold** not to carry out an activity now but put it off for a time *Those plans have been put on hold, however, as the group tries to keep its existing businesses alive with half the family in Baghdad and the other half in Amman.*

*"I wouldn't say it's put on hold," Phillips said.*

**shelf a plan** to postpone something *While under sporadic surveillance, he was believed, temporarily at least, to have shelved his plan of attack on Heathrow airport.*

**take something off the table** to postpone or call off something *Those numbers reflect a united Democratic Party that refuses to negotiate with the GPO until Bush's version of private accounts is taken off the table.*

### ***Fill in the gaps with a suitable idiom.***

**drag their feet**

**a rain check**

**on ice**

1. For lack of financial resources, the plans of a new culture centre was .....

**put on hold**

**is having a rain check**

**dragging feet**

2. Any plans of having the house done up are to be .....  
in this period of crisis.

**take a rain check**

**be on ice**

**shelf a plan**

3. The Smiths decided to .....on the garden party, which did not offend their hostess the least.

**off the table**

**on the front burner**

**on the back burner**

4. If you want to let loose for a while you should put your plans .....  
.....

## 31. POWER

The concept ‘power’ draws on both metaphorical and metonymic constituents. The former is based on perceptual skills (identifying ‘big size’ with power), physical capacity (‘strength’), and cultural aspects (‘status’), whereas the metonymic aspect rests on the PART FOR WHOLE sort of metonymies. Thus, blends reveal that ‘*a big fish/gun/noise/shot*’ is a powerful and influential person, as is someone *ruling the roost* whereas a *paper tiger* is not. We also realize that being *high-handed* and *clenching your fist* are also clear manifestations of power.

### POWER IS BIG SIZE

**a big fish** a powerful and influential person *Some lawyers worry that, in their current pursuit of corporate big fish, prosecutors might be tempted to abuse the plea-bargaining process to secure damaging false testimony from smaller fry.*

**a big gun/noise/shot (inf)** an important and powerful person *Zarkawi’s green-eyed mother, Um Sayef al-Khalaylah – interviewed before her death earlier this month – also scoffed at the idea that her 37-year-old son was a terrorist big shot.*

*The big guns turn on Latham.*

**a paper tiger** someone with little power or influence *Italy’s stock-market regulator, Consob, is known as a paper tiger actually forbidden by the law from enforcing its own rules.*

### HANDS STAND FOR POWER

**clenched fist/clench your fist** power *Since 9/11, the clenched fist of American power has struck two mighty blows – one in ousting the Taliban in Afghanistan, the other in taking out Saddam.*

**have the whip hand** to be more powerful than others and influence or control them *The puritans have the whip hand not because they can prove that tough laws will make life better for women, but because they have convinced governments that prostitution is intolerable by its very nature.*

**high-handed** to be powerful and dominant *Gerhard Henrik Armauer Hansen somewhat blotted his copybook when he tried to prove the communicability of leprosy by inoculating a patient’s eye with lepomatous material without her consent; even in those days, this was regarded as an unacceptably high-handed thing to do.*

**hold someone to ransom** to put pressure on someone to accept your views or decision *Some people regarded the miners’ strike as the union holding the nation to ransom.*

### POWER IS STRENGTH; WEAKNESS IS INABILITY TO MOVE /LOSS OF STRENGTH

**flex your muscles** to demonstrate how powerful you are *They say Mr Dahlan is flexing the muscles of his supporters in Gaza in order to impose change on the Palestinian leader without trying to oust him or destroy the PA itself.*

**a lame duck** to have little power *While others may calculate (and hope) that having signalled his retirement date, albeit one that is notionally more than four years distant, he is a lame duck; Mr Blair is convinced that he is at the very height of his powers.*

**a shadow of your former self** less powerful, fit etc. than before *Just like Victorian vicars preaching temperance, it is always easy for those who warn of the intoxicating perils of investing in emerging markets to find sad victims, shadows of their former selves, who have fallen prey to the temptation of high-yielding paper.*

**show your muscle** to demonstrate your power *“The government clearly showed its muscle,” says Mr Jang, “and they didn’t even hide their intentions.*

**tug-of-war** fight for power *Italy's Fincantieri and Finmeccanica, who together own Orizzonte Sistemi Navali, a naval-systems company, are watching the Franco-German tug-of-war from the sidelines.*

### POWER IS STATUS

**be a force to be reckoned with** to be powerful and strong *But the smart money says she is a force to be reckoned with. That may be just what her critics are afraid of.*

**come of age** to become independent and powerful *The federalists hope the battle of Buttiglione will mark the coming- of- age of the European Parliament.*

**rule the roost** to be the most powerful member of an organization *Sally has five older brothers, she still rules the roost.*

**turn pawns into queens** to increase someone's power *And though some recipients may regard themselves as helpless, policy should try to increase their power over providers – to turn pawns into queens – both because that would promote efficiency and because, from an egalitarian point of view, it is desirable in itself.*

### *Choose the right definition of the idioms below.*

1. The guerilla troops had proved that they were **a force to be reckoned with**.
2. The permanent **tug-of-war** in politics puts many people off politics.
3. Although Sam was **a real big gun** and left no stone unturned, he had to admit that he could not do much.
4. Although there were many decision-makers, there was little doubt about who actually **ruled the roost**.
5. After the unpopular measures were introduced the ruling party began to **lose ground**.
6. With too little power in the legislative body, the head of the cabinet only **seemed a paper tiger**.
7. There is no doubt as to who **has the whip hand**, so you had better be quiet and do as you are told.
8. Even though the organization **was held to ransom**, it would not bend and accept others' ideas.
9. Some say that it is better to be **a big fish** in a small pond than just one of the many.
10. In the last years of his presidency, Ronald Reagan was said to be **a lame duck**.
11. The former boxing champion was just **a shadow of his former self**.
12. The clash between the demonstrators and the police only proved that the political leaders were ready to **flex their muscles any time**.
13. There are clear signs that the economy of the country is **going to the dogs**.

### **Definitions**

Two of the 11 definitions have 2-2 example sentences.

1. **be ruined/decline**
2. **powerful enough to be accounted for**
3. **very powerful and influential**
4. **someone who is not very powerful or influential**
5. **demonstrate your power**
6. **not as strong or powerful as before**
7. **be powerful and make decisions**
8. **to pressurize someone to accept your ideas**

- 9. fight for high position and power
- 10. lose power
- 11. be powerful and control other people

In the KEY the first number is the definition, while the second is the example sentence!

## 32. PROBLEM

We know that problems are regarded as physical objects, they have 'sizes' ('a big problem'), and now we learn that they have 'weights' too. Inputs of 'war', 'pain' and 'blocked motion' suggest that conceptual integration exploits the same patterns we came to see with other concepts based on 'culture', 'physiology' and the LIFE IS A JOURNEY metaphor.

### A PROBLEM IS BIG SIZE /HEAVY WEIGHT

**make a great to do about something** to make a great fuss about something *Oh, well, yes, he had a little eczema on his hands he was making a great to do about.*

**a millstone around your neck** a nuisance or a problem that is extremely difficult to solve *So, Kyoto need not place a carbon millstone around the neck of Europe's businesses.*

**a rising tide** bigger and bigger problems *If 75-80 per cent of the electorate vote, it's not surprising that that 15-20 per cent of them don't know whether they're Torry, Labour, Veritas or Respect two weeks before polling day: a rising tide lifted all boats including those floating aimlessly.*

**the tip of the iceberg** only a small part of a big problem *But there is growing speculation that the FBI investigation of Mr Franklin is the tip of the iceberg.*

**weigh like millstones around someone's neck** to cause big problems *The cost of health care for workers and the growing population of GM pensioners weigh like millstones around the company's neck.*

### A PROBLEM IS AN OMEN / DANGER OR FATALITY

**dark-clouds** problems, especially ones signalled by events *Despite the darkening clouds in America's relationship with Iran, many Sunni Muslims are convinced that the Bush administration is subverting their faith by favouring the Shia cause in Iraq and hence promoting Iranian influence.*

**dig your own grave** to cause yourself problems by making mistakes or doing the wrong things *That year the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, digging its grave as a superpower.*

**open a Pandora's box** to cause problems *In the end, the panel seems to have rejected the idea of reviving it, believing it could open a Pandora's box.*

**a vicious circle** a problem leading to another that you cannot get rid of

*But the country is still caught in a vicious circle: without security, economic reconstruction will falter and the bullet will have more to say than the ballot.*

### PROBLEM IS A WAR

**a chink in someone's armour** a weak point that can be benefitted from *But late in the term one glaring Fremantle error gave Geelong a chink in the armour they ruthlessly devoured.*

**a tough battle(ground)** a big problem

*Next year will bring tougher battles, such as the five-year transportation bill, a favourite for lawmakers to pack with pork. Microsoft's toughest battle ground is in Eastern Europe, where pirates control 70 percent of the market, more than in any other region of the world.*

## **PROBLEM IS PAIN/AN UNEASY FEELING**

**be a headache for someone/give someone a headache** a problem for someone *A state election gives both big parties headaches.*

**cause headaches for someone** to cause problems *The reservists' case is likely to cause still more headaches for the Army.*

**feel the heat** to have a problem *This is bad news for finance ministers, but their colleagues in transport departments are also feeling the heat.*

**feel the pinch** to face a financial crisis because your income is smaller than it was *But for North Korea to feel the pinch, both China and South Korea would have to be prepared to crack down hard on such illicit activities than either has shown any inclination to do so far – another tricky subject for Mr Bush to raise with Mr Roh.*

**feel the squeeze** to face a problem *Already many Asian companies are feeling the squeeze because their revenues are dominated in falling dollars, and their costs are dominated in often-rising local currencies.*

**turn something into a headache for someone** to cause a problem for someone *How to deal with the protesters is turning into a big headache for Néstor Kirchner, Mr Duhalde's successor as president.*

## **A PROBLEM IS BLOCKED MOTION**

**hard-landing** a problem cropping up *A fourth relates to China, which faces a possible hard-landing from its recent overheating.*

**put a spanner in the works** to cause problems to someone *Until Louise Bourget, how d'you say, put a spanner in the works.*

**a sticking point** a problem that crops up as an obstacle in a process *All of a sudden they realised that the major sticking point was their earlier agreement..*

**a whitewater ride** a big problem *"Society is moving forward. We're simply a boat in this big stream." It's a whitewater ride.*

*Put the idioms into the right groups of metaphors, metonymies or blends.*

**A) PROBLEM IS PAIN/AN UNEASY FEELING**

**B) PROBLEM IS A WAR**

**C) A PROBLEM IS BIG SIZE /HEAVY WEIGHT**

**D) A PROBLEM IS AN OMEN / DANGER OR FATALITY**

**E) A PROBLEM IS BLOCKED MOTION**

1. feel the squeeze
2. a chink in someone's armour
3. dig your own grave
4. a millstone around your neck
5. a vicious circle
6. the tip of the iceberg
7. feel the heat
8. dark-clouds
9. hard-landing
10. cause headaches for someone
11. put a spanner in the works
12. dig your own grave

### 33. RECOVERY

Logically, 'recovery' is based on the same pattern as that of construction. It is no wonder that we say in Hungarian too 'felépülni', which almost literally means 'building up your health'. Input information, therefore employs patterns available. Other necessary patterns needed include being 'back on your feet' again and, complying with the LIFE IS A JOURNEY metaphor: the 'journey'.

#### RECOVERY IS UP

**climb out of a pit** recover from a difficult situation *"We have climbed out of the pit," declared Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in an interview published this week.*

**pick yourself off the floor** recover from a shock *The party has yet to pick itself off the floor.*

**up and about** to recover from an illness *28 Jul 2008 ... Many patients are surprised how quickly they can be up and about.*

**you can't keep a good man/woman down** to recover after a difficult period and prove your talent again *You can't keep a good woman down, even if you're Karl Rove.*

#### RECOVERY IS LANDING ON YOUR FEET

**be back on one's feet** to recover from a crisis *Emerging economies are back on their feet, but still have a long way to go.*

**fall/land on your feet** to recover from a disease or disaster *She really landed on her feet - she found an apartment right in the middle of San Francisco. Richard takes the most awful risks, but he always seems to fall on his feet.*

**get back on your feet** to recover from a bad situation *Why sell now, when the trade is getting back on its feet after three grim years?*

#### RECOVERY IS A JOURNEY

**be back on the road** recover from an unfavourable situation *He is back on the road again, fleeing pro-government militias who are killing members of the northern Malinke tribe.*

**put someone/something back on the road** help someone/something to recover after a critical period *Kirchner has at least put Argentina back on the road to recovery - but he still has a long way to go.*

**turn the corner** to recover from a disease or a tragic situation *For George Bush, who makes much of the fact that the economy has "turned the corner", the timing could hardly be worse.*

#### *Complete the idioms in the sentences with the suitable word.*

1. What a great feeling it is to be **up**..... **about** again after two weeks.
2. You see, Peter is a proof of the fact that you cannot **keep a**..... **man down**.
3. It took them over a year to .....**on their feet** after the recession was over.
4. It wasn't easy to **turn the** ..... for Tim after the double tragedy in his family.
5. It is extremely difficult to **climb** ..... **of a pit** after an emotional collapse.
6. She is .....**on her feet** even after losing two members of her family.
7. **Pick**..... **off the floor!** You cannot stay down in the mouth all your life.
8. Whatever happens, they always manage to .....**on their feet**.

## 34. REFUSAL

‘Refusal’ employs the input information of the ‘war’ metaphor scenario, where fighters are forced to hold their ground. Another way of warding off interactions with the outside world is ‘reducing sensation’ as can be seen below.

### REFUSAL IS HOLDING YOUR GROUND

**dig in your heels** not to be willing to do something that others want you to *If they seem to be digging their heels in, then the people in Europe who oppose Turkey’s bid to join the union will find a new argument.*

**hold/stand your ground** not to be willing to give up your ideas or change your attitude *Programmers need to draw that line in the sand, and then stand their ground!*

### REFUSAL IS REDUCED SENSATION

**bury your head in the sand** to refuse to face the harsh realities of life *Call it the new Ostrichpolitik – the politics of burying one’s head firmly in the sand and ignoring a mounting crisis.*

**turn a deaf ear to something** not to be willing to listen to someone *“The enforcement level at the FCC has been very faulty,” says Marta García, a Puerto Rican-American who sits on the board of the National Hispanic Media Coalition. “They turned a deaf ear.”*

**turn one’s back on someone** to refuse to help someone *If the EU were to turn its back on Turkey now, not only might Turkey’s own reforms be under threat, but it would be widely interpreted in the Muslim world as a blow against Islam.*

**Which idioms refer to HOLDING YOUR GROUND and which ones to REDUCED SENSATION (HYG or RS)?**

1. **turn a deaf ear to something**
2. **dig in your heels**
3. **turn one’s back on someone**
4. **stand your ground**
5. **bury your head in the sand**

## 35. RESPONSIBILITY

Our bodily experience suggests that whatever pressurizes us mentally exerts a similar ‘mental pressure’. We have seen that ‘problems’ are heavy, so, logically ‘responsibility is heavy too. Other input information is of metonymic origin, since ‘hand stands for control’, which also means responsibility.

### RESPONSIBILITY IS WEIGHT

**carry the world on one’s shoulders** to have a lot of responsibility *The world on his shoulders. It is abroad, though that Mr Bush has most to do; as Richard Haas, his own former foreign policy adviser, spells out on pages 34-35, the president’s in-tray bulges with problems from Iran to Sudan, from North Korea to Israel.*

**a cross to bear** responsibility that is a nuisance for you *Politicians find religion a cross to bear.*

**fall on your shoulders** to be responsible for doing something *In America, this burden falls on the shoulders of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), an underfunded and unloved bit of the federal bureaucracy.*

**have a lot on your plate** to have a lot of things to do *Mr Brown also has quite a lot on his plate in carrying through the reforms laid out by Sir Peter Greshon, his efficiency advisor.*

**land on your lap** an unexpected job you have to do *That no longer raises the specter of the election once again landing in the justices' laps, but also brings back some of the old rancor.*

### **HAND FOR RESPONSIBILITY**

**off your hands** to pass over the responsibility for someone or something *We hoped that once they saw the kittens they would take them off our hands.*

**on your hands** to take responsibility for someone or something *The Friends of Friendless Shares, a City charity to which so many of us make involuntary contributions, has a new cause on its hands: investment trusts.*

**out of your hands** not to be responsible for something any longer *The choice may be out of your hands.*

**pass the baton** to pass the responsibility to someone *Dougal resigns as head of the treasury this month, passing the baton to one of his closest associates.*

**point the finger at someone** to ward off responsibility and name someone else as responsible *It is tempting to point the finger at money-grubbing barristers and sloppy solicitors.*

**take something off someone's hands** to take the responsibility of having to do something over from someone *The village is hoping a private investor will take it off its hands, but it would take a courageous soul to do so with its 5m yuan of debt and a market for malt now dominated by bigger, better-quality producers.*

**wash your hands of something** not to take any responsibility for something *Odd Olsen Ingero, the governor of Svalbard, washes his hands of Barentsburg by saying the miners are there by their own choice.*

**your life is in someone's hands** your life depends on other people *Your Life in Your Hands? Understanding, Preventing and Overcoming Breast Cancer.*

### ***Finish the sentences with the correct idioms.***

1. He does as if he was .....
2. This was ..... for him till the end of his life.
3. The new boss has..... He had better share some tasks with his deputy.
4. It was pretty easy to find out whose.....
5. The more you criticize them, the more likely it is for a new job to.....
6. And now they can let loose as the task of preparing the meal is.....
7. The whole case was ..... now. All she could do was wait and see.
8. With that big group....., she wasn't really pleased.
9. Whenever he could, the boss.....
10. Stop .....me all the time. It's high time you realized that it was you who was in charge of the project.

11. Even though the company had gone bankrupt the management tried to .....  
..... it.
12. Whatever they did they could not get out of the huge waves and now their life was .....  
.....the crew of the helicopter.

1. in the hands of
2. pointing your fingers at
3. on her hands
4. wash their hands of
5. off their hands
6. shoulders this duty fell on
7. a cross to bear
8. carrying the world on his shoulders
9. too much on his plate
10. land on your lap
11. out of her hands
12. passed on the baton

## 36. REVELATION

Two concepts with opposite meanings are ‘revelation’ and ‘secrecy’, where input mental spaces are contrasted with each other. While the former requires ‘opening’ and ‘unwrapping’, as well as ‘pouring out the content of a container’, it requires ‘cleaning dirty linen’, and is ‘an open game’, the latter is associated with ‘lack of light/verbal leakage’, ‘bounded containment’ and is of ‘small size’.

### REVELATION IS OPENING /UNWRAPPING

**bare your soul** to reveal your secrets to other people *So don't bare your soul in intimacy, still less in company! Don't do it! Don't ... Don't bare your soul to anyone, no matter who invites it!*

**lift the veil** to reveal a secret *Slowly the veil is being lifted from shareholders' eyes.*

**open your heart** to reveal a secret *“Open Your Heart with Pets: Mastering Life through Love of Animals”.*

**take the lid off** to reveal some bad news to the public *European researchers take the lid off the genome.*

**take the wraps off something** something is announced about a new product for the first time *Williams take wraps off Ferrari lookalike ... Now it's up to us to provide them with the equipment with which they can produce something worthwhile.*

### REVELATION IS POURING OUT THE CONTENT OF A CONTAINER

**let the cat out of the bag** to blurt out a secret *“Yeo's statement brought the cat out of the bag,” one of the meeting's organizers told NEWSWEEK.*

**pour out everything** to reveal all *She pours out everything in the hope of sustaining her sister's interest in life.*

**spill the beans** to talk about some secret by accident *Katherine Gun, a 29-year-old Mandarin translator was being prosecuted under Section I of the Official Secrets Act, a draconian piece of legislation most often used to stop disillusioned spooks from spilling the beans after they have left the service.*

### REVELATION IS CLEANING DIRTY LINEN

**dish the dirt** to spread bad news about another person *I was in a similar situation and decided to "dish the dirt."*

**wash your dirty laundry/linen in public** to reveal a secret to the public *Mr Nader claims that Mr Dean has turned from "insurgent" to "detergent of the dirty linen of the Democratic Party".*

### REVELATION IS SHOWING LIGHT AND COLOURS

**bring something to light** to reveal something to the public *The rigorous examination which brought to light Downing Street mendacity over Mittel, or panicked Alistair Campbell and Tony Blair over the Mandelson/Hinduja business, is now becoming impossible.*

**come to light** something is revealed *They came out in a case involving a wealthy foreigner who runs an international property business.*

**show one's true colours** to understand what other people are really like *That evening Mike showed his colours to his friends or rather ex-friends.*

### REVELATION IS A GAME

**the game is over** someone's tricks are revealed *Once the games are over, though, the going will be tougher.*

**give the game/show away** to reveal something that should have been kept a secret *Traditional exchanges claim they minimise this problem, because their floor operators can parcel out a big order among many traders without giving the game away.*

**hold one's cards close to one's chest** not to disclose a secret *You never quite know what Barry's going to do next – he keeps his cards very close to his chest.*

*Put the idioms into the right groups of metaphors, metonymies or blends.*

A) REVELATION IS CLEANING DIRTY LINEN

B) REVELATION IS A GAME

C) REVELATION IS SHOWING LIGHT AND COLOURS

D) REVELATION IS OPENING /UNWRAPPING

E) REVELATION IS POURING OUT THE CONTENT OF A CONTAINER

1. bring something to light
2. wash your dirty laundry/linen in public
3. give the game/show away
4. bare your soul
5. come to light
6. spill the beans
7. the game is over
8. dish the dirt
9. show one's true colours
10. hold one's cards close to one's chest
11. take the lid off
12. lift the veil

## 37. SECRECY

See *REVELATION* above.

### SECRECY IS SMALL SIZE

**a fly on the wall** to eavesdrop someone unnoticed *“I remember wishing I could be a fly on the wall.*

*I mean, how on earth did they come up with this insane story?”*

**A little bird told me (so).** I have heard about it, but I won't tell you who from *A little bird told me that she was in the hospital due to a serious illness.*

*“How did you know my age?” – “Oh, a little bird told me”.*

### SECRECY IS LACK OF LIGHT OR HIDING

**at the back of one's/someone's mind** in your thoughts, but not easy to remember *I'm suspicious really because at the back of my mind I don't trust them.*

**a back door to something** a secret entrance to something *The Balkans have always served as a back door to Europe.*

**by/through the back door** secretly *The day that America drops its embargo of Cuba, and the tourists start to fly directly to the island rather than through back doors such as Mexico or Canada, this American tilt will become a near-vertical slide, turning Cuba into the virtual American dependency it was before Mr Castro's appearance.*

**closed-door** secret talks *Television reporters appear every night in front of closed doors behind which they say last minute talks are continuing.*

**the dark side of something** a secret aspect of something *When the Parmalat scandal first began to unfold in December, it was easy to jump to the conclusion that the collapse of this huge publicly-quoted group, still 51%-owned by the Parma-based family of its founder Calisto Tanzi, exemplified little more than the dark side of Italian business.*

**do a moonlight flit (inf)** to get away from somewhere in secret to avoid having to pay your debt *“Do you ever feel like doing a moonlight flit?”*

**have (got) something up one's sleeve** to keep some information in secret until the right time *Another reason to think a shock is unlikely is the possibility that Saudi Arabia may yet have something up its sleeve.*

**keep something dark** to keep something secret *I'm going to apply for another job, but keep it under your hat for a while, will you?*

**keep something under wraps** to keep something in secret *Official Ankara was delighted – the Turkish line is that Chirac has so far kept his enthusiasm for Turkey under wraps because of domestic pressures, and is now speaking what one official describes as “his true opinions.”*

**keep something under your hat** not to inform people of what you know or think *Keep this information under your hat.*

**under the counter** secretly *Christian magazine sold under the counter like porn Retailers remove Gospel Today after women on cover stirs controversy.*

**your light under a bushel** not to show how clever or talented you are in something *Even after Paul won the scholarship he went on hiding his light under a bushel.*

### SECRECY IS LACK OF VERBAL LEAKAGE

**hush money** money paid to someone for not revealing something to someone or the public *China is investigating dozens of “journalists,” some genuine, some not, who demanded hush money from a coal mine after a pit accident killed one person, a newspaper said on Tuesday.*

**keep your mouth shut (inf)** not to talk about something you know *Had Stewart kept her mouth shut, she'd be OK.*

**mum's the word. (inf)** to ask someone not to speak about something *Say nothing about this, it's a secret, as in Mum's the word on tonight's surprise party.*

**we won't breathe a word** be quiet about something *Well, we won't breathe a word.*

### SECRECY IS CONTAINMENT

**get/go into a huddle** to hold a meeting in secret *They went into a huddle for a minute, then accepted the offer.*

**hole-and-corner** a dishonest and secret activity *The political situation was full of hole-and-corner intrigue.*

#### *Match the two columns.*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <i>He wished he could be a fly on the wall</i>                                   | A. <i>when customers do a moonlight flit.</i>                             |
| 2. <i>Why didn't you tell us you were so good at speaking foreign languages.</i>    | B. <i>that you are getting married next week.</i>                         |
| 3. <i>When blackmailed, most victims are willing to pay hush money for a while,</i> | C. <i>MI5 agents learnt to keep their mouths shut.</i>                    |
| 4. <i>What I have told you is not for the public.</i>                               | D. <i>until they realize that this will never end.</i>                    |
| 5. <i>Geoff must have arranged that by the back door</i>                            | E. <i>that I hate hole-and-corner deals of any kind.</i>                  |
| 6. <i>Most restaurants are unable to cope with the situation</i>                    | F. <i>otherwise we'd know about it.</i>                                   |
| 7. <i>But you knew all this time</i>  | G. <i>Mum's the word!</i>   |
| 8. <i>The boss seems rather worried. Why? Because he knows it best</i>              | H. <i>Why have you been hiding your light under a bushel for so long?</i> |
| 9. <i>During their short lives the boss's earlier business deals.</i>               | I. <i>that Sam may have something up his sleeve about</i>                 |
| 10. <i>Congratulations! A little bird told me</i>                                   | J. <i>when his rivals discussed their business plans.</i>                 |

#### *Complete the sentences with one of three endings.*

1. I can recall her figure at the back of my mind, .....  
**but I'm not sure what she was up to**  
**Though they didn't like the idea**  
**if only we had met before**
2. The closed-door talks the media is interested in .....  
**were likely to fail**  
**won't surely be disclosed before the end of the year**  
**is getting better anyway**
3. .... Should they find out prematurely, they'll do harm to us in no time.

**You could only buy under the counter  
Let us keep our intentions dark as long as we can  
Though they didn't like the idea**

4. We are going to join the project, but .....in case they get a better offer.  
**we'd better keep it under our hat  
we learnt to keep our mouths shut  
we hate hole-and-corner deals**
5. Don't worry! I won't breathe a word. ....  
**I have always enjoyed socializing.  
You can trust me.  
What's going to happen is anybody's guess.**

## 38. SEEING

Sensing is closely related to PART-FOR-WHOLE metonymies owing to the fact that body parts are used to designate actions.

### EYES STAND FOR SEEING

**gaze at your navel** to waste time by thinking about something and not acting *But I would like to know your thoughts as we naval-gaze together.*

**have your eye on something** to see something *And Singapore's NAC has its eyes on an even bigger prize: London.*

**in front of your eyes** to be close to something and see it *"Whatever took place behind closed doors... was as nothing compared to what happened on the stage, in front of our eyes."*

**lay eyes on something** to see something *When he first laid eyes on it, in a small museum in north-central Montana, the famous dinosaur researcher Robert Bakker whipped off his hat and fell to his knees, and tears welled up in his eyes.*

**more/less than meets the eye** more/less than can be seen *But there may be less to Temasek's track record than meets the eye.*

**not see beyond the end of your nose** not to be able to see important things *I'm so busy running the office that I can't see beyond the end of my nose.*

**(with) the naked eye** without using binoculars or other equipment *"Eyes & Illusions" even delves into the science and psychology behind what one actually sees with the naked eye and how one's brain comprehends the imagery.*

*With the naked eye it appeared larger and brighter than when seen in the morning sky.*

### ***Choose the most appropriate idioms.***

1. The shepherd ..... the calf all the time, and yet it disappeared.
2. The snow-covered peaks can be seen from here.....
3. The closer the deadline was, the clearer it became that the team had no time for twiddling thumbs and.....
4. The more tournaments you win the more you ..... an even more valuable one.

5. In fact, there may be .....in this affair.
6. Don't expect him to be very helpful since he cannot.....

1. have your eye on
2. see beyond the end of his nose
3. gazing at their navels
4. had his eye on
5. with the naked eye
6. more than meets the eye

## 39. SUCCESS

Our cultural background heavily draws on UP-DOWN schemas to provide both a generally-accepted value-system our way of thinking is based on. Similarly to positive emotions like 'happiness' our bodily experience suggests that when we are successful we have a similar feeling of lightness and elevation. Other input mental spaces to be integrated include 'harvesting', 'hitting', 'health' and 'motion'.

### SUCCESS IS UP /FAILURE IS DOWN

**at/on the crest of a big wave** to be successful *This information-technology services firm is at the crest of what Gartner, a consultancy, has called "the next big wave" of Indian outsourcing deals, covering remote "infrastructure-management services".*

**be flying high** to be very successful *Amid retail slump, Amazon's flying high : The top online retailer says it's had its best holiday shopping season.*

**come through/pass with flying colours** to be very successful *Compare what the EU has now with what it will get in the new constitution, and the document passes with flying colours.*

**get off to a flying start** to be successful right after beginning an activity *It's good to get off to a good start as it gives you some momentum for the next few days.*

**go up in the world** to become successful *Follow Winston and Coco's example and go up in the world at a very affordable price.*

**a high-flier** an ambitious and successful person *Friedrich Mertz, an able and ambitious conservative, takes over; takes over from Mr Schaube as leader of the party in parliament, while Ulrich Cartellieri, a high-flyer from Deutsche Bank, takes the awkward – perhaps critical- job of treasurer.*

**hit the heights** to achieve great success *As a director, Roach is capable of hitting the heights – the opening sequences of the first two Austin Powers movies are a visual feast – and, even when he doesn't, he's certainly capable of being efficient enough: Meet the Parents was a one-joke film but the joke- suitor terrorised by his beloved family – was good enough and true enough that it got by, even if it did lean somewhat heavily on the fact that the boyfriend (Ben Stiller) was a male nurse called Gaylord ('Greg') Focker and his prospective father-in-law (DeNiro) was ex-CIA.*

**king of the castle** the most successful in a group of people *Jamie Spence was king of the castle yesterday when he beat the defending champion in the third round. Our team is sure to be king of the hill this year.*

**knock something off its wave** to put an end to the success of something *So what could possibly knock Hawaii, the "aloha" or "welcome" state, off its wave?*

**a lead balloon** lack of success *9 Jan 2006 ... Well, let it never be said that your beloved blogger has never attempted to sail a lead balloon.*

**on top of the game** to be successful in an activity *Commenting on the confidence of his performances, one judge said, 'He's on top of his game'; another said, 'He's on mid-season form', and another that he is 'the coolest cat in town'.*

**on the up and up** to be more and more successful *If you are on the up and up, you are making very good progress in life and doing well.*

**pass (come through) with flying colours** to be very successful *They found that it passes with flying colours.*

**ride on the back of something** to make use of the success of something *Can Rivers ride on back of Jonathan's visit for growth?*

**up and coming** more and more successful *But I know no up-and-coming contenders for the role of militant literary matriarchs.*

### SUCCESS IS HARVESTING

**bring something to fruition** to achieve success *This week's arrest of Mr Khodorkovsky brings closer to fruition the bleak prediction that these are what Mr Putin, too, will leave behind.*

**come to fruition** to become successful *The first (a satellite for the Defence Department) should come to fruition soon.*

### SUCCESS IS A GAME /PLAY

**throw in the towel/sponge** to be more successful than someone else who is considered very good in a field *For the first time in living memory Britain is beating the French at their own game of laying down German trump cards on the table of European diplomacy.*

**clear hurdles** to cope with a task successfully *Countries that clear hurdles must then draw up their own plans for unleashing growth.*

**come up trumps** to prove successful *Zeda Rosenberg, the head of the International Partnership for Microbicides, a charity based near Washington, DC, says that if any of the six phase III trials were to come up trumps, a product could be on the market within five years.*

**the dice are loaded against someone** not likely to succeed in something *If you apply for a job when you're over 40, the dice are loaded against you.*

**every trick in the book** a range of tools used to achieve success *Mumbai attackers used every trick in the book.*

**a good game** something successful *The Indians talk a good game.*

**a/the hat trick** success especially in sport *This was Nigel Lawson, and his party was on its way, eighteen years ago, to completing a hat trick of victories.*

**take/overcome a hurdle** to achieve success *First,, BT overcame a technical hurdle that previously limited broadband service to households within 6 km of a telephone exchange.*

**throw in the towel/sponge** to give up an attempt and the hope to be successful *If you throw in the sponge now you will never have another chance.*

### SUCCESS IS HITTING SOMETHING

**a big hit** big success *Then Rimpa paintings and crafts were a big hit at the world fairs in London (1862) and Paris (1867 and 1878); Klimt, the leading Viennese painter of the time, is likely to have encountered such works at the 1873 Vienna World Fair.*

**have a hit with something** to be successful with something *But the present head of Fiat Auto, Herbert Demel, is pressing ahead with a rescue plan drawn up with the banks, and the company has had a hit with its new panda small car.*

**hit a home run (Am.E.)** to be very successful *Kids' books that hit a home run with baseball fans.*

**hit the jackpot** sudden and unexpected success *It was purchased last year by a Canadian online casino for \$650,000; and thus the Golden Palace monkey came into the scientific literature and Bolivian conservationists hit the jackpot.*

**hit the mark** to achieve good results or success *Among the many jokes about actuaries, one cruelly hits the mark.*

**hit and run** to be successful *The tides around Dunkirk were treacherous, the banks and shoals ideally suited to the hit-and-run raids by Dutch guerrillas.*

**strike oil** to become successful suddenly *They thought they had struck oil, but they were wrong.*

### **SUCCESS IS HEALTH OR REVIVAL**

**in good health** to be successful *But one variety of newspaper is in good health.*

**rise from the dead** to become successful after an unsuccessful period of time *Like a swamp creature in a bad horror movie, the Kyoto treaty has risen from the dead.*

### **FAILURE IS SHORTAGE**

**the bubble has burst; prick the bubble** not to be successful any more *Whatever was said about the rise in the standard of living, the bubble has burst.*

**in eclipse** not to be as successful as before *The popularity of the best soloist is in the eclipse now.*

**a lame duck** not capable of achieving something *The president was considered a lame duck, unable to change the situation*

**not cut out for something** no success is achieved *It was obvious to everyone that Steve wasn't cut out for the job.*

**on a hiding to nothing** not to have a chance in succeeding in something at all *As the oldest and most experienced hunter he had promising attempts, but, in terms of fitness he was on a hiding to nothing.*

### **SUCCESS IS MOTION (AHEAD OF OTHERS); FAILURE IS MOVING BACK**

**ahead of the pack** to be more successful than others especially in your profession *If you are ahead of the pack, you have made more progress than your rivals.*

**back to square one** to fail to do something

*People may claim to have been mis-sold endowment policies, and the FSA might like to put them back to square one, but few people now rue the day when they were persuaded to take out a mortgage and buy a house with someone else's money.*

**come within an ace of something; be within an ace of something** to almost succeed in a field *Given that he came within an ace of causing Armageddon, I would argue that Castro is the most irresponsible and reckless human being who ever lived.*

**get on track** to become successful *Otto Genee, the director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Policy Coherence Unit, says that establishing corporate footholes in developing countries – which stand to have exponential economic growth when they get on track – will be “very valuable” to Dutch companies in the long run.*

**go ahead** to succeed in doing something *But the trustbusters in Britain said the purchase of the Vivendi assets could only go ahead if Lagardere agreed to resell chunks of them as soon as possible.*

**gold rush** a success story *As in every gold rush, fortunes are being made, and each new tale of a freshly minted zillionaire fuels the China fever.*

**go places** to achieve success *Make progress, succeed, as in I suspect they'll be going places with the new product.*

**go strong in something** be successful in something *Two instances in particular stand out: the programming language called C, which from the early 1970s has been perhaps the most popular programming language; and the Unix operating system, first booted up in 1971, and still going strong in everything from laptops to airline-reservation systems.*

**go well** to be successful in something *That is partly because she is hobbled by her coalition partner; if things keep going well for her, she can look forward to a fresh election in two years' time after which she can govern without the SPD, and perhaps emerge as more of a reformer.*

**when your ship comes in** when you become successful *If you're patient, prudent, plan well, and have a little bit of luck, one fine day the light may very well be turned on and your ship will come in.*

### **SUCCESS IS CONTAINMENT**

**(have something) in the bag** to achieve something *They had hoped that a known and exceptionally brave reformer, Marsillam Simandjuntak, would get the job – and until the last moment all the indications had been that Mr Marsillam, or Todong Mulya Lubis, another reformer, had it in the bag.*

**in a/the groove** to be successful for a period of time *Besides, Goosen was in a groove only serious concentration can produce.*

### **SUCCESS IS MAKING SOMETHING**

**make a fair/good fist of something** to be successful in doing something *Of course, Sir Andrew is due for retirement in two years, and if I make a fair fist at this...well...*

**make it** to succeed in doing something *When I first knew him he was a cheerful bank manager, as well he might be, having made it the hard way.*

**make it big** to be successful in something *IBM initiative helps small cos make it big in emerging markets.*

**make or break something** to succeed or fail in something *If Takenaka is intent on pursuing the top post after Koizumi's departure, 2005 could well prove to be a make-or-break year.*

**make the grade** to be successful and meet the requirements *'We can't all make the grade' but, if they said that, they too would be swept out of office.*

***Decide whether the idioms belong to the metaphors listed below. Then check your results above.***

**A) SUCCESS IS UP**

**B) SUCCESS IS HITTING STH**

**C) SUCCESS IS CONTAINMENT**

**D) SUCCESS IS HEALTH OR REVIVAL**

**E) SUCCESS IS A GAME/PLAY**

**F) SUCCESS IS MOTION**

**G) FAILURE IS SHORTAGE**

**H) SUCCESS IS MAKING STH**

**1. a high-flier**

**2. when your ship comes in**

**3. strike oil**

4. in eclipse
5. the bubble has burst
6. get on track
7. have a hit with something
8. not cut out for something
9. ride on the back of something
10. king of the castle
11. get on track
12. throw in the towel/sponge
13. get off to a flying start
14. at/on the crest of a big wave
15. a/the hat trick
16. come up trumps
17. take/overcome a hurdle
18. make the grade
19. pass (come through) with flying colours
20. make a fair/good fist of something

## 40. SUPPORT

The same kind of input mental spaces occur in clashing conceptual integration networks over and over again. The war and game scenarios have been repackaged to unfold our ideas concerning ‘support’. As is suggested by activities, in general, **SUPPORT IS UP** is a common metaphorical pattern applied as are metonymic PART-FOR-WHOLE scenarios.

### SUPPORT IS A MILITARY ACTION

**a camp follower** fans or supporters of an organization *Many of these women have spent years researching the role of the camp follower and easily carry out the day to day routine of getting water, cooking, mending, and laundering clothes.*

**close ranks** to support someone in crisis *The first is that she has closed ranks with the government of Ricardo Lagos, the popular outgoing president.*

**a foot in both camps** to be part of and supportive of two sides *For the vision that joins up its thinking and acts responsibly out of concern for humanity at large, you need a foot in both camps.*

**a shot in the arm** support *Volkswagen obviously needs a shot in the arm.*

### SUPPORT IS UP; LACK OF SUPPORT IS DOWN

**fly/show/wave the flag** to support your country. *MPs take up cudgels on behalf of Chennai, Ennore ports.*

**get a lift from sb** to be supported by someone *Since the miserable state of economy will give him help, Mr Obuchi will have to hope that he will get a lift from a successful showing by the LDP in the local elections – and from his continuing death-defying balancing act.*

**keep the flag flying** to support an idea even in difficult times *Viewpoint: Keep the flag flying by raising the standard.*

**line up behind someone** to support a person *Not surprisingly, the textile titans have lined up behind her.*

**a pillar/tower of strength** someone who supports you in difficult situations *Eidur Gudjohnsen has been Barcelona's Icelandic tower of strength through all the change and commotion of the off-season.*

**pull the carpet/rug (out) from under someone's feet** not to support someone

*The school pulled the rug from under the basketball team by making them pay to practise in the school gymnasium.*

**stand up and be counted** to support or oppose something and declare it openly

*Those who did have the courage to stand up and be counted were arrested and imprisoned.*

**take up the cudgels for someone/something** to act in support of an idea or a person *Most of us don't take up cudgels on India's behalf then; in this case, it was the IHT tag (agreed, it was only on a blog) and Altman's name that got the goat.*

### **SUPPORT IS A GAME /HUNTING**

**back the wrong horse** to support the wrong person *In voting for George Bush, voters in 1992 were backing the wrong horse.*

**run with the hare and hunt with the hounds** to support two sides *Clotair's henchmen say: 'You cannot run with the hare and hunt with the hounds.' The peasants have an even clearer way of putting this: 'You cannot', they say, 'side with the cow and the clover'.*

### **LIMBS STAND FOR SUPPORT**

**be out on a limb** to be weak without any support *So although the great red apes may still be out on a limb, there is hope for young Lestari and Jonny as long as responsible governments have the will to protect the orang-utans' habitat in the unspoilt jungles of National Parks such as the Gunung Leuser.*

**hold the key for someone** to support someone *'The [Iranian] conservatives, because they are the ones who can deliver, hold the key for the Americans there.*

**hold someone's hand** to support someone *Until these memories fade, Americans will, as Mr Maguire puts it, "have a lot more freedom to hold each other's hand.*

*Put the idioms below into the groups of metaphors below.*

**A) LIMBS STAND FOR SUPPORT**

**B) SUPPORT IS A GAME /HUNTING**

**C) SUPPORT IS UP; LACK OF SUPPORT IS DOWN**

**D) SUPPORT IS A MILITARY ACTION**

1. a pillar/tower of strength
2. run with the hare and hunt with the hounds
3. close ranks
4. back the wrong horse
5. a shot in the arm
6. fly/show/wave the flag
7. stand up and be counted
8. take up the cudgels for someone/something
9. keep the flag flying
10. line up behind someone
11. a foot in both camps
12. hold the key for someone

## 41. THINKING

The process of ‘thinking’ is largely a metonymic compression of ‘thinking’ and ‘body parts’. Emergent structures present idioms such as **get your brain into gear**, **put their heads together** etc. Also, ‘seeing’ often replaces ‘thinking’ just like ‘understanding’ (‘I see’.)

### BODY PART (BRAIN, HEAD) STANDS FOR THINKING

**clear your head** to think things over *Well, give it time. Take the fortnight in France. Clear your head.*

**cross your mind** to have an idea *I have to admit it crossed my mind to use it, but then I said no.*

**get your brain into gear** to have clear ideas about what to do *Read below and you will find plenty of great activities that you can use each morning before work or school to help you kick your brain into gear!*

**put their heads together** brainstorming and trying to find a solution together *Political parties need to put their heads together.*

**rack one’s brain(s) (about something)** to think hard about something *I have been racking my brain all day trying to think of a birthday present for her.*

### THINKING IS SEEING

**gaze at your navel** to only think of yourself without paying attention to others *This navel-gazing won’t help this charity organization much, I am afraid.*

**not to see beyond (the end of) your nose** to disregard other people’s interests *Uncle George cannot see beyond the end of his nose. Always what he wants!*

**Decide whether a body part (BP) or sensing (S)** expresses thinking.

1. This **navel-gazing** won’t help this charity organization much, I am afraid.
2. It suddenly **crossed her mind** that she had given Peter a ring.
3. They couldn’t have come up with a better idea even if they had **put their heads together**.
4. Uncle George cannot **see beyond the end of his nose**. Always what he wants!
5. Some herbs are said to help you **get your brain into gear** more easily.
6. Inventors are still **racking their brain** about how to solve the problem in the near future.
7. It **crossed my mind** that I should not have left my home on that very day.

## 42. TIME

Blends are needed even for the most basic mental operations. In expressing time we tend to compress it with space. There is in fact a conceptual correspondence between time and space, which we are aware of. That is why we say: ‘Time flies’ or ‘Time goes very fast’. Inputs of time and space are compressed below to illustrate it.

### TIME IS A JOURNEY

**along the way** all the time *Along the way, Samsung has also beaten Intel hands down in the battle to make flash memory, a small and fast storage medium for digital devices such as cameras and mobile phones.*

**at some point** some time *But it is also up to him at some point to draw the line with the media.*

**be a long way from something** still need a lot of time *That said, the central bank is a long way from being out of the woods.*

**(have)a long way to go** a long time needed *Though the Chinese have promised to crack down on intellectual-property rights, for example by toughening penalties, they have a long way to go.*

**chase your own tail** to be doing something all in vain *Undoubtedly, they are only chasing their own tail without realizing what to do.*

**get/creep in under the wire** in the very last moment *Like Galileo, it crept in under the wire before “smaller, faster, cheaper” took effect.*

**have some way to go** some more time is needed *Even so, the bill has some way to go.*

**have a way to go** to need time *Would-be challengers to London have a way to go yet.*

**in the long run** for a long period of time *In the long run, America will have to take bigger and more fundamental steps to stay competitive.*

**in the short run** in a short time *Sure, in the short run the market is looking grim, not to say bleak.*

**a long road** a long time *The American beef industry is facing a long road to recovering the world’s trust.*

**a long way off** in the distant future *That seems a long way off, but he and many other jittery expats sense that things will get worse in Iraq before they get better.*

**some way off** some time in the future *The next step, making useful predictions from real-time data, is some way off, though many BI vendors claim to be able to do it already.*

**turn back the wheel** to revive old traditions *“There is no way to turn back the wheel,” says sociologist Dieter Bruhl of Germany’s University of Oldenburg.*

**wait till the cows come home** to spend a long time waiting *At Sussex students can share till the cows come home at the in-house Anxiety Management Group.*

***Finish the idioms with a missing word each.***

1. There was a suspicion ..... **the way** that someone was eavesdropping.
2. It was clear from the signs that they still had **a long way to** ..... to achieve their goals.
3. Undoubtedly, they are only **chasing their own** ..... without realizing what to do.
4. There may be changes **somewhere** ..... **the line**, but not very soon.
5. You might as well **wait till the** .....**come home**. She will do nothing I am sure.
6. If they want to improve their results they still **have some/ a long** .....**to go**.
7. Having a world-class football team is still **some / a long way**.....
8. What if **at some** ..... we stop and check whether we have achieved what we wanted.

## 43. WASTING

Generally-speaking, wasting is compressed with the physical domain, where valuables are engaged in motion in various directions: ‘down’, ‘around’ and activities of ‘casting’, ‘throwing’ and ‘pumping’. This is exemplified by *money down the drain*, *throw money around* and so on. Wasting time involves either senseless acts (*flog a dead horse*) or ones unlike to produce any result (*twiddle your thumbs*).

**cast pearls before swine** to offer help or benefits to someone who does not really care about them and doesn’t deserve it *Pearls before swine. It opens tonight. I’d be honoured if you’d come as my guests.*

**(go) down the drain /toilet** to waste something *But that is exposing another, potentially more horrible truth, for the \$ 1 trillion advertising and marketing industry: in some cases, it can be a lot more than half of the client’s budget that is going down the drain.*

*The money will gurgle away down the drain of public sector inflation, hosed on by the firemen.*

**money down the drain** money wasted *Commercially, fusion is just money down the drain until a reactor that is powerful and reliable enough can be built.*

**a money pump** a means of wasting a lot of money *“Big, temporary shows are regarded as the one sure money pump,” says John Walsh, the respected former director of the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles.*

**save one’s breath** not to waste time on something that is not realistic *You can save your breath; I’m not going to change my mind.*

**spit in the wind** to waste time and energy on hopeless things *IMF Gold Sale is a Spit in the Wind. The Bush administration is backing a plan for the IMF to sell off some of its gold.*

**throw money around** to waste money *Though its cars symbolized a growing Japanese threat in the 1980s, Toyota never behaved like a member of the menacing Japan Inc., throwing money around acquiring trophy American and Hollywood assets like Rockefeller Center and Hollywood studios.*

**throw money at someone** to waste your money by giving it to someone who is likely to squander it *Throwing money at them will surely not solve our problem. It is just money down the drain.*

**tilt at windmills** make futile efforts *I love the independence, the Quixote-like feeling of continually tilting at windmills (chasing after new accounts, pitching against big, established shops, making a name for the agency in a world chock full of agencies...), and the knowledge that you’re doing it for more than the bottom line of a faceless holding company.*

### WASTING TIME

**beat/flog a dead horse** to waste your time *He ranks on The Source, the hip-hop magazine that’s been highly critical of him, spends at least two entire songs railing against his on-going, off-again wife, Kim, and beats such dead horses as R. Kelly and Pee-Wee Herman?*

**chase rainbows** to waste your time trying to achieve something hopeless *I don’t think my parents ever believed I’d make it as an actor. I think they thought I was just chasing rainbows.*

**twiddle your thumbs** to waste your time by doing nothing *They also keep surgeons up to speed with the latest techniques being used on civvy street, which makes them want to be seen twiddling his thumbs either, not least because commission members have promised to rove the country pushing their reforms.*

**Choose one of the options of what wasting is related to:**

- A) Wasting energy**
- B) Wasting time**
- C) Wasting efforts**
- D) Wasting resources**
- E) Other benefits**

1. The whole investigation proved **a wild goose chase**. There was no point in it whatsoever.
2. Uncle Tom's idea of supporting those people was wrong. He only **cast pearls before swine**.
3. Spending a £ million on the team soon proved **money down the drain**, since they lost all their remaining matches.
4. **Save your breath!** We have discussed the whole problem a dozen times.
5. Why bother about improving football? It is just **a spit in the wind** with so little money available.
6. **Throwing money at** them will surely not solve our problem. It is just money down the drain.
7. All he did was just **twiddling his thumbs** all day.
8. You are **flogging a dead horse** trying to persuade Sue to give up her old habits.
9. It's no use **chasing rainbows** and hoping to win the main prize on the lottery. Your odds are horrible anyway.

## 44. WORK

Both the metonymic and metaphorical blends of the concept exploit earlier patterns such as the PART-FOR-WHOLE relationship and a sub-schema of the LIFE IS A JOURNEY metaphor: **A WORKER /A BUSINESS IS A VEHICLE**.

### **BODY PARTS STAND FOR WORK(ER)**

**all hands on deck** everyone is needed to work *That's not good news since the Panthers could certainly use all hands on deck for Sunday night's showdown against the New York Giants with home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs on the line.*

**bust a gut** to work very hard *Let's go to that new Mexican place and bust a gut!*

**get your foot in the door** to gain initial experience in a job *"Nobody can compete with China," says lee. "So you have to get your foot in the door."*

**keep one's nose to the grindstone** to work hard *If he'd keep his nose to the grindstone a bit more, he could be a pretty good student.*

**pull your weight** to work as hard as others *America has good reason to complain that Europe is not pulling its weight in the world economy.*

**put/keep one's shoulder to the wheel** to work hard *We'll have to put our shoulder to the wheel to get this job done.*

**put your best foot forward** to do your best in your work to achieve something *This week the division manager will be in town. I want each of you to putting your best foot forward.*

**work your fingers to the bone** to do hard work *What Do You Get When You Work Your Fingers To The BONE? ... We get to work extra at the car wash this weekend!*

**work your heart out** to make big efforts during your work *Barack Obama, for whom she gave a full-throated promise to "work my heart out" to win the White House in November for Democrats.*

**A WORKER /A BUSINESS IS A VEHICLE**

**back in gear** to be back at work again *Consider this: Japan’s recent recovery has been driven by exports, spreading hope worldwide that the economic engine of Asia is back in gear.*

**back on board** to be ready to work again *Is Paris back on board?*

**go into overdrive** to work hard and intensively *Poland coach apologizes as media go into overdrive.*

**on the job** ready to work *Clark’s aides gingerly observe that their man did require some on the job training to catch up with the other candidates, most of whom have been campaigning for at least 20 years.*

**up and running** to start operating something successfully *Although the FSA is up and running, under Howard Davies, its executive chairman, the bill giving it legal standing is still wending its way through Parliament.*

***Complete the idioms with the missing parts below:***

**BODY PARTS FOR WORK(ER)**

1. After her recovery she is back in ..... again.
2. All you need to do is put your best foot ..... if you want to go a long way.
3. Fewer and fewer young people would like to bust a ..... in today’s world.
4. Her mother worked her heart .....to be able to help her children, but they didn’t even look after her when she got old.
5. You should really put your shoulder to the .....if you want to be promoted.
6. People desperate to keep up their standard of living keep their nose to the .....
7. Without going into .....you cannot expect any improvement.
8. The prisoners in the jungle were forced to work their fingers to the ..... which raised the number of fatalities.
9. Look at Joe! At 60 he is back on.....
10. All hands on.....! We cannot waste any more time.
11. Once the system is up and .....we can be sure that it will lead to various benefits.
12. The EU members are all expected to pull their.....

## 45. WORRIES

Similarly to problems, ‘worries’ seem to have weights too. Just like other emotions worries produce heat too. The metaphors below compress worries and ‘heat’, ‘distortions’ ‘weight’ and ‘losing body parts’. Owing to double-scope integration *nail-biting* or *letting someone to stew* both mean worrying as does *a bundle of nerves*.

### WORRIES ARE A WEIGHT

**have something on one’s mind** to be worried about something *What’s on your mind? What do you have on your mind?*

**a load/weight off your mind** there is no need to worry about something any longer *I’m glad he got the job. I’m sure he’s got a load off his mind. That news gets a load off my mind.*

**prey on someone’s mind** to worry someone permanently *That murder at Miss Blacklock’s is preying on his mind.*

**with a heavy heart** to be worried about something *Not all newspaper publishers need enter 2005 with a heavy heart.*

### WORRIES ARE HEAT

**be (all) hot and bothered** to be worried about something *The tornado was approaching the city, and most locals were all hot and bothered about the situation.*

**get red-faced** to become worried about something *One man has reacted to his troubles by getting red-faced and tense, with growing circles under his eyes.*

**hot and cold** to feel very worried and tense *More convincing explanations centre on two phenomena: a half-century war, hot and cold, between India and Pakistan; and a stubborn reluctance to unleash the power of the market.*

**leave someone to stew / let someone stew**

to leave someone worrying *I knew that the group would be wondering what was going to happen next to them but I decided to leave them stew on it for a while.*

**let someone stew in their own juice** to leave someone worrying about something they have done or committed *Let airlines stew in their own juice.*

**with a heavy heart** to be worried about something *Not all newspaper publishers need enter 2005 with a heavy heart.*

### WORRYING IS LOSING BODY PARTS

**chew your nails** to worry about something *But the Internet-share frenzy has even the high-tech elite chewing its nails.*

**feel torn** to be worried due to the duality of your ideas contrasted *Many people in Ms Stern’s position feel torn: they want their parents to continue to live in their won homes and pursue their own lives, but are concerned about their parents’ growing frailties.*

**it’s no skin off my nose** there is nothing to worry about as you are not influenced by it and not responsible for it *After all, it’s no skin off your nose.” I thought to myself.*

**nail-biting** worries *One of the hardest results to forecast, even in this year’s nail-biting election, is who will be Missouri’s governor after the voting on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.*

### WORRYING IS DISTORTION

**a bag/bundle of nerves** someone who keeps worrying all the time *He was a bundle of nerves before his speech.*

**get/have your knickers in a twist** to be highly-tense and worried about a situation *If you have your knickers in a twist it won't help much.*

***Put the idioms into the right groups of metaphors, metonymies or blends.***

**A) WORRIES ARE HEAT**

**B) WORRIES ARE A WEIGHT**

**C) WORRYING IS DISTORTION**

**D) WORRYING IS LOSING BODY PARTS**

- 1. a load/weight off your mind**
- 2. nail-biting**
- 3. a bag/bundle of nerves**
- 4. leave someone to stew / let someone stew**
- 5. it's no skin off my nose**
- 6. hot and cold**
- 7. get/have your knickers in a twist**
- 8. prey on someone's mind**
- 9. get red-faced**
- 10. with a heavy heart**

# III. KEY TO THE EXERCISES

## 1. ACHIEVEMENT

1. B first past the post 2. A do the business 3. A in the can 4. C kill two birds with one stone 5. A a jewel in their crown 6. A give it my best shot 7. B in the frame 8. C going around in circles
2. 2. in the can 2. jewel in their crown 3. the first past the post 4 running around in small circles 5. kill two birds with one stone 6. by fair means or foul 7. gave it the best shot 8. in the frame 9. a feather in the cap 10. deliver the goods 11. did the job 12. does the trick

## 2. ADVANTAGE

1. 1. in the clear 2. to lose his edge 3. get one up on 4. had all the aces 5. a bargaining counter 6. swings and roundabouts
2. 1. G 2. F 3. H 4. E 5. C 6. D 7. B 8. A

## 3. AGE

1. Journey 2. Animal 3. Journey 4. Object 5. Object 6. Journey 7. Journey 8. Animal 9. Journey 10. Journey

## 4. AGREEMENT

1. MC 2. B 3. MC 4. B 5. MC 6. MC 7. MC 8. B 9. MC 10. MC 11. MC 12. MC 13. MC 14. MC

## 5. ANGER

- 1/A 2/C 3/F 4/K 5/E 6/J 7/L 8/J 9/B 10/J 11/J 12/K 13/L 14/K 15/A 16/B 17/D 18/G 19/M 20/H

## 6. ARGUING

1. C 2. B 3. E 4. D 5. B 6. C 7. E 8. B 9. B 10. A

## 7. BAD

1. 1. through 2. lesser 3. are 4. taste 5. sheep 6. best 7. centre 8. blow
2. 1. get even 2. feel the chill from 3. isn't as black as he was painted 4. no great shakes

## 8. BELIEF

1. D 2. C 3. E 4. F 5. F 6. F 7. B 8. D 9. F 10. E

### 9. CALMNESS

1. as gentle as a lamb 2. keep your head 3. cold blood 4. keep a cool head 5. as cool as a cucumber  
6. the calm before the storm 7. turn the other cheek 8. played it cool
1. B smoothing ruffled feathers 2. A had the nerve 3. A keep your chin up 4. C Keep your hair  
on 5. Keep a cool head

### 10. CHANCE

1. B 2. D 3. E 4. F 5. B 6. A 7. B 8. E 9. F 10. D

### 11. CONFUSION

1. D 2. E 3. B 4. C 5. E 6. E 7. B 8. A 9. C 10. E

### 12. CONTROL

1. A 2. D 3. E 4. A 5. C 6. B 7. E 8. D 9. F 10. G 11. F  
12. C 13. G 14. B 15. H 16. F 17. A 18. F 19. G 20. D 21. C 22. F  
23. C 24. G.

### 13. CRAZE

1. A 2. B 3. A 4. C 5. A 6. C 7. A 8. B

### 14. CRITICISM

1. A 2. C 3. E 4. F 5. G 6. H 7. D 8. C 9. F 10. G 11. H  
12. B 13. E 14. F 15. D

### 15. DIFFICULTY

1. baby steps 2. meat in the sandwich 3. out of the wood 4. through thick and thin 5. cloud on  
the horizon 6. make it hot for you 7. mind boggles 8. on the hook 9. tall order 10. frog in his  
throat
1. C 2. F 3. A 4. G 5. H 6. B 7. D 8. E

### 16. EASE

1. D *a piece of cake* 2. C *while the going was good* 3. F *falling into his lap* 4. A *with one hand  
tied behind my back* 5. B *a soft touch* 6. E *meat and drink*
1. *plain* 2. *eyes* 3. *play* 4. *least* 5. *smoothed*

### 17. EXCITEMENT

1. A 2. C 3. C 4. A 5. B 6. C 7. A 8. C 9. C 10. B

### **18. FAILURE**

1. 1. off 2. of 3. around 4. in 5. through
2. 1. losing 2. Fallen 3. weak 4. sour 5. dead 6. sinking
3. 1. get burnt 2. getting your fingers burnt 3. running around in circles 4. go far 5. have missed the boat 6. drop another ball

### **19. FRIGHT**

1. 1. hair-raising 2. jump out of your skin 3. send chills down your spine 4. quake in your boots 5. find their tongues 6. give me the creeps
2. 1. were 2. made 3. stand 4. caught

### **20. HAPPINESS**

1. ups and downs 2. keep your pecker up 3. over the moon, in seventh heaven, on top of the world 4. a ray of sunshine 5. with your tail up 6. be on cloud nine

### **21. HONESTY**

1. Why not call a spade a spade? 2. put our cards on the table 3. played fair and square 4. straight from the shoulder 5. the straight and narrow 6. clean hands 7. speak her mind 8. putting their cards on the table 9. above board

### **22. IGNORANCE**

1. in the dark 2. fell on deaf ears 3. tunnel vision 4. turned a blind eye to 5. turned a deaf ear to 6. leave you out in the cold 7. look the other way 8. was given the cold shoulder 9. cut dead 10. blind themselves to 11. hid your head in the sand

### **23. IMPORTANT**

1. 1. light 2. second-fiddle 3. weight 4. big 5. big 6. small
2. 1. a key player 2. make your weight felt 3. a big cheese/noise/shot/fish 4. play second fiddle 5. not the only pebble on the beach 6. on the map 7. add his weight to 8. too big for your boots

### **24. KNOWLEDGE**

1. a dark horse 2. know something inside out / know something like the back of your hand 3. be ahead of the game 4. have (got)/keep one's finger on the pulse (of something 5. off the top of your head 6. have your head in the clouds 7. with your eyes open 8. keep track of something

### **25. LISTENING**

1. C 2. D 3. E 4. F 5. A 6. B

### 26. MONEY

1. a golden handshake
2. a meal ticket
3. a money spinner
4. hand over fist
5. a nest egg
6. bringing home the bacon
7. chicken feed
8. lining their pockets

### 27. OPINION

1. a
2. b
3. a
4. c
5. b
6. b
7. c
8. c

### 28. OPPORTUNITY

1. easy rider
2. a free ride
3. Catch the wave
4. miss the boat
5. a calling card
6. deal all players a card
7. free rein
8. a bigger fish to come

### 29. POSITION

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. A
5. C
6. A
7. B
8. C
9. B
10. A

### 30. POSTPONEMENT

1. on ice
2. put on hold
3. shelf a plan
4. on the back burner

### 31. POWER

- 1-13, 2-1, 3-3/9, 4-6/10, 5-12, 6-11, 7-4, 8-8, 9-2, 10-5, 11-7,

### 32. PROBLEM

1. A
2. B
3. D
4. C
5. D
6. C
7. A
8. D
9. E
10. A
11. E
12. D

### 33. RECOVERY

1. and
2. good
3. fall
4. corner
5. out
6. back
7. yourself
8. land

### 34. REFUSAL

1. RS
2. HYG
3. RS
4. HYG
5. RS

### 35. RESPONSIBILITY

1. carrying the world on his shoulders
2. a cross to bear
3. too much on his plate
4. shoulders this duty fell on
5. land on your lap
6. off their hands
7. out of her hands
8. on her hands
9. passed the baton
10. pointing your fingers at
11. wash their hands of
12. in the hands of

### 36. REVELATION

1. C
2. A
3. B
4. D
5. C
6. E
7. B
8. A
9. C
10. B
11. D
12. D

**37. SECRECY**

1. 1. J 2. H 3. D 4. G 5. F 6. A 7. E 8. I 9. C 10. B  
2. 1. but I'm not sure what she was up to. 2. won't surely be disclosed before the end of the year.  
3. Let us keep our intentions dark as long as we can. 4. we'd better keep it under our hat 5. You can trust me.

**38. SEEING**

1. had his eye on 2. with the naked eye 3. gazing at their navels 4. have your eye on 5. more than meets the eye 6. see beyond the end of his nose

**39. SUCCESS**

1. A 2. F 3. B 4. G 5. G 6. F 7. B 8. G 9. A 10. A 11. F 12. E 13. A  
14. A 15. E 16. E 17. E 18. H 19. A 20. H

**40. SUPPORT**

1. C 2. B 3. D 4. B 5. D 6. C 7. C 8. C 9. C 10. C 11. D 12. A

**41. THINKING**

- 1/S 2/BP 3/BP 4/S 5/BP 6/BP 7/BP

**42. TIME**

1. along 2. go 3. tail 4. along 5. cows 6. way 7. off 8. point

**43. WASTING**

1. TIME 2. BENEFITS 3. MONEY 4. ENERGY 5. RESOURCES 6. MONEY 7. TIME  
8. TIME 9. TIME 10. TIME

**44. WORK**

1. gears 2. forward 3. gut 4. out 5. wheel 6. grindstone 7. overdrive 8. bone 9. board  
10. deck 11. running 12. weight

**45. WORRIES**

1. B 2. D 3. C 4. A 5. D 6. A 7. C 8. B 9. A 10. B