



Name: _____

Idioms

Idioms are expressions that have particular meanings that are often not related to the words that make them up. The expression "make ends meet", which means to spend just as much money as you make, does not give you any clues of its true meaning if you just look at the individual words. In English, there many idioms that use body parts, food, measurements, animals, etc. Are there many idioms in your own language?

The examples below have an idiom with a body part. Can you guess the meaning of each idiom from the context? Write down what you think they mean.

- ❖ I don't like telling things to Jane. She has a **big mouth** and can't keep any secrets.

- ❖ Everything in that new boutique **costs an arm and a leg**. I don't think I can afford to buy anything there.

- ❖ I have a **sweet tooth**: I like chocolate, ice cream, and almost all kinds of desserts.

- ❖ Trying to find a parking space downtown is really a **pain in the neck**.

- ❖ Don't listen to John. He's just **pulling your leg** about us having a test tomorrow.

- ❖ I **put my foot in my mouth** when I told my Julie we were having a surprise party for her!

- ❖ I can't get along with my sister. We don't **see eye to eye** on almost anything.

- ❖ You have to learn the times tables **by heart**.

- ❖ My sister is amazing. She prepared a huge party form my niece and she was still able to **keep everything under her thumb**.



Now, try to match each idiom with its definition.

IDIOM	MEANING
1. to have a big mouth	a. under one's total control
2. to cost an arm and a leg	b. talk too much and cannot keep secrets
3. to have a sweet tooth	c. to play a prank or make a joke
4. a pain in the neck	d. memorize something
5. to pull someone's leg	e. annoying, irritating
6. to put one's foot in one's mouth	f. to be very expensive
7. to see eye to eye	g. say something inappropriate that makes one angry or embarrassed
8. know something by heart	h. to completely get along
9. under one's thumb	i. to have a taste for sweets

Now, choose five idioms you think will be more useful to you and make one sentence with each of them.
