

Find somebody who...

1. has taken somebody's side recently _____
2. has shown somebody who's boss _____
3. has laughed like a drain recently _____
4. has a labour of love _____
5. has been kept in the dark about something _____
6. is in the middle of something _____
7. has got thick skin _____
8. is counting the days _____
9. has gone up the wall about something _____
10. has buried the hatchet _____
11. has done something by the skin of their teeth _____
12. takes people at face value _____
13. has ironed something out _____
14. has heard the patter of tiny feet _____
15. knows a ray of sunshine _____
16. has shown their mettle _____
17. has shouldered the burden _____
18. has spilled the beans _____
19. is toeing the line _____
20. can keep dead-pan _____

TEACHERS NOTES

AIM to learn and practise some popular English idioms

LEVEL Post-intermediate / advanced

TIME 1 hour

- PROCEDURE**
- Teacher hands out worksheet and students look at each of the twenty idioms, ticking the ones they know, and leaving the ones they don't.
 - Students stand up and move around the class and ask other people if they know the meaning of the idioms they have not ticked, while at the same time explaining the idioms which they have ticked to other students.
 - Class feed-back with teacher confirming if student's explanations are accurate and explaining idioms unknown by all students.
 - Students stand up again and move around the class asking other students the twenty questions and looking for a positive response. When they find someone who gives a positive response, they write down the person's name on their worksheet and ask them one follow-up question connected to the first e.g. 'Who's side did you take?' as a follow-up to question 1.
 - When this exercise is completed, students return to their seats and report back to the teacher on what they have discovered.

to take somebody's side	to support someone in an argument/disagreement
to show somebody who is boss	to demonstrate to someone who has authority and is in charge
to laugh like a drain	to laugh very loudly and in an uncontrolled manner
to have a labour of love	something which they do not through necessity, but because it is their passion
to be kept in the dark about something	to keep a secret from someone
to be in the middle of something	to be in the process of doing something
to have thick skin	to not be bothered by criticism very easily
to count the days	to be waiting for something impatiently
to go up the wall about something	to be very angry about something
to bury the hatchet	to forgive / forget and become friends with somebody
to do something by the skin of your teeth	to achieve, but only just and with great difficulty
to take people at face value	to accept what people say to you without questioning it
to iron something out	to organise the details of a plan which has been agreed upon in a general sense
to hear the patter of tiny feet	to have small children at home (normally your own)
to be a ray of sunshine	to be someone who makes everybody feel better and happier
to show your mettle	to prove your courage
to shoulder the burden	to accept responsibility for something
to spill the beans	to give away information
to toe the line	to accept and use the rules agreed upon by everybody (even if you may not agree with them)
to be dead-pan	to keep an unemotional expression on your face when you might be expected to show some kind of emotion