

# Idioms about the Body



**1 Warm Up Work with a partner.**

- Do you have a favorite idiom?

**2 Matching Work with a partner.**

Match the body part to the idiom. What do you think the idiom means?

leg      feet      arm      tongue      neck      hand

1. Just before doing the bungee-jump, Tom got cold .....
2. Sushi costs an ..... and a .....
3. Learning vocabulary is such a pain in the .....
4. Could you lend me a .....? I'm really busy.
5. The answer is on the tip of my .....

**3 Check Match the meaning to the idiom. Write the number from exercise two.**

1. be annoying \_\_\_\_\_
2. help someone \_\_\_\_\_
3. become scared \_\_\_\_\_
4. can *almost* remember \_\_\_\_\_
5. be expensive \_\_\_\_\_

**4 Check! Rewrite these sentences using an idiom from the list above.**

1. Staying in a hotel in New York can be really expensive.
2. Can you help me with my homework?
3. I have to go into the office this Sunday. That's really irritating!
4. The Vice-President's name? Oh! I can almost remember it!
5. I was about to sing in front of everyone, but I suddenly became really nervous.

**5 Discussion**

- Do you think the cost of living is high in your country? Which things .....
- Do you find it ..... to learn English vocabulary? How will you memorize today's idioms?
- Do you like 'frightening' activities like bungee-jumping or roller-coasters? Do you ever .....

# Idioms about the Body: Teaching Notes

<b>Target Structure:</b>	Idiom Building
<b>Vocabulary:</b>	Body-themed idioms
<b>Level:</b>	Upper-intermediate to Advanced
<b>Time:</b>	45 minutes, depending on discussion
<b>Preparation:</b>	None

## Suggested Teaching Method

This worksheet looks at some common idioms which are connected with the body. There are a number of exercises to recycle the idioms, including discussion at the end.

- 1 The opening question introduces the topic. Students can work in pairs for this.  
Elicit a few examples from the group.
- 2 Follow the instructions. Students can work alone, and then check in pairs.
- 3 Again, students can work alone and check in pairs. Elicit the answers from the group, and give further explanations or examples where necessary.  
  
You might point out the idiom '*a pain in the neck*' is sometimes cut to just '*a pain*'.  
Also, '*get cold feet*' has the nuance that the person was originally confident, but lost that confidence.  
  
After going through the answers, give the students one minute to read the idioms again, and memorize them.
- 4 This exercise checks your students' ability to use the idioms in sentences. Students can work in pairs, and then check with a student from a different pair. For this exercise, have students cover the previous exercises.  
  
Go through the answers with the group.
- 5 Assign new pairs or groups of three. The pairs/groups should begin by reading through the questions, and writing in the appropriate idiom.  
  
Check the answers with the class.  
  
The students can then proceed with the discussion questions. When students are talking, monitor, but try not to interrupt. Make a note of errors which you think need correcting: especially ones which cover these idioms.  
  
When the discussion comes to a close, write some of the errors you heard on the board, and elicit corrections.

**The answer key can be found on the next page.**

**Answer Key (Other answers may be possible)****2**

1. Just before doing the bungee-jump, Tom got cold feet.
2. Sushi costs an arm and a leg.
3. Learning vocabulary is such a pain in the neck!
4. Could you lend me a hand? I'm really busy.
5. The answer is on the tip of my tongue.

**3**

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. be annoying                | 3 |
| 2. help someone               | 4 |
| 3. become scared              | 1 |
| 4. can <i>almost</i> remember | 5 |
| 5. be expensive               | 2 |

**4**

1. Staying in a hotel in New York can cost an arm and a leg.
2. Can you lend me a hand with my homework?
3. I have to go into the office this Sunday. That's a pain in the neck!
4. The Vice-President's name? Oh! It's on the tip of my tongue!
5. I was about to sing in front of everyone, but I suddenly got cold feet.

**5**

- Do you think the cost of living is high in your country? Which things cost an arm and a leg?
- Do you find it a pain in the neck to learn English vocabulary? How will you memorize today's idioms?
- Do you like 'frightening' activities like bungee-jumping or roller-coasters? Do you ever get cold feet?

**How are we doing?**

We'd be pleased to hear some feedback on our worksheets. Tell us how it went in your class. You can send us feedback from [www.handoutsonline.com](http://www.handoutsonline.com) .

Alternatively, you can email the editor at [editor@handoutsonline.com](mailto:editor@handoutsonline.com).

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