

Idiom Builder: Water

1 Warm Up: Work with a partner

Are there any water-related idioms in your language?

2 Matching: Match the words to the idiom

Match the words to the idiom. What do you think the expression means?



hot bridge head fish dull mouth

- I have so much homework to do! I can hardly keep my above water!
- George will never survive overseas. He'll be like a out of water!
- The photos on that recipe blog really make my water. Let's make something!
- My new job is as as dishwater! I just stare at a computer screen all day!
- Tom and I argued a lot a few years ago. However, it's water under the We're friends again now.
- Robert is in water. He's lost the key to the safe!

3 Language Check: Match the meaning to the idiom from exercise two.

- to look delicious
- to be boring
- to be in trouble
- something unfortunate that happened in the past
- to be somewhere unfamiliar or uncomfortable
- to survive / manage / keep going

4 Check: Rewrite the sentences using an idiom from the list above.

- No – I never watch soap operas! **They are so uninteresting.** I prefer reality shows!
- Tom is a city person. When he moved out to the countryside, **he felt it was really different.**
- "Are you still angry with your ex-boss?" "Not really. **It happened a long time ago and can't be changed.**"
- If this presentation isn't ready by tomorrow, **I'm going to be in big trouble.**
- Training to be a doctor is really hard. **It's difficult to keep going.**
- Just thinking about your carrot cake **makes me want to eat it!**

5 Discussion: Work with a partner or in small groups.



- When were you last **in hot water**?
- What jobs do you think would be **as dull as dishwater**?
- Would your cooking **make someone's mouth water**? What is your most impressive dish?
- Is your life hectic? Is it difficult to **keep your head above water**?

Idiom Builder: Water (Teaching Notes)

Target Structure:	Idiom building
Vocabulary:	Idioms themed around water
Level:	Intermediate +
Time:	45 minutes, depending on discussion
Preparation:	None

Suggested Teaching Method:

This worksheet looks at some common expressions themed around water. There are a number of exercises to recycle the idioms, including discussion at the end.

- 1 Hand out one worksheet to each student.
Have students try to directly translate an idiom from their own language into English. If the translated idiom is similar to one of the idioms in the lesson, don't comment on it at this point! Instead, have students discover the idiom during the lesson.
- 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.
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.
- 5 Go through the answers with the group. Accept any answers that make grammatical (and logical) sense.

Answer Key (Other answers may be possible)

- 2
 1. I have so much homework to do! I can hardly keep my **head** above water!
 2. George will never survive overseas. He'll be like a **fish** out of water!
 3. The photos on that recipe blog really make my **mouth** water. Let's make something!
 4. My new job is as **dull** as dishwater! I just stare at a computer screen all day!
 5. Tom and I argued a lot a few years ago. However, it's water under the **bridge**. We're friends again now.
 6. Robert is in **hot** water. He's lost the key to the safe!
- 3

1.	to look delicious	3
2.	to be boring	4
3.	to be in trouble	6
4.	something unfortunate that happened in the past	5
5.	to be somewhere unfamiliar or uncomfortable	2
6.	to survive / manage / keep going	1
- 4
 1. No – I never watch soap operas! **They are as dull as dishwater**. I prefer reality shows!
 2. Tom is a city person. When he moved out to the countryside, **he felt like a fish out of water**.
 3. "Are you still angry with your ex-boss?" "Not really. **It's water under the bridge**."
 4. If this presentation isn't ready by tomorrow, **I'm going to be in hot water**.
 5. Training to be a doctor is really hard. **It's difficult to keep your head above water**.
 6. Just thinking about your carrot cake **makes my mouth water**!