Food and clothes

The idioms in these exercises all contain words related to food or clothes.

1 Match the first half of each idiom (1–5) with the second half (a–e).

1 He wasn’t at all nervous. He was .......... 
2 The product has only been on the market for six months but already it’s .......... 
3 Two characters couldn’t be more different – they’re .......... 
4 I couldn’t believe there were so many options before me – I was .......... 
5 She does a bit of performing and a lot of teaching – the teaching is her .......... 

a selling like hot cakes. 
b like a child in a sweet shop. 
c bread and butter. 
d like chalk and cheese. 
e as cool as a cucumber.
2 Match the idioms (a–e) in exercise 1 with their meanings (1–5).

1 main way of earning money ........
2 completely different ............
3 selling in large quantities ........
4 very relaxed, calm, and unemotional ........
5 very excited to be doing or having many different things ........

3 Replace the underlined words with the correct idiom (a–f).

1 My mother made all the important decisions in that relationship! ........
2 She raised those three children on her own – I feel admiration and respect for her. ........
3 I wouldn’t want to experience what she experiences when Karl finds out how much money she’s lost. ........
4 People always get annoyed when the government starts to discuss tax increases. ........
5 Unless her work improves, she’ll be made to leave the company. ........
6 If she doesn’t improve her work, she’ll fail all her exams. ........

a get hot under the collar
b take my hat off to
c wore the trousers
d pull her socks up
e get the boot
f be in her shoes
Complete the conversation with idioms from exercises 1 and 2. Use the correct form of any words.

**Marco:** Have you heard from Luca recently?

**Paolo:** No, he hasn’t been in touch for ages. I heard that he had lost his job.

**Marco:** Oh yeah, that’s right. Didn’t he **get the boot**?

**Paolo:** Yeah. He wasn’t working hard enough so they told him to **get the boot**. He didn’t improve his performance so that was it – no job.

**Marco:** Luca is a nice guy, but he’s so lazy. It’s incredible to think that he’s Roberto’s brother. Roberto is so hard-working.

**Paolo:** I know, those two brothers are like **opposites attract**. Didn’t Roberto set up his own company, making tents?

**Marco:** Yes, and they’re selling **tents**. He’s making a lot of money.

**Paolo:** Good for him. You have to **admire** people who set up their own companies. It’s very brave.
For each sentence, complete the response with an idiom from exercise 1 or 3.

1. A: Isabella is clearly the boss in that relationship.
   B: *Yes, she definitely wears the trousers.*

2. A: Imagine the scene when Erik’s Dad finds out that he’s crashed his car!
   B: *I know! I wouldn’t like* ...

3. A: Most people get nervous before interviews, but not Olga.
   B: *Yes, she’s* ...

4. A: His main source of income is selling computers.
   B: *Yes, that’s his* ...

5. A: With so many options before me I was so excited.
   B: *I know! You were* ...

6. A: A lot of people get very annoyed about this issue.
   B: *Yes, they do get* ...
### Food and clothes – Answer key

#### Exercise 1
1. e  
2. a  
3. d  
4. b  
5. c

#### Exercise 2
1. c  
2. d  
3. a  
4. e  
5. b

#### Exercise 3
1. c  
2. b  
3. f  
4. a  
5. e  
6. d

#### Exercise 4
1. get the boot  
2. pull his socks up  
3. chalk and cheese  
4. like hot cakes  
5. take your hat off

#### Exercise 5
1. Yes, she definitely wears the trousers.  
2. I know! I wouldn’t like to be in his shoes.  
3. Yes, she’s as cool as a cucumber.  
4. Yes, that’s his bread and butter.  
5. I know! You were like a child in a sweet shop.  
6. Yes, they do get hot under the collar.