

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*e*.....
 - 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
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- 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^c
- 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!^c
- 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

4 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 ¹ *get the boot* ?

Paolo: Yeah. He wasn't working hard enough so they told him to
² 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 ³ Didn't Roberto set up his own company, making tents?

Marco: Yes, and they're selling ⁴ He's making a lot of money.

Paolo: Good for him. You have to ⁵ to people who set up their own companies. It's very brave.

5 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.