

Involvement and interest

All the idioms in these exercises relate to getting involved in activities and feeling interest in activities or subjects.

- 1** Complete the idioms with these words. (The meaning of each idiom is explained in *italics* under the sentence.)

love pie tea get pricked poking in breathed

- 1 Steve spends a lot of his spare time fixing up old cars but it's **a labour of** *love* for him.
something that he does because he loves it
- 2 Olivia has **lived and** ballet since she was a little girl.
loved and spent all her time doing
- 3 It's a project that really interests me and I can't wait to **my teeth into** it.
start doing it with great energy and enthusiasm
- 4 I was still teaching because I had to earn money but **my heart wasn't** it.
I no longer had any enthusiasm for it
- 5 Isabel **up her ears** when I mentioned the word 'cake'.
started to listen and show interest
- 6 Adam works on various projects – he **has a finger in every**
is involved in many different activities
- 7 Modern dance is **not** really **my cup of**
not something that I like or am interested in
- 8 I wish he would stop **his nose into** other people's business!
interfering in when it does not concern him

2 Match the sentence halves.

- 1 He **lives and breathes** football – it's his*f*.....
 - 2 I noticed he **pricked up his ears** when
 - 3 I don't read short stories – I prefer to **get my teeth into**
 - 4 If painting and drawing **aren't your cup of tea**,
 - 5 Restoring old buildings is a **labour of love** for Michael – he would
 - 6 She **has a finger in every pie** – I've lost count
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- a why not do an outdoor activity instead, such as hiking or canoeing?
 - b gladly do it for no money.
 - c of the number of projects she's involved in.
 - d a nice long novel.
 - e I mentioned Lucy's name.
 - f whole life really.

3 Circle the correct answer (a, b or c).

1 If you **get in on the act**, you:

- a start doing something that someone else started, in order to get the same advantage as them.
- b decide you want to be an actor.
- c pretend to be involved in something.

2 If you **jump on the bandwagon**, you:

- a become involved in a criminal activity with other people.
- b suddenly become involved in an activity because everyone else is doing it.
- c become involved with a group of musicians.

3 If you **get the bit between** your **teeth**, you:

- a start to do something yourself and refuse to let other people become involved.
- b become aggressive.
- c become very enthusiastic and determined about doing a particular task.

4 If something **floats** your **boat**,

- a you find it exciting, attractive or interesting.
- b it helps you to succeed in an activity.
- c it makes you crazy.

5 If you **get your hands dirty**, you:

- a take responsibility for something bad that you have done.
- b get involved in all aspects of a job, including the dirty or unpleasant parts.
- c do something bad or immoral.

6 If you are **in the thick of it**, you:

- a are very involved in something.
- b are not making any progress with an activity.
- c are doing something with a big group of people.

Involvement and interest – Answer key

Exercise 1

- 1 love
- 2 breathed
- 3 get
- 4 in
- 5 pricked
- 6 pie
- 7 tea
- 8 poking

Exercise 2

- 1 f
- 2 e
- 3 d
- 4 a
- 5 b
- 6 c

Exercise 3

- 1 a
- 2 b
- 3 c
- 4 a
- 5 b
- 6 a