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 loved and spent all her time doing 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 start doing it with great energy and enthusiasm.
      start doing it with great energy and enthusiasm

   4. I was still teaching because I had to earn money but my heart wasn't interested in it.
      I no longer had any enthusiasm for it

   5. Isabel started to listen and show interest 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.
      is involved in many different activities

   7. Modern dance is not really my cup of not something that I like or am interested in.
      my cup of

   8. I wish he would stop interfering in when it does not concern him his nose into other people's business!
      interfering in when it does not concern him
Match the sentence halves.

1. He lives and breathes football – it's his ........

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 ........

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.
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