

Unit 24 Eating Idioms

1: Non-literal meanings

Here are some common idioms using 'eating' words. Match them up with their meanings:

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|------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1. It's not my taste. | a. I am extremely hungry. |
| 2. I had to eat my words. | b. I don't like it. |
| 3. I've had my fill. | c. It wasn't popular. |
| 4. That didn't go down well. | d. I was proved to be wrong. |
| 5. I bit his head off. | e. I spoke sharply to him. |
| 6. I made a meal of it. | f. I don't want any more. |
| 7. I could eat a horse. | g. I love chocolates and other sweets. |
| 8. I've got a sweet tooth. | h. I took too long to do it. |



"How dare you accuse me of biting your head off!"

2: I could eat a horse

Complete these dialogues with the idioms in Exercise 1. You will need to change some of them a little.

- Are you still hungry?
> Yes,
- I thought you liked opera.
> No, in music at all.
- What do you think of the new tax on plane tickets?
> It won't with business people or people living in outlying areas.
- Do you think Jane will have a dessert?
> I'm sure she will. She's always had
- I had said absolutely nothing, so I have no idea why Bill. !
> I know. I spoke to him and he's sorry he said what he said. He's going to apologise to you personally.

6. My teacher told me I'd fail all my exams. Then I passed with the top grades!
> I suppose you made him !
7. I've been working on this essay for weeks. I don't know when I'll get it finished.
> You'll have to hurry up. You're !
8. So, Nigel, you're not standing for the committee again this year?
> No, I've of committees. I'm stepping down.

3: Swallow your pride

Use the following idiomatic expressions in the situations below:

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|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| a. <i>left a bad taste in my mouth</i> | e. <i>swallow your pride</i> |
| b. <i>bit my head off</i> | f. <i>something to get my teeth into</i> |
| c. <i>digest</i> | g. <i>a second bite at the cherry</i> |
| d. <i>have your cake and eat it</i> | h. <i>bite off more than you can chew</i> |

1. I can't afford the rent on my flat. My parents have said I can go back and live with them but I'd feel such a failure.
> I think you'll just have to and accept their help.
2. Keep away from Christine this morning. She's in a bad mood.
> I know. She for no reason when I arrived.
3. So, Tom apologised for what he'd said to you?
> Yes, but the whole experience has
4. I thought you liked your job. Why do you want a change?
> I need a fresh challenge -
5. I'm going to try to fix the car myself.
> Well, if it's difficult, don't do it. Don't
6. So, what do you think about the new budget proposals, then?
> I haven't really had time to all the details yet.
7. I feel like a few days off, but I really need the overtime.
> The problem with you is you always want to
8. I've failed my university entrance exam. I'm not sure if I can re-take it.
> I expect you can. You're allowed, surely?

4: Revision

Choose the correct word in the sentences below:

1. I bit off more than I could *swallow/chew*.
2. You can't have a second *bite/chew* at the cherry.
3. He had to *eat/swallow* his words.
4. *Bite/Swallow* your pride and say you'll accept.
5. I need something to get my *teeth/tooth* into.
6. It left a bad *smell/taste* in my mouth.
7. I said sorry but she just *bit/chewed* my head off.
8. My idea didn't go *up/down* very well.

When was the last time you bit off more than you could chew?