

Unit 30 Food Idioms

1: Literal meanings

Fill in the following words in the definitions below:

couch
stew

pinch
spices

sliced
icing

variety
pickle

1. A is another word for sofa.
2. Some people prefer to buy uncut bread. Some prefer to buy it already.
3. If you meat, you cook it slowly in liquid in a pan with the lid on.
4. Wedding cakes are usually covered in thick sweet white
5. Ginger, cinnamon, pepper and cloves are all examples of.
6. My job is not the same every day. There's plenty of.
7. A of salt is the amount you can pick up between your finger and thumb.
8. If you onions, you preserve them in vinegar.

2: Not my cup of tea

Complete the idioms in the following sentences with these expressions:

a. *a piece of cake*
b. *couch potato*
c. *food for thought*
d. *not my cup of tea*
e. *hot cakes*

f. *in a pickle*
g. *cucumber*
h. *went pear-shaped*
i. *salt of the earth*
j. *bread and butter*

1. Most of my colleagues go for a drink after work on Fridays but I don't normally go. Going to the pub is
2. My brother works hard during the week but at the weekends he spends most of his time lying on the sofa watching TV. He can be a real
3. The whole peace settlement when the terrorists planted a bomb in the main railway station.
4. I went windsurfing for the first time on Saturday. I thought it was going to be, but I soon realised it was a lot more difficult than I'd expected.
5. So you write novels and poetry, do you?
> Yes, but sports journalism's my
6. Did you see the way Sandra handled that aggressive customer? She was as cool as a
7. It would only take the cost of a few fighter planes to get rid of leprosy from the world. That's, isn't it?
8. I really like Janet. She's uncomplicated and honest. What you see is what you get. She's always helping people. She's the
9. This is the new Nintendo football game. We've only got two left in the shop. They've been selling like
10. I'm I've got to be at the dentist's in 10 minutes and I'm expecting an important phone call. Could you answer my phone and say I'll be back in about an hour's time?

3: On the breadline

Fill in the following words and expressions in the dialogues below:

- a. *stew in his own juice*
- b. *butter him up*
- c. *cheesed off*
- d. *egg on our face*
- e. *on the breadline*
- f. *take that with a pinch of salt*

1. It says in the paper that our financial situation has never been better.
> Try telling that to the people who are living
2. What's the matter with you? You look totally fed up.
> I am. I was supposed to have a day off on Friday but I've just been told I can't because there's too much work. I'm really
3. A few days before we ask our boss for anything, we start being extra nice to her.
> We do the same with our boss! We just a bit. It's never failed yet!
4. There's a story going about that we're being sold to the Koreans.
> I'd I don't know where nonsense like that starts!
5. I'm going to phone Mike to see if he's ready to say sorry about that argument.
> No, don't do that. It's his fault, so let him for a while.
6. We ended up with
- > How come?
Well, after we had insisted on everyone else doing things correctly, we discovered that we were the ones who had been breaking the rules!

4: The spice of life

Finish the idioms below with the following phrases:

- a. *since sliced bread*
- b. *the icing on the cake*
- c. *eggs in one basket*
- d. *the spice of life*

1. I can't understand people who go on holiday to the same place year after year. I go somewhere different every year. For me, variety is
2. The golden rule with investments is to put your money in a variety of different companies. Don't put all your
3. My new software is the best thing It's made my job so much easier.
4. I love my new job - the people, the work, the money. The fact they've given me the car of my dreams is just

5: Revision

Look back at the idioms in this unit and add the final words:

1. stew in his own
2. take that with a pinch of
3. best thing since sliced
4. variety is the spice of
5. selling like hot
6. with egg on my
7. the icing on the
8. salt of the
9. as cool as a
10. not really my cup of

Have any of your plans gone pear-shaped recently?