

FUMC ESL 12-5-2011 ADVANCED LESSON

Idioms: Read the sentences. Find the definition that matches at the bottom. Answer the questions. Try using this idiom in a sentence.

1-I've only thumbed through the catalog, but it seems there are many pretty dresses in it.

What is the difference between a catalog and a magazine?

Do you get a lot of catalogs in the mail?

Do you ever order any thing from a catalog?

What are your favorite catalogs?

In your country, is it common for people to order clothes from catalogs?

What magazines do you enjoy reading?

2-The architect gave me a thumbnail sketch of the house design.

What does an architect do?

What is the difference between an architect and a builder?

Have you ever worked with an architect to design or remodel a house?

3-If I could pick your brains for a minute, I'm having trouble with my computer. I just can't quite figure out what the problem is.

You could pick my brains about history or art, but don't pick my brain about math. I'm horrible at math. If I were to pick your brains, what is something you know a lot about?

4-Oh, I should have known that. I'm kind of brain dead today. I didn't get much sleep last night.

Describe a time when you felt brain dead.

5-Tim is a good fellow, but a bit slow. He's a great athlete, very muscular. But, I'm afraid he's all brawn and no brains.

Do you think women find men with big muscles attractive?

Which is more attractive, a very muscled athletic man who isn't too smart or a very intelligent man with a weak body?

6-Some countries are experiencing a brain drain. The most intelligent people are moving away to other countries where the economic opportunities are greater.

Talk about this issue. Has your country ever experienced a brain drain? Or has your country benefitted from a brain drain somewhere else?

What is the effect of a brain drain on a country?

7-The police were nosing around her apartment earlier. I wonder if they found anything.

Someone who lies to nose around is called nosey. A nosey person might ask you a lot of questions trying to find out things about you.

Do you know anyone who is noseey?

Do noseey people bother you?

Are you a very private person?

A reply to a noseey person is, "mind your own business". Have you ever told anyone to mind their own business?

8-I spent hours looking for my lost wallet, and it was right under my nose the whole time.

Do you lose things often, then find them later in an obvious place?

Do you have a place you always put your keys and purse when you come in the house?

Do you have a high tolerance for clutter? Does your spouse?

9-I am very good at marketing, but Nancy is the brains behind the organization.

Are you a planner and organizer or are you the person to sell the idea?

10-They asked me whether I wanted a store credit or a cash refund. That was a no-brainer! I took the cash.

Was coming to the U.S. a no-brainer for you or did you have to give it a lot of thought?

11-I am terrified of flying. Just the idea of getting on an airplane makes my hair stand on end. I just don't understand how people can so casually put their lives in the hands of a pilot they don't even know. What makes your hair stand on end?

12-The first time I took the driving test, I failed it. But this time I passed it by the skin of my teeth.

- a)very small picture or short description
- b)by a very small amount
- c)physically strong, but not intelligent
- d)looking around, trying to discover something
- e)browse through a magazine or book
- f)ask someone for advice
- g)mind is not working effectively
- h)movement of intelligent people from one area to another
- i)scares someone
- j)right in front of you
- k)the person who plans and organizes things
- l)the obviously best option
- m)someone interested in finding out things about other people

Grammar: Decide if the verbs in these sentences are correct. Make changes if they are incorrect.

- 1.Sometimes we're going away for weekends.
- 2.I'm never reading papers.
- 3.Jim got up early and taking a shower.
- 4.Tom was tired last night, so he goes to bed early.
- 5.The meals at that restaurant are costing a lot.
- 6.I was hearing a noise, so I looked out the window.

Correct the word order in these sentences.

- 1.Never is my phone ringing.
- 2.Always he is watching me.
- 3.Often they are reading to me.
- 4.Daily he comes to my house to pick me up.
- 5.Constantly they are fighting with each other.