

Vocabulary

Idiomatic expressions

- 1 a Mark the three idiomatic expressions in this description of a relationship. What do they mean?

'When we first met, we hit it off from the word go; you sense immediately if the chemistry's working.'

- b Read the definitions of some more expressions from the text. Mark the correct word in each expression.

- If someone talks about themselves a lot, we say they are full of / filled with / complete in themselves.
 - When you get annoyed with someone, you might make / give / have cross words with them.
 - If you are able to laugh at yourself, it means you don't think of / take / believe yourself too seriously.
 - When you offend someone by interfering in something they are responsible for, you are treading on their shoes / feet / toes.
 - To say a situation is not always happy, easy or comfortable, you can say it is not always a bunch / bed / basket of roses.
 - If you're able to enjoy things that are funny, or you can make people laugh, you have a good skill / feeling / sense of humour.
 - If you are good at noticing things, you have a good sight / eye / vision for something.
 - A discussion, argument or debate that is full of angry and excited feelings is a hot / heated / heavy discussion.
 - When you assist someone who is busy or has problems, you help them up / over / out.
- c Which of the personal characteristics in Exercise 1b apply to you or someone you know?

Expressions that give emphasis

- 2 a Look at the phrases that give emphasis in these extracts from the text. Mark the best meaning.
- It doesn't bother me at all. (extract C)
I am very upset / not upset.
 - ... better than me by a mile ... (extract A)
He was a bit / much better than me.
 - ... which I know a fair bit about ... (extract B)
I know quite a lot / a great deal ...
 - ... we trust each other absolutely ... (extract D)
We consider each other to be very / 100% trustworthy.

- b Use each expression from the box once only to complete the text below.

at all barely absolutely by a mile quite
a bit of a fair bit of full of

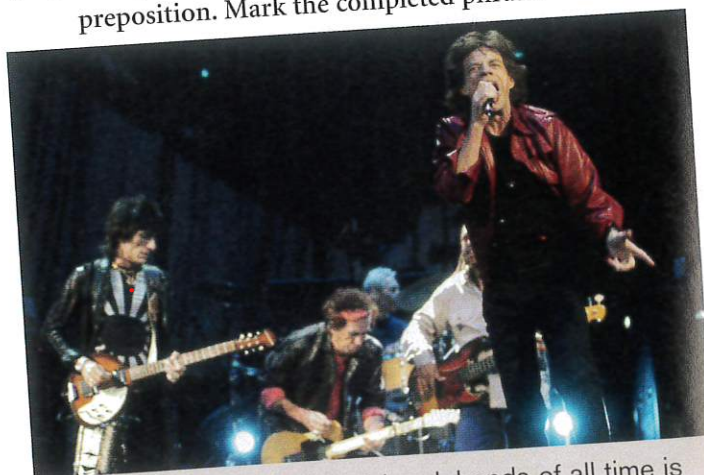
'One of the strangest relationships I have is with someone I can (1)..... communicate with. For many years, I have imported products from a supplier in China called Mr Wu. At the beginning, it was (2)..... difficult – I spoke no Chinese, and he spoke no English, so we had to use interpreters. But now that we've been working together so well for so long, I trust him (3).....'

I'm a busy man, and I do (4)..... of business elsewhere, but Mr Wu is the best supplier I have (5)..... Although I'm (6)..... a perfectionist, I know that when I place an order with him, I don't need to worry about it (7)..... I can be (8)..... confidence that the order will arrive exactly when Mr Wu says it will!

- c What type of words are the expressions in Exercise 2b used with? Where do they fit in the sentence (e.g. before/after a noun/adjective/clause)?

Prepositions

- 3 a Complete the spaces in this text with the correct preposition. Mark the completed phrase.



One of the most successful rock bands of all time is the Rolling Stones, still touring (1)..... a regular basis after 40 years (2)..... the business. They have had a huge effect (3)..... many other groups. One reason for their success is that there isn't any rivalry (4)..... the band members. Mick Jagger, who some people say is 'full (5)..... himself', loves the publicity and dealing (6)..... the media, whereas Charlie Watts prefers to stay (7)..... the background. There have been the occasional arguments, but these should be kept (8)..... perspective.

- b Can you think of any more examples of successful partnerships?