



Idioms 5

Vocabulary > Advanced 7



Exercise 1 – Vocabulary

couch potato	A lazy person who watches a lot of television.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: Nate stayed at home all day long. He is a real couch potato.</i>

catch someone off guard	To surprise someone by doing or saying something they did not expect.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: I caught John off guard and frightened him.</i>

rule the roost	To be in total control; to be the boss; to make all the decisions in a group.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: After my father died, my brother has ruled the roost in our family.</i>

sweat like a pig	To sweat a lot.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: We were all sweating like pigs after the race.</i>

virgin territory	Unexplored or unstudied area; a situation or activity that is completely new to someone.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: He made a ton of money on the internet, back when it was still virgin territory.</i>



Exercise 2 – Reading

Read the text aloud with your tutor.

It's Just Gossiping

Mr. Smith and Mr. Abbott work for a very famous clothing company. Yesterday, it was a hot day in the office, but they had to wear their suits, so they were **sweating like pigs**. To pass the time, they started talking about their coworker, Jake, a former high-school classmate of Mr. Abbott's. Mr. Abbott remembered Jake as a **couch potato** because he would always stay at home and play video games. So, Mr. Abbott was **caught off guard** when he saw Jake working so hard. Mr. Smith said he respected Jake and believed that he could **rule the roost** at the office since he had been trying his best in various **virgin territories** after transferring from the publishing industry.



Exercise 3 – Fill in the Blanks

Fill in the blanks with the correct idioms.

1. Do you ever even think about turning that TV off and going outside? You're such a _____.
2. The students were _____ when the teacher said they were going to have a test.
3. The vice president _____ in the country when the president is away.
4. The weather is so hot today, I'm _____.
5. Joey has been watching movies all day long. He is becoming a _____.
6. Marketing is _____ for me, but I'm really eager to learn.
7. Whenever the king was sick, the queen _____.
8. Lisa was _____ when her crush asked her to dance at the prom.



Exercise 4 – Sentence Construction

Create sentences using the following idioms.

Example: couch potato → Mary is such a couch potato! All she ever does is watch TV!

Content:

1. couch potato
2. catch someone off guard
3. rule the roost
4. sweat like a pig
5. virgin territory