



Idioms 22

Vocabulary > Advanced 7



Exercise 1 – Vocabulary

hands are tied	Not to be able to do something, because of the law, rules, etc.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: I would tell you the answers, but my hands are tied!</i>

heart is in the right place	Used to say that someone has good intentions, although it may not always seem like it.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: Although he is a strict parent, you can tell his heart is in the right place.</i>

a slip of the tongue	Something one says by accident when wanting to say something else.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: She made a slip of the tongue when she called him Mark. His name is Mike.</i>

behind someone's back	Without a person's knowledge (often of rumors or gossip).
[phrase]	<i>Ex: They spread rumors behind my back!</i>

face to face	In person; directly.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: Let's meet face to face, and then talk, okay?</i>



Exercise 2 – Reading

Read the text aloud with your tutor.

Bullying Is Not Cool

When I was in middle school I had a classmate whose name was Sam. Sam was a quiet boy, who was made fun of frequently. Our classmates never teased him **face to face**; they only laughed at him **behind his back**. I had a feeling that he knew about this but pretended he didn't. One day, Sam had to give a presentation in front of the class. He was nervous and, naturally, he had **a slip of the tongue**. It was a funny mistake and Sam stopped talking. The whole classroom burst into laughter. I didn't laugh, but I didn't do anything about it either. At that time, I thought that my **hands were tied** and I couldn't possibly do anything for him. After that lesson, I tried talking to Sam. However, he didn't want to talk to me. My **heart was in the right place**, but Sam probably thought I would laugh at him as well.



Exercise 3 – Fill in the Blanks

Fill in the blanks with the correct idioms.

1. It was _____; of course, polar bears don't live in Africa.
2. My _____ when I said you shouldn't talk too loudly.
3. I would like to help you, but my _____.
4. I prefer talking _____ rather than on the phone.
5. Don't talk _____; that's very rude.
6. His _____, even though he gets into so many fights.
7. They have been meeting up _____! Nobody invited me.
8. His _____; he can't help us with our coursework.



Exercise 4 – Sentence Construction

Create sentences using the following idioms.

Example: hands are tied → I'd like to give all of you a raise, but my hands are tied.

Content:

1. hands are tied
2. heart is in the right place
3. a slip of the tongue
4. behind someone's back
5. face to face