

Work At Full Stretch

Office dialogues

Dialogue 1

Thomas: Come in. Oh, it's you, Maria. What can I do for you?

Maria: Well, you know ... I was wondering ... err ...
whether I could ...

Thomas: Maria, could you please **get straight to the point?**

Maria: I'm not sure if I should attend this meeting, if my
skills and experience are ...

Thomas: For goodness sake Maria, stop **beating about the bush.** What exactly do you mean?

Dialogue 2

John: How did the negotiations go?

Susan: Even better than we'd expected, thank you.

John: Good news! I told you it would be all right.

Susan: That's true. In the beginning, they kept asking some tricky questions. However, after I had answered all of them and presented strong counterarguments, it was **plain sailing**.

John: No more difficulties?

Susan: None, it **went like clockwork**.

Dialogue 3

Rob: Monica, I wouldn't transfer Alex to Michael's team.

Monica: Why not? Michael has **a head for figures** and **great eye for detail**.

Rob: That's not the problem. I've noticed that Alex and Michael frequently argue about projects, meeting schedules and even about our corporate procedures. They don't **see eye to eye** with each other about anything.

Monica: I see ... they are not **on the same wavelength**.

Dialogue 4

Martin: Our IT project seems to be getting more and more unprofitable.

Andrew: I even think that our director is going to **pull the plug on it.**

Martin: I'm not sure. He realizes there are more important things going on right now, but this IT project is relatively important, so I think he is going to **put it on the back burner** for a while.

Dialogue 5

Justine: Peter, I'd like you to meet Jack, our new office assistant.

Peter: Nice to meet you Jack, I'm Peter. How is your first day at work going?

Jack: Hello Peter. Nice to meet you. I really enjoyed my onboarding and I'm sure I'm going to **find my feet** here quite quickly.

Justine: Ok, Jack. I'll leave you in Peter's hands. He is now responsible for **showing you the ropes**.

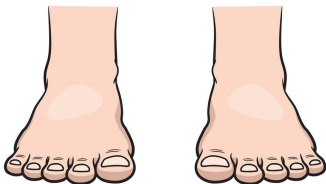
Let's practice!

Which idioms do the pictures represent?

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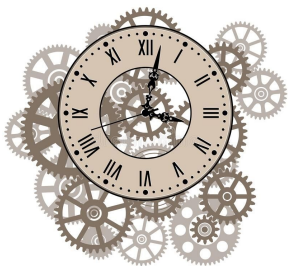
beat about the bush



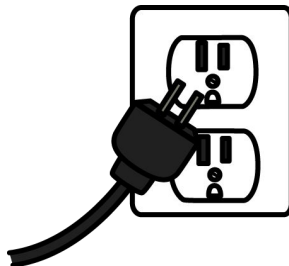
find one's feet



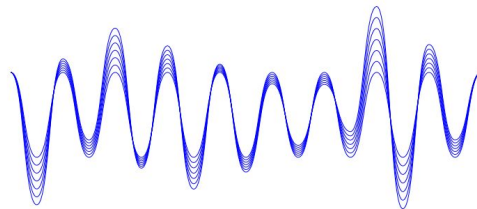
plain sailing



go like clockwork



pull the plug on sth



be on the same wavelength

Complete the sentences

1. We've all had to put our plans on the back burner for a while due to the coronavirus pandemics.
2. The boss and I don't always see eye to eye.
3. A good accountant has to have a great head for figures.
4. The market is fiercely competitive, so it won't be plain sailing to win new customers.
5. In this profession, you're expected to know everything from day one, without anyone showing you the ropes .

Act out the following scenarios, using the given phrases:

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1.

You've recently changed your job. You meet your ex-coworker. Tell him/her how you are settling into your new company.

find one's feet
show sb the ropes
work at full stretch
be on the same wavelength

2.

You've just attended an important meeting with a potential investor to discuss the funding of a big project. It didn't go as you expected. Tell your colleague about it.

go like clockwork
plain sailing
see eye to eye
pull the plug on something