

Verbs

to blink: to quickly open and close your eyes

They blinked as they came out into the daylight again.

to blush: to go red when you are embarrassed

Sarah blushes when people pay her compliments.

to frown: to draw one's eyebrows together because one is either annoyed or concentrating

She looked at the piece of paper and frowned. "I don't understand what it means," she said.

to grin: smile broadly because you are very pleased – though a grin can also be sinister

He grinned at me, then laughed out loud.

to grit your teeth: to put your teeth tightly together, especially because sth is hurting you

I gritted my teeth as the plaster was pulled off my arm.

to lick: move your tongue across the surface of sth

The children were walking along licking lollipops.

to scowl: to have an angry or hostile expression when you disapprove of sth

She scowled at me. "That's disgusting," she said.

to sneer: you sneer to show your contempt/lack of respect

She's a snob and sneers at people who have less money than her.

to wince: to grimace when sth is hurting you or when you are remembering sth embarrassing

He winced as the needle went in.

to wink: to look towards sb and close one eye briefly, usually as a signal that sth is a joke or a secret

It wasn't until he winked at me that I realised he was pulling my leg.

to yawn: you yawn when you are tired or bored

He yawned. "I'm going to bed," he said.

Idioms and Expressions

to keep/have an/your ear to the ground: to be attentive of what is happening or is about to happen

Jack keeps his ear to the ground and can usually let us know what the boss's mood is like.

to lie through your teeth: to tell an outright lie

He's lying through his teeth. What a ridiculous excuse!

to lose face: to lose the respect of other people

If he admitted to making such a terrible mistake, he'd lose face.

to play it by ear: to decide what to do according to how a situation develops

We won't organise the holiday. We'll just play it by ear.

to do sth by the skin of your teeth: to only just manage to do sth

He passed the exam by the skin of his teeth.

to see eye to eye on sth: to agree about sth

We will never see eye to eye on this. Let's just agree to differ.

to turn a blind eye to sth: to deliberately ignore sth

It is illegal to sing in the street, but at Christmas the police tend to turn a blind eye to it.

to turn your nose up at sth: to think sth is not good enough for you

He got her a ring and all she could do was turn her nose up at it.

not to be able to get one's tongue round: (for a word or phrase) to find a word or phrase very difficult to pronounce

I can't get my tongue round even the simplest word in Spanish.

sth catches your eye: you notice sth because it is particularly attractive, unusual or interesting

I was reading the local paper when this ad caught my eye.

I'm all ears: I can't wait to hear

"Come on, tell me. I'm all ears."

my lips are sealed: (informal) I will not tell anyone what you have just told me

I promise I won't tell him. My lips are sealed.

I'll never be able to show my face in there/here again: I feel too embarrassed to go to a particular place because I have previously done sth embarrassing there

He'll never be able to show his face in that restaurant again after the fuss he made last time.

It's on the tip of my tongue: I know it but (annoyingly) I just can't recall it

What was the name of the hotel we stayed at? Oh, it's on the tip of my tongue!

Practice

1. a. Use the verbs below to answer questions 1 to 11.

yawn – wince – wink – sneer – blush – lick – frown – grin – grit – blink – scowl

1 What do you do when you are tired or bored?
You

2 What do you do when you are embarrassed?
You

3 What do you do when you are angry?
You

4 What do you do when you are happy?
You

5 What do you do when something hurts you?
You

- 6 What do you do to a stamp before you put it on a letter?
You it.
- 7 What might you do in anticipation of pain?
You might your teeth.
- 8 How do some people show that they have no respect for what someone has said or done?
They at the other person.
- 9 What would you do if someone shone a light into your eyes?
You would
- 10 What might you do when you disapprove of something or when you don't understand something?
You might
- 11 What might somebody do when they say something to someone but don't mean it seriously?
They might at them.

b. Can you match the pictures to any of the verbs in 1a?



2. Complete the idioms in the sentences with words from the box below.

ear(s) - tongue - face - nose - mouth - teeth - eye(s) - lips

- 1 A: Just promise not to tell anyone about this.
B: Of course. My are sealed.
- 2 I've given up studying German. I can't get my round all those long words.
- 3 It was a dilemma indeed - how to admit that he had done something that was incredibly stupid and yet not lose?
- 4 Of course it's not the truth. He's lying through his
- 5 A good businessman always keeps his to the ground and rarely takes pot luck.

- 6 We're always arguing. We never see to on anything.
- 7 I passed, but only by the skin of my The pass mark was 55 and I got 56.
- 8 A: "You'll never guess what happened to Julie last night."
B: "Tell me. I'm all"
- 9 I made an utter fool of myself. I'll never be able to show my in there again.
- 10 We don't know what they'll say, so we can't plan our next move. We'll have to play it by
- 11 Oh, what's his name? It's ... it's ... oh... it's on the tip of my
- 12 I know it's only a small part but you shouldn't turn your up at it. It's a major film and if they like your acting it may lead to bigger things.
- 13 The police in this country tend to turn a blind to minor traffic offences.
- 14 I was looking through the Sunday supplement and this article on Vietnam caught my I thought you might be interested in it.



3. You will hear an account of an incident that took place in a French restaurant. Listen to the recording, decide whether the sentences below are true (T) or false (F) and tick the correct box.

	T	F
1 Matthew was fluent in French.
2 Norma was sleepy.
3 Norma liked most dishes.
4 Matthew was afraid of making a fool of himself.
5 Matthew had everything planned.
6 Matthew was unable to pronounce some French words.
7 Matthew was deeply embarrassed by his mistake.