

# Using the dictionary

## Understanding idioms

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- A** Many idioms mean something different from what you might think at first. What do these idioms mean? Check in your dictionary.

a nasty piece of work	talk shop
be plain sailing	bring home the bacon
put sb in their place	get sb's goat

- B** All of these phrases below are common idioms. Can you guess the missing words? Then check your answers in your dictionary.

- 1 like father, like \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 two heads are better than \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 boys will be \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 easy come, easy \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 first come, first \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 the end justifies the \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 don't judge a book by its \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 where there's a will there's a \_\_\_\_\_

### C Expressions used in particular circumstances

Decide which is the correct idiom here. What expression is used...

- 1 to say that you don't know something?  
**I ask you! / Don't ask me!**
- 2 when somebody has thanked you?  
**You're welcome! / Please yourself!**
- 3 to say that something isn't very likely?  
**You bet! / Don't bet on it!**
- 4 when you think that somebody has asked a silly question?  
**Do me a favour! / No kidding!**
- 5 to tell somebody that what they were hoping for is not very likely?  
**Watch this space! / In your dreams!**
- 6 to remind somebody that you warned them about this?  
**I told you so! / Eat your heart out!**
- 7 to encourage people and to tell them they are doing something right?  
**That's an idea! / That's the idea!**
- 8 to ask the reason for something?  
**How come? / How long have you got?**
- 9 to say that you don't want to talk about something?  
**Don't mention it! / Let's not even go there!**
- 10 when something is starting to happen?  
**Here you go! / Here we go!**
- 11 to ask whether somebody is interested in something?  
**How does that grab you? / What are you like?**