

12 Rhyming pairs in idioms

Activity A

A number of idioms are composed of rhyming pairs of words joined with *and*.

Complete the idioms below with a word from each box.

doom fair high huff name
slice thrills wear wheel wine

and

deal dice dine dry gloom puff
shame spills square tear

- 1 to publish the names of people or organizations who have done something wrong or illegal _____ and _____
- 2 to do a lot of complicated deals in business or politics, often in a dishonest way _____ and _____
- 3 in a difficult situation, without help or money _____ and _____
- 4 the damage to objects, furniture, property, etc. that is the result of normal use _____ and _____
- 5 a general feeling of having lost all hope, and of pessimism _____ and _____
- 6 to divide information into small parts in order to study it more closely or to see it in different ways _____ and _____
- 7 to go to restaurants, etc. and enjoy good food and drink; to entertain somebody by buying them good food and drink _____ and _____
- 8 to make it obvious that you are annoyed about something without doing anything to change the situation _____ and _____
- 9 the excitement that is involved in dangerous activities, especially sports _____ and _____
- 10 honestly and according to the rules _____ and _____

Activity B

Now choose an idiom to fill the gaps.

- 1 Lots of business people use this restaurant for _____ing and _____ing, or for _____ing and _____ing clients.
- 2 The newspaper says it will _____ and _____ any politician found to be involved in corruption.
- 3 Economic crisis, war, natural disasters ... It's all _____ and _____ on the news these days.
- 4 Cricket is a calm, slow game, without the _____ and _____ of, say, ice-hockey.
- 5 These statistics could be used in lots of different ways—it just depends how you _____ and _____ them.
- 6 The boss will _____ and _____ if you ask him for the day off, but he always says yes.
- 7 He says I cheated, but I beat him _____ and _____!
- 8 My business failed because the main investor withdrew at the last minute and left me _____ and _____.
- 9 They use plastic seats in stadiums because they're resistant to _____ and _____ and will last for years.

Activity C

Discuss the question with a partner:

Do you use pairs of words in a similar way in your language? If so, tell your partner three examples.