Achilles’ heel

Idiom of the month

a cura di Sarah Gudgeon

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1. Tick four things that are vulnerabilities.

being greedy   being kind   being too generous
being too open   being too trusting   being happy

2a. Read

Lucy, where’s that big bar of chocolate?

Lucy...

Ok, I’m sorry! I ate it all yesterday. It’s not my fault. Chocolate is my Achilles’ heel!

2b. Complete

Grant gets really upset when people call him ‘Grant the Giant’. His height is his

When someone has a weak spot, something that makes them more vulnerable, we call it their Achilles’ heel.
3. Read these idioms derived from Greek mythology. Match each idiomatic phrase (a – e) to the correct definition (1 – 5).

a. Samantha is terrible at computer games. It is her **Achilles’ heel**.

b. Jake is really good-looking – he is an **Adonis**.

c. They **opened a Pandora’s box** when they asked the students what they didn’t like about school.

d. You should **beware of Greeks bearing gifts**, you never know what they really want.

e. My mum **harps on** all the time about how important school is.

1. ... gorgeous / very handsome ...

2. ... talks constantly ...

3. ... suspicious of people who seem too kind...

4. ... started trouble / invited problems...

5. ... weak spot ...

4. Complete these sentences with an idiom from exercise 3.

a. My mum says you should ................................................................. because some people have a selfish reason for doing something.

b. That Hollywood actor is a real .................................................. He’s so handsome.

c. My dad ............................................................... when he gave my sister a smartphone. She uses it all the time now, and doesn’t study.

d. Mr. Smith ........................................ all the time about how happy he was when he was a child.

e. Adriana is really good at school but she’s bad at music, it’s her ...........................................................................................................
Teacher’s Notes

1. Vulnerabilities. You can give a brief explanation and some examples to the class before they do this exercise. They should tick the following:

   - Being greedy
   - Being too open
   - Being too trusting
   - Being too generous

2b. Complete

   Grant gets really upset when people call him ‘Grant the Giant’. His height is his **Achilles’ heel**.

3. Match each idiomatic phrase to the correct definition.

   - a 5
   - b 1
   - c 4
   - d 3
   - e 2

4. Complete the sentences with an idiom from exercise 3.

   a. My mum says you should be **beware of Greeks bearing gifts** because some people have a selfish reason for doing something.

   b. That Hollywood actor is a real **Adonis**. He’s so handsome.

   c. My dad opened a **Pandora’s box** when he gave my sister a smartphone. She uses it all the time now, and doesn’t study.

   d. Mr. Smith harps on all the time about how happy he was when he was a child.

   e. Adriana is really good at school but she’s bad at music, it’s her **Achilles’ heel**.

* Sarah Gudgeon

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