

Achilles' heel

Idiom of the month

a cura di Sarah Gudgeon

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1. Think of five things that can make people vulnerable. Write them here. For example:

Being greedy

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).

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|--|--|
| a. Samantha is terrible at computer games. It is her Achilles' heel . | 1. ... gorgeous / very handsome ... |
| b. Jake is really good-looking – he is an Adonis . | 2. ... talks constantly ... |
| c. They opened a Pandora's box when they asked the students what they didn't like about school. | 3. ... suspicious of people who seem too kind... |
| d. You should beware of Greeks bearing gifts , you never know what they really want. | 4. ... started trouble / invited problems... |
| e. My mum harps on all the time about how important school is. | 5. ... weak spot ... |

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

- a. My mum says you should because some people might have an ulterior motive for doing something.
- b. That Hollywood actor who was in the film we saw last week is a real He's so handsome.
- c. My dad when he gave my sister a smartphone. She spends all day on it and is always chatting on social networks.
- d. Mr. Smith all the time about how happy he was when he was a child and lived in the country with his six brothers and sisters.
- e. Adriana is really good at school but she's bad at music, it's her.....
..... She just can't sing.

Teacher's Notes

1. Five vulnerabilities. You can give a brief explanation and some examples to the class before they do this exercise. Sample answers:

Being greedy

Being too open

Being too sensitive

Being too trusting

Being pessimistic

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 **beware of Greeks bearing gifts** because some people might have an ulterior motive for doing something.
- b. That Hollywood actor who was in the film we saw last week is a real **Adonis**. He's so handsome.
- c. My dad **opened a Pandora's box** when he gave my sister a smartphone. She spends all day on it and is always chatting on social networks.
- d. Mr. Smith **harps on** all the time about how happy he was when he was a child and lived in the country with his six brothers and sisters.
- e. Adriana is really good at school but she's bad at music, it's her **Achilles' heel**. She just can't sing.

* Sarah Gudgeon

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