

There's a method to one's madness

Idiom of the month

a cura di Sarah Gudgeon

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1. Divide these tasks into *crazy* or *normal*. Write each one under the correct column.

	CRAZY	NORMAL
-Eating twenty chocolate doughnuts
-Staying awake all night studying for an exam
-Having pasta for lunch
-Doing 3 hours of homework every day
-Buying presents for all the people in your street		
-Buying your best friend a birthday present		

2a. Read

What ARE you doing, Tom?

I am practising for the school play on Saturday.

Really? You look crazy with all those plates on your head!

Don't worry, there is a method to my madness. After all, I have a special role in the play.

2b. Complete

Tom says there is a..... his.....,but I don't know what it is! He looks like a crazy person with all those plates on his head.

When someone looks like they're doing something crazy but really they have a valid reason for doing it, they say there is 'a method to their madness'.

3. Read these idioms. Match each idiomatic phrase (a – f) to the correct definition (1 – 6).

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|--|--|
| a. I think Sarah is away with the fairies – she never seems to follow what we’re saying. | 1. ...totally crazy... |
| b. Your mum will go bananas when she sees all that dirt and mud on your new shoes! | 2. ... in her own dream world... |
| c. You are off your rocker ... you can’t skateboard off that wall, it’s too high! | 3. ...gone/become crazy... |
| d. That is a really harebrained idea , it will never work. | 4. ...stupid/foolish... |
| e. Matthew says there is a method to his madness . | 5. ...shout and scream like a crazy person... |
| f. Aunt Jane has lost her marbles – she wants to marry that guy she met in Brazil last month. | 6. ...a good reason for his strange behaviour... |

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

- a. My brother Scott has lots ofbut they never work.
- b. My dad willwhen he sees my maths test result.
- c. My best friend Judy is..... We have so much fun!
- d. My mum does some strange stuff but she says there is.....
- e. I think my grandma has.....She wants to do a parachute jump!
- f. My teachers said that I’m always.....in class and that I need to concentrate more.



Teacher's Notes

1. CRAZY

- Eating 20 chocolate doughnuts
- Staying awake all night studying for an exam
- Buying presents for all the people in your street

NORMAL

- Having pasta for lunch
- Doing 3 hours of homework every day
- Buying your best friend a birthday present

2b. Complete

*Tom says there is a **method to his madness** but I don't know what it is! He looks like a crazy person with all those plates on his head.*

(Tom's role in the school play is that of a clown.)

3. Match each idiomatic phrase to the correct definition.

a 2 b 5 c 1 d 4 e 6 f 3

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

- a. My brother Scott has lots of **harebrained ideas** but they never really work.
- b. My dad will **go bananas** when he sees my maths test result.
- c. My best friend Judy is **off her rocker**. We have so much fun!
- d. My mum does some strange stuff but she says there is **a method to her madness**.
- e. I think my grandma has **lost her marbles** – she wants to do a parachute jump!
- f. My teachers said that I'm always **away with the fairies** in class and that I need to concentrate more.

* Sarah Gudgeon

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