

Idiom of the Month: IT'S GREEK TO ME

By Sarah Gudgeon

1 You can use four of the sentences below when you don't understand something. Which sentence can't you use?

- a. I don't follow
- b. I completely agree
- c. I've got no idea.
- d. I don't get it
- e. I'm lost

2a Read

Grandad, can you help me with my homework, please?

What is it?

Shakespeare and other great English Playwrights.

No, sorry love, it's all Greek to me! I'm better with maths and science.

2b Complete

My mum doesn't understand my maths homework, she says it's all _____ to her.

3 Read these idioms from famous Shakespeare plays.

Match each idiom to the correct meaning.

- a. Mike **didn't sleep a wink** last night, he was so worried about his English literature exam.
- b. Going to university is not the **be all and end all**, you can get a job or travel instead.
- c. Frank **was in stitches**; Mark's joke was just so funny.
- d. The ghost stories my brother used to tell me **made my hair stand on end**.
- e. My mum **waited with bated breath** for me to read my exam results.

- 1. the only good option
- 2. waited nervously
- 3. are very frightening
- 4. didn't sleep at all
- 5. laughed a lot

4 Write

My brother tells scary stories

That make my hair stand on _____

And drive my mum round the bend.

The music was loud all night

I didn't sleep a _____

And then it was morning in a blink.

Dad wants me to go to university

But for me it's not the be all and end _____

I'd rather party and have a ball!

When I watch my favourite TV comedy

I'm always in _____

I love watching it at Richie's.

The postman delivered the envelope

We all waited with bated _____

To hear the news from cousin Beth.

Teachers notes

By *Sarah Gudgeon*

1 Which sentence can't you use

I completely agree'

2b Complete

My mum doesn't understand my maths homework- she says it's all Greek to herto her.

3 Match each idiom to the correct meaning..

Before you give students the answers see if they can guess which play each idiom is from.

- a. 2 Cymbeline
- b. 1 Macbeth
- c. 5 Twelfth Night
- d. 3 Hamlet
- e. 4 The Merchant of Venice

4 Write.

Pre-teach / check some other colloquial language before asking students to complete the rhymes

drive someone round the bend = make them crazy

in a blink = very quickly

have a ball = have a good time

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And drive my mum round the bend.

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I didn't sleep a wink
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My favourite TV comedy
Always has me in stitches
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