

# Idiom of the Month: OUT OF THE BLUE

By Sarah Gudgeon

1. Tick the adjectives you can use to describe how you feel after you receive unexpected news

surprised    shocked    excited    surprising    scared    frightened

2.

a. Read

Did you know that Lucy's family is moving to London?

Really? She didn't expect that to happen.

I know, it was totally out of the blue; her parents only decided last week.

b. Complete:

The news about the wedding was totally \_\_\_\_\_.

They only met at a party two months ago.



**3. Read these surprise idioms and match each one to the correct meaning.**

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| a. Sammy <b>did a double take</b> when he saw his cousin from Australia at his birthday party.               | 1. Made an unexpected announcement |
| b. Erin was <b>caught unawares</b> when the teacher asked her a question.                                    | 2. Unprepared and surprised        |
| c. The football scholarship offer was completely <b>out of the blue</b> .                                    | 3. Looked again                    |
| d. John <b>dropped a bombshell</b> at Sunday lunch; he told his mother he wanted to join the army.           | 4. Eyes were open wide in surprise |
| e. Lenon's <b>eyes were on stalks</b> : he couldn't believe the number of presents that were under the tree. | 5. Unexpected                      |

**4. Write:**

- a. Michael was \_\_\_\_\_ when the scientist asked him to explain the theory of relativity.
- b. Sandra \_\_\_\_\_ when she told her mum she didn't want to go to university.
- c. Kerry \_\_\_\_\_ when she saw her favourite American actor in a café by the lake.
- d. The letter from her old school friend was \_\_\_\_\_.
- e. Denise's \_\_\_\_\_ ; she couldn't believe the price of the dress.

## Teacher's Notes

1. Cannot use d. "surprising". -ed adjectives describe feelings, -ing adjectives describe events.

2b. Complete:

The news about the wedding was totally out of the blue. They only met at a party two months ago.

3. Match these idioms to the correct meaning.

a3    b2    c5    d1    e4

Ask the students some questions to elicit use of the idioms after they have completed the sentences to enable freer practice. For example:

Tell your partner about a time that someone dropped a bombshell **on you**.

4.

a. Michael was caught unawares when the scientist asked him to explain the theory of relativity.

b. Sandra dropped a bombshell when she told her mum she didn't want to go to university.

c. Kerry did a double take when she saw her favourite American actor in a café by the lake.

d. The letter from her old school friend was out of the blue.

e. Denise's eyes were on stalks; she couldn't believe the price of the dress.