

Idiom of the Month: IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY

By Sarah Gudgeon

1. Tick five characteristics that people from the same family can have in common.

- a. a nice smile
- b. hair / eye colour
- c. good at maths
- d. a sense of humour
- e. a job
- f. a bad temper

2.

a. Read

Wow! Look at your maths score,
Jennifer!

I know! I got top marks, mum.

It must run in the family. I was very good
at maths in high school.

b. Complete:

Jason is really good-looking and so is his sister. Good looks must

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| a. Marta is the apple of her dad's eye ; he adores her. | 1. opposites |
| b. Andrew and his dad love all the same hobbies and are like best friends. Andrew's a real chip off the old block . | 2. something that is genetic |
| c. Frankie and his brother Tom are like chalk and cheese : Frankie is loud and funny but Tom is very quiet and never speaks. | 3. when a parent thinks their child is very special |
| d. Jackie and her mum are both very tall and skinny; it must run in the family . | 4. when a child is just like their mother or father in their behaviour |
| e. Elizabeth is the spitting image of her mum: they've got the same eyes and nose, the same hair colour and they are even the same height. | 5. identical |
| f. Annabel and Olivia are like two peas in a pod : it's hard to tell them apart. | 6. looks very similar to |

4. Complete the sentences using idioms from exercise 3:

- a. Lucy and Emma are like: Lucy loves outdoor sports but Emma prefers to stay home and read.
- b. Marcus is the of his Uncle Frank. They are both tall with dark hair and blue eyes.
- c. Damien and his brother Andy are: the teacher always confuses their names in class.
- d. Cristina is very good at foreign languages, just like her dad. It must.....
.....
- e. Phil is the..... dad's His dad spends all his free time playing with him.
- f. Jane is passionate about old cars, just like her dad. She's

Teacher's Notes

1. Tick: a, b, c, d, f, but not e.

2b. Complete

*Jason is really good-looking and so is his sister. Good looks must **run in the family**.*

3. Match the family idioms to their correct meaning.

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

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 something that **runs in your family**.*

4. Complete using idioms from exercise 3.

- a. Lucy and Emma are like **chalk and cheese**: Lucy loves outdoor sports but Emma prefers to stay home and read.
- b. Marcus is the **spitting image** of his Uncle Frank. They are both tall with dark hair and blue eyes.
- c. Damien and his brother Andy are **like two peas in a pod**: the teacher always confuses their names in class.
- d. Cristina is very good at foreign languages, just like her dad. It must **run in the family**.
- e. Phil is the **apple of his dad's eye**. His dad spends all his free time playing with him.
- f. Jane is passionate about old cars, just like her dad. She's **a real chip off the old block**.