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.

b. Andrew and his dad love all the same hobbies and are like best friends. Andrew’s a **real chip off the old block**.

c. Frankie and his brother Tom are **like chalk and cheese**: Frankie is loud and funny but Tom is very quiet and never speaks.

d. Jackie and her mum are both very tall and skinny; it **must run in the family**.

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.

f. Annabel and Olivia are **like two peas in a pod**: it’s hard to tell them apart.

1. **opposites**

2. **something that is genetic**

3. **when a parent thinks their child is very special**

4. **when a child is just like their mother or father in their behaviour**

5. **identical**

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.