

# There's a method to one's madness

Idiom of the month

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

	<b>CRAZY</b>	<b>NORMAL</b>
-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**

Julie says there is a .....her.....but I don't know what it is! She looks like a crazy woman with all those coloured ribbons on her bike.

*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).

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| a. I think Sarah is <b>away with the fairies</b> – she never seems to follow what we're saying.      | 1. ...totally crazy...                           |
| b. Your mum will <b>go bananas</b> when she sees all that dirt and mud on your new shoes!            | 2. ... in her own dream world...                 |
| c. You are <b>off your rocker</b> ... you can't skateboard off that wall, it's too high!             | 3. ...gone/become crazy...                       |
| d. That is a really <b>harebrained idea</b> , it will never work.                                    | 4. ...stupid/foolish...                          |
| e. Matthew says there is <b>a method to his madness</b> .  | 5. ...shout and scream like a crazy person...    |
| f. Aunt Jane has <b>lost her marbles</b> – 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 of .....but they never work. He tried to invent a robot to clean his room last week, but it exploded!
- b. My dad will .....when he sees my maths test result. I actually failed the test because I didn't study. I went out with my friends instead.
- c. My best friend Judy is..... We have so much fun, but we get into a lot of trouble too.
- d. My mum does some strange stuff but she says there is..... Personally, I think she's just a bit crazy, but I still love her!
- e. I think my grandma has.....She wants to do a parachute jump for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday! Most people just have a party.
- f. My teachers said that I'm always.....in class and that I need to concentrate more. I do daydream a lot, but that's because Mr Smith, my form teacher, is just so boring!

## 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
- 2a. (Tom's role in the school play is that of a clown.)
- 2b. Complete
- Julie says there is a **method to her madness** but I don't know what it is! She looks like a crazy woman with all those coloured ribbons on her bike.*
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 for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday!..
  - 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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