

There's a method to one's madness

Idiom of the month

a cura di Sarah Gudgeon

Edizioni Maggio 2018

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

	CRAZY	NORMAL
-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 aher.....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 away with the fairies – she never seems to follow what we're saying. | 1. ...totally crazy... |
| b. Your mum will go bananas when she sees all that dirt and mud on your new shoes! | 2. ... in her own dream world... |
| c. You are off your rocker ... you can't skateboard off that wall, it's too high! | 3. ...gone/become crazy... |
| d. That is a really harebrained idea , it will never work. | 4. ...stupid/foolish... |
| e. Matthew says there is a method to his madness . | 5. ...shout and scream like a crazy person... |
| f. Aunt Jane has lost her marbles – 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 ofbut they never work. He tried to invent a robot to clean his room last week, but it exploded!
- b. My dad willwhen 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 90th 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 90th birthday!..
 - f. My teachers said that I'm always **away with the fairies** in class and that I need to concentrate more...

* Sarah Gudgeon

Sarah Gudgeon is a trained journalist and EFL teacher from Manchester, England. She has written numerous books for Pearson over the years and is a regular contributor to the Pearson Portal on pearson.it.