

# Idiom of the Month: BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU

By Sarah Gudgeon

1. Think of six places where video cameras film you when you're out.

- |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|
| a. | b. | c. |
| d. | e. | f. |

2.

a. Read

Don't touch those earrings! The sign says don't touch.

There's no-one here. I just want to look at them.

There are video cameras all over the shop. Big Brother is watching you!

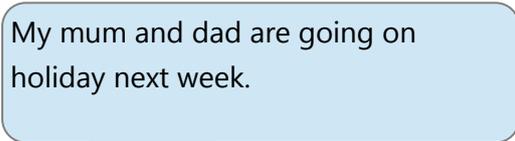
b. Complete:

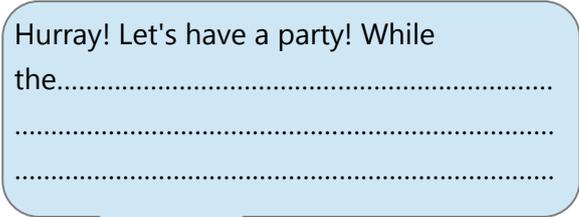
There are video cameras in lots of public places. Organisations can monitor everything you do. They can see where you go, who you go with and when you go. With video cameras everywhere these days we say '\_\_\_\_\_ is watching you'. The phrase comes from the famous George Orwell novel '1984'.

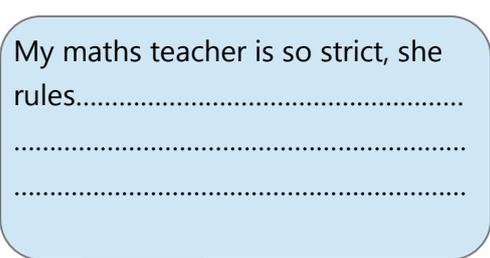
**3. Match these idioms to the correct meaning.**

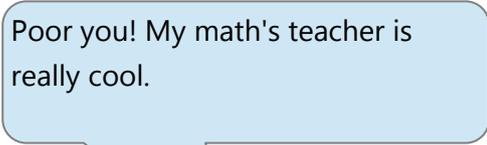
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| a. Mrs Smith ruled the group of teenagers with a rod of iron        | 1. She let them decide   |
| b. While the cat's away, the mouse will play                        | 2. He let her do what she wanted   |
| c. The man gave his wife carte blanche in decorating the new house. | 3. They tried to escape  |
| d. The boss kept his assistant on a short lead                      | 4. He didn't allow him much freedom  |
| e. The young men made a break for freedom                           | 5. When the person in charge leaves, the other person enjoys their freedom |
| f. Julie gave her class free rein for their geography project       | 6. She was in total control  |

**4. Read and choose the correct idiom to complete the dialogues.**

a.  My mum and dad are going on holiday next week.

 Hurray! Let's have a party! While the.....  
.....  
.....

b.  My maths teacher is so strict, she rules.....  
.....  
.....

 Poor you! My math's teacher is really cool.

c.

I'm going out later...

No, you're not!

Yes, I am. You can't keep me  
on.....  
.....!

d.

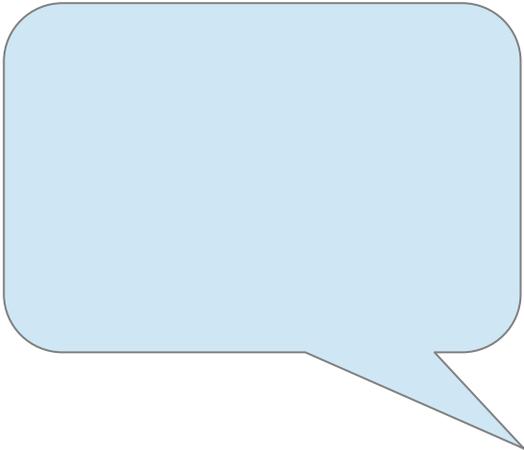
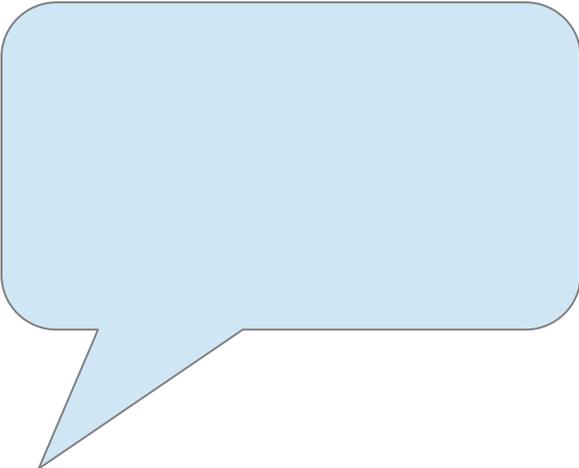
Sit down, children!

But, Miss, it's nearly four o'clock

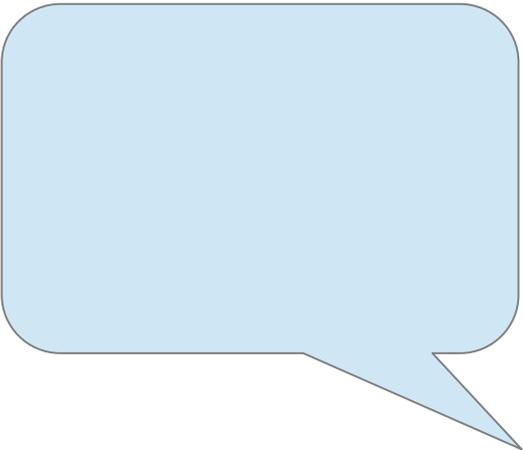
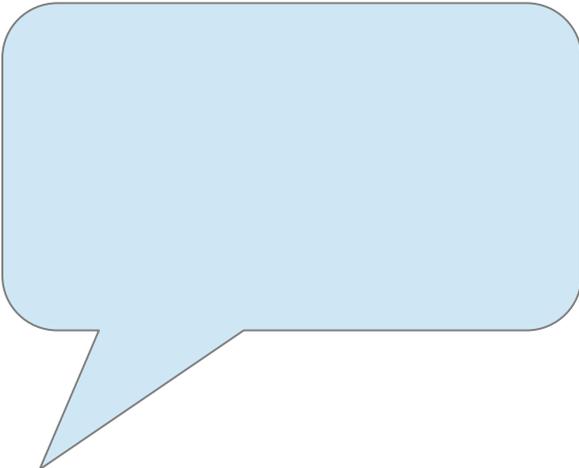
But it isn't four o'clock. No making a  
.....  
.....  
before the final bell!

5. Work with a partner. Write your own dialogues for three of the idioms in exercise 3.

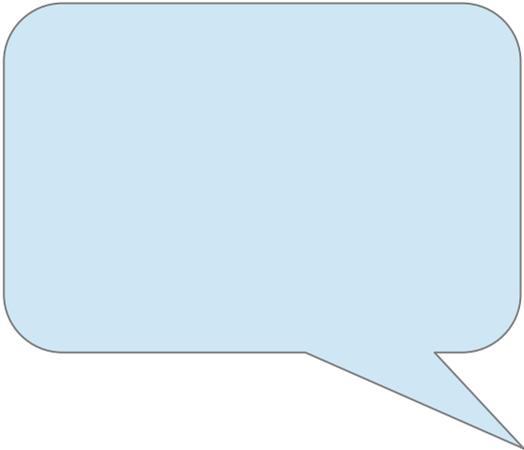
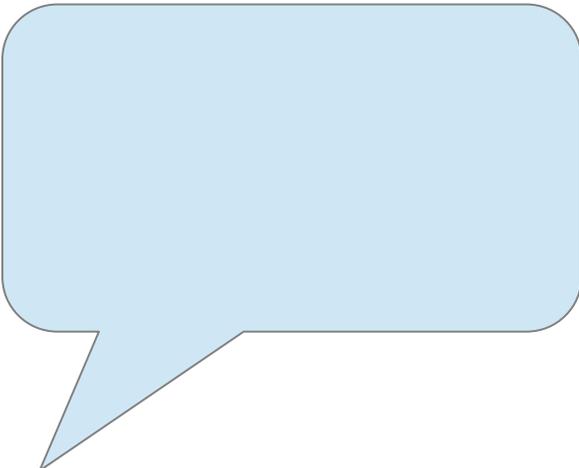
a.



b.



c.



## Teacher's Notes

1. Think of six places where video cameras film you when you're out.

a. in the street

b. in shops

c. in banks

d. in the library

e. in metro stations

f. in airports

2b. Complete:

There are video cameras in lots of public places. Organisations can monitor everything you do. They can see where you go, who you go with and when you go. With video cameras everywhere these days we say '**Big Brother** is watching you'. The phrase comes from the famous George Orwell novel '1984'.

3. Match these idioms to the correct meaning.

a 6   b 5   c 2   d 4   e 3   f 1

4. Read and choose the correct idiom to complete the dialogues.

a. while the .....cat's away the mouse will play.

b. rules ...us with a rod of iron.

c. on ... a short leash

d. making ... a break for freedom.

5. Work with a partner. Write your own dialogues for three of the idioms in exercise 3.

Put the students into pairs. Get them to think of some situations in which they feel their freedom is restricted. Gather class feedback and then ask each pair to write their dialogues. You could work on pronunciation by choosing some random pairs to act out their short dialogues.