Idiom of the Month: OUT OF THE BLUE

By *Sarah Gudgeon*

1. Circle the five adjectives you can use to describe how you feel after you receive unexpected news

surprising   shocked   exciting   scared   frightening

surprised   shocking   excited   scary   frightened

2.

a. Read

> Did you know that Lucy's family is moving to London?

> Really? She didn't expect that to happen.

> I know, it was totally out of the blue; her parents only decided last week.

b. Complete:

The news about the wedding was totally _____.

They only met at a party two months ago.

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

a. Sammy **did a double take** when he saw his cousin from Australia at his birthday party. He thought he was still in Sydney.

1. Made an unexpected announcement

b. Erin was **caught unawares** when the teacher asked her a question. She hadn't been listening to the lesson.

2. Unprepared and surprised

c. The football scholarship offer was completely **out of the blue**. Tom didn't know his school had nominated him.

3. Looked again

d. John **dropped a bombshell** at Sunday lunch; he told his mother he had joined the army.

4. Eyes were open wide in surprise

e. Lenon's **eyes were on stalks**: he couldn't believe the number of presents his friends had bought him for his graduation.

5. Unexpected

4. Answer these questions:

a. Have you ever dropped a bombshell on your parents?

b. Have you ever been caught unawares in class?

5. Talk to a partner.

Do you like receiving news out of the blue? Do you enjoy the element of surprise or do you fear it will be bad news?

Teacher's Notes

1. Sample answer:

a. surprised

b. shocked

c. excited

d. scared

e. frightened

2b. Complete:

The news about the wedding was totally <u>out of the blue</u>. They only met at a party two months ago.

3. Match these idioms to the correct meaning.

a3   b2   c5   d1   e4

4 & 5. Answers will vary from student to student.