

# Idiom of the Month: PUT ON A BRAVE FACE

By Sarah Gudgeon

**1. Write two more things that make you feel sad or upset.**

- a. You fight with your best friend over something silly.
- b. You lose something that is precious to you.
- c. You don't get invited to a party and all your friends are going.
- d. ....
- e. ....

**2.**

**a. Read**

Poor Susy! She's the only girl in the class who isn't invited to Claire's party.

I know! She put on a brave face, but I think she was really sad when Claire didn't give her an invitation.

They were best friends too, before their fight over Michael.

**b. Complete:**

Alice..... when all her friends stopped talking to her, but her sister told me that she cried at home.

**3. Read these face idioms and match each one to the correct meaning.**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| a. It was a <b>slap in the face</b> for Martin when his best friend took the girl he liked on a romantic date.                   | 1. when your face shows extreme feelings like great surprise or anger |
| b. John's mum was tired of looking at his <b>long face</b> , so she gave him some money to go to the cinema with his friends.    | 2. an insult; offensive   |
| c. Joan didn't know about the surprise party – <b>her face was a picture</b> .   | 3. a miserable/sad expression   |
| d. Philippa was very upset about her mum going away for two weeks, but she <b>put on a brave face</b> .                          | 4. pretend to be OK and not sad or upset                              |
| e. Julian is a <b>barefaced liar</b> : the answers to the exam were in his rucksack, but he still insisted that he didn't cheat. | 5. a person who doesn't tell the truth even when it is obvious        |

**4. Complete the sentences using idioms from exercise 3:**

- a. Patrick didn't expect to receive the football trophy – his .....
- b. Louise was very disappointed when she didn't win, but she .....
- c. The decision to appoint Rosie as head of the basketball team was .....  
..... for Juliette.
- d. Mandy is ..... We all saw her take Paul's rubber.
- e. Frankie had a really ..... He was bored on holiday without his friends.

**5. Answer these questions:**

- a. Have you ever received a slap in the face from a friend? Not literally, of course! If so, why?  
.....
- b. Can you think of a time when a friend's face was a picture? If so, why?  
.....

**6. Talk to a partner.**

Think about a time when you had to put on a brave face. What happened? How did you feel?

*I had to put on a brave face when ...*

## Teacher's Notes

1. Students write down two things that make them feel sad or upset.

2b. Complete

Alice **put on a brave face** when all her friends stopped talking to her, but her sister told me that she cried at home.

3. Match the music idioms to their correct meaning.

a. 2    b. 3    c. 1    d. 4    e. 5

4. Complete using idioms from exercise 3.

- a. Patrick didn't expect to receive the football trophy – his *face was a picture*.
- b. Louise was very disappointed when she didn't win, but she *put on a brave face*.
- c. The decision to appoint Rosie as head of the basketball team was *a slap in the face* for Juliette.
- d. Mandy is *a barefaced liar*. We all saw her take Paul's rubber.
- e. Frankie had a really *long face*. He was bored on holiday without his friends.

Do some class discussion work before exercises 5 & 6, perhaps eliciting examples of when students have had to put on a brave face or about times they've been upset by someone or something.