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 slap in the face 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 long face, 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 – her face was a picture.
3. a miserable/sad expression

d. Philippa was very upset about her mum going away for two weeks, but she put on a brave face.
4. pretend to be OK and not sad or upset

e. Julian is a barefaced liar: 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.