

# Idiom of the Month: IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY

By Sarah Gudgeon

1. Write two more things that people from the same family can have in common.

- a. a nice smile
- b. hair / eye colour
- c. good at maths
- d. a sense of humour
- e. ....
- f. ....

2.

a. Read

Wow! Look at your maths score,  
Jennifer!

I know! I got top marks, mum.

It must run in the family. I was very good  
at maths in high school.

b. Complete:

Jason is really good-looking and so is his sister. Good looks must .....

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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| a. Marta is <b>the apple of her dad's eye</b> ; he adores her.  | 1. opposites  |
| b. Andrew and his dad love all the same hobbies and are like best friends. Andrew's <b>a real chip off the old block</b> .                        | 2. something that is genetic                                      |
| c. Frankie and his brother Tom are <b>like chalk and cheese</b> : Frankie is loud and funny but Tom is very quiet and never speaks.               | 3. when a child is loved unconditionally by a parent              |
| d. Jackie and her mum are both very tall and skinny; it <b>must run in the family</b> .   | 4. when a child is just like their mother or father in their ways |
| e. Elizabeth is <b>the spitting image</b> of her mum: they've got the same eyes and nose, the same hair colour and they are even the same height. | 5. identical  |
| f. Annabel and Olivia are <b>like two peas in a pod</b> : it's hard to tell them apart.   | 6. looks very similar to someone                                  |

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

- a. Lucy and Emma are like .....: Lucy loves outdoor sports but Emma is a real home lover. She prefers to stay in and read.
- b. Marcus is the ..... of his dad's brother, Uncle Frank. They have the same hair and features.
- c. Damien and his brother Andy are .....: the teacher can't tell them apart in class and gets their names mixed up.
- d. Cristina is very good at foreign languages, just like her dad. It must.....  
..... Her brother is good at science, just like their mum.
- e. Phil is the..... dad's ..... His dad spends all his free time playing with him or planning stuff they can do together.
- f. Jane is passionate about old cars, just like her dad. She's .....  
and they often go to car rallies at the weekends.

**5. Answer these questions:**

a. Who are you the spitting image of in your family? Anyone or no-one?

.....

b. What runs in your family?

.....

**6. Think about someone in your family who is like chalk to your cheese. Tell a partner about them.**

## Teacher's Notes

1. Free answer. Students can write something like: facial features, a bad temper, etc.

2b. Complete

*Jason is really good-looking and so is his sister. Good looks must **run in the family**.*

3. Match the family idioms to their correct meaning.

a. 3    b. 4    c. 1    d. 2    e. 6    f. 5

Ask the students some questions to elicit use of the idioms after they have completed the sentences to enable freer practice. For example:

*Tell your partner about something that **runs in your family**.*

4. Complete using idioms from exercise 3.

- a. Lucy and Emma are like **chalk and cheese**: Lucy loves outdoor sports but Emma is a real home lover. She prefers to stay in and read.
- b. Marcus is the **spitting image** of his dad's brother, Uncle Frank. They have the same hair and features.
- c. Damien and his brother Andy are **like two peas in a pod**: the teacher can't tell them apart in class and gets their names mixed up.
- d. Cristina is very good at foreign languages, just like her dad. It must **run in the family**. Her brother is good at science, just like their mum.
- e. Phil is the **apple of his dad's eye**. His dad spends all his free time playing with him or planning stuff they can do together.
- f. Jane is passionate about old cars, just like her dad. She's **a real chip off the old block** and they often go to car rallies at the weekends.

5 & 6

Answers will vary.