

## 5 Idioms

Idioms often have a meaning which is very different from the sum of their parts. Your dictionary contains a large number of idioms, shown by the symbol **IDM**.

You can usually find an idiom if you look at the entry for the first word in the idiom, unless the first word is a very common word.

### A

Many idioms mean something different from what you might think at first. What do these idioms mean? Check in your dictionary.

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| a nasty piece of work | talk shop            |
| be plain sailing      | bring home the bacon |
| put sb in their place | get sb's goat        |

### B

All of these phrases below are common idioms. Can you guess the missing words? Then check your answers.

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. like father, like _____         | 2. two heads are better than _____      |
| 3. boys will be _____              | 4. easy come, easy _____                |
| 5. first come, first _____         | 6. the end justifies the _____          |
| 7. don't judge a book by its _____ | 8. where there's a will there's a _____ |

Check your answers in your dictionary.

### C

The idioms below can be used in short versions as well as their full versions. Match the beginnings with the correct ends.

- |                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Two's company               | a. but the flesh is weak      |
| 2. An eye for an eye           | b. three's a crowd            |
| 3. The proof of the pudding    | c. that blows nobody any good |
| 4. If you can't stand the heat | d. and a tooth for a tooth    |
| 5. When in Rome                | e. is a friend indeed         |
| 6. It's an ill wind            | f. is in the eating           |
| 7. A friend in need            | g. get out of the kitchen     |
| 8. The spirit is willing       | h. do as the Romans do        |

**boil** ɔɪ /boɪl/ verb, noun  
 ■ **noun** 1 [sing.] a period of boiling; the point at which liquid boils: (BrE) **Bring the soup to the boil**, then allow it to simmer for five minutes. ◊ (NAme) **Bring the soup to a boil.** 2 [C] a painful infected swelling under the skin which is full of a thick yellow liquid (called pus)  
**IDM** ▶ **off the 'boil** (BrE) less good than before: *The second series of the show really went off the boil.* **on the 'boil** very active: *We have several projects all on the boil at once.*

