

# Idioms

## Exercise 1

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the idioms in the box.

on the same page	pave the way	ray of hope
slap on the wrist	beg to differ	under the weather
concrete jungle	boil down to	go hand in hand
come to a head		

1. Although his argument against shorter working hours sounds convincing, I \_\_\_\_\_ . I think that shorter working hours will benefit workers.
2. At the end of the long meeting, what the chairperson was saying \_\_\_\_\_ a call for all workers to increase their productivity.
3. I am glad we are \_\_\_\_\_. It will be easier to cooperate on the project.
4. Having flexible working hours \_\_\_\_\_ with open-minded employers who are willing to adopt such a work culture.
5. Philip prefers to live in the countryside than that \_\_\_\_\_. There is less congestion and more open space in the countryside.
6. Even though she was \_\_\_\_\_, she was still forced to report to work.
7. With the new financial policies to prevent hyperinflation, there seems to be a \_\_\_\_\_ among the citizens. Many are hoping for economic stability.
8. A \$50 fine for those who abuse stray cats is just a \_\_\_\_\_ for offenders.
9. Things \_\_\_\_\_ when the two directors in the company had a major disagreement. If the problem could not be resolved, the company would close down.
10. Do you think that having relatives who are actors and singers will \_\_\_\_\_ for those who want to join the entertainment industry?

## Exercise 2

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the idioms in the box.

yoke around one's neck	hit the hay	lose your head
pull the plug	a clean bill of health	no laughing matter
a snake in the grass	slip of the tongue	come to terms with
knee-jerk reaction		

1. To get sufficient rest, we should \_\_\_\_\_ before midnight every day.
2. You will only be allowed to work overseas if you undergo the medical examination and are certified to have \_\_\_\_\_.
3. It was a \_\_\_\_\_. I never meant for her to find out the truth.
4. Be wary of that lady. She looks friendly but she is \_\_\_\_\_.
5. After my father's death, my mother seemed to \_\_\_\_\_ it rather quickly and was soon back to work.
6. The influx of complaints by the public after taxes were raised was a \_\_\_\_\_. The complaints died down after a while and the people went on with their lives.
7. You should never \_\_\_\_\_ at work or you might be considered an inefficient worker.
8. The unequal treatment of men and women is \_\_\_\_\_. Action must be taken to ensure that both men and women are treated equally.
9. The manager will \_\_\_\_\_ on this project if the team fails to show any results by the end of the year.
10. Is having to take care of the elderly a \_\_\_\_\_? Will the younger generation be willing to do it?

Exercise 2  
1. hit the hay  
2. a clean bill of health  
3. slip of the tongue  
4. a snake in the grass  
5. come to terms with  
6. knee-jerk reaction  
7. lose your head  
8. no laughing matter  
9. pull the plug  
10. yoke around one's neck

Answers  
Exercise 1  
1. beg to differ  
2. boiled down to  
3. on the same page  
4. goes hand in hand  
5. concrete jungle  
6. under the weather  
7. ray of hope  
8. slap on the wrist  
9. came to a head  
10. pave the way