

Body idioms problems and solutions presentation and speaking

Choose one problem below and try to think of ideas that could solve that problem for the people involved. Discuss your ideas with your partner, then take turns doing the same thing with other problems from below.

- It's hard to *keep your head above water* (= You often spend all the money that you earn)
- Other people *look down their noses at you* (= Other people don't respect you/ Other people think that they are much better than you)
- In your company, *the right hand doesn't know what the left one is doing* (= People in the company make different decisions, don't share information or don't work together)
- You are *up to your eyes in work* (= You have so much work that you can't manage or nearly can't manage)
- You are worried about *getting the elbow* at work (= being fired/ being dismissed/ being sacked)
- You *can't make head or tail of English* reports that you have to read (= can't understand at all)
- You *get butterflies in your stomach* when you have to speak in public (= get incredibly nervous)
- You have *time on your hands* (= too much free time and nothing to do)
- You have *two left feet* (= You can't dance)
- You have very *nosy* neighbours (= people who want to know everything about other people's private lives)
- You need *a shoulder to cry on* (= someone to listen to you talk about your problems)
- You need someone to *lend you a hand* (= help you)
- You often *put your foot in it* during conversations (= mention the wrong topic or say the wrong thing)
- You want to *learn* your English presentation *by heart* (= learn perfectly/ learn every word)
- You wanted to study abroad but *lost your nerve* (= were too worried to do something)
- Your boss makes your *blood boil* (= makes you very angry)
- Your computer is *on its last legs* (= nearly totally broken or nearly totally useless)
- *Your eyes are bigger than your stomach* (= You order or cook more food than you can or should eat)
- Your rent *costs an arm and a leg* (= is incredibly expensive)
- Your subordinates are *getting out of hand* (= You can't control your subordinates)
- Your tennis partner always *wins hands down* (= wins easily)
- Your children are really *cheeky* at school (= don't show respect to people in authority)
- The person at the next desk to you at work *gets on your nerves* (= annoys you/ irritates you)
- You *don't see eye to eye with* (= don't have the same opinion as) your fiancé(e) about your wedding

Ask about anything above you can't understand or can't think of solutions for, discussing possible solutions to those problems as a class each time.

Without looking above, fill the gaps below with one body part word.

- It's hard to keep your _____ above water (= You often spend all the money that you earn)
- Other people look down their _____ at you (= Other people don't respect you)
- In your company, the right _____ doesn't know what the left one is doing (= People in the company make different decisions, don't share information or don't work together)
- You are up to your _____ in work (= You have so much work that you nearly can't manage or can't manage)
- You are worried about getting the _____ at work (= being fired/ dismissed/ sacked)
- You can't make _____ or tail of English reports that you have to read (= can't understand at all)
- You get butterflies in your _____ when you have to speak in public (= get incredibly nervous)
- You have time on your _____ (= too much free time and nothing to do)
- You have two left _____ (= You can't dance)
- You have very _____ neighbours (= people who want to know everything about other people's private lives)
- You need a _____ to cry on (= someone to listen to you talk about your problems)
- You need someone to lend you a _____ (= help you)
- You often put your _____ in it during conversations (= mention the wrong topic or say the wrong thing)
- You want to learn your English presentation by _____ (= learn perfectly/ every word)
- You wanted to study abroad but lost your _____ (= were too worried to do it)
- Your boss makes your _____ boil (= makes you very angry)
- Your computer is on its last _____s (= nearly totally broken or nearly totally useless)
- Your _____s are bigger than your stomach (= You order or cook more food than you can or should eat)
- Your rent costs an arm and a _____ (= is incredibly expensive)
- Your subordinates are getting out of _____ (= You can't control your subordinates)
- Your tennis partner always wins _____s down (= wins easily)
- Your children are really _____y at school (= don't show respect to people in authority)
- The person at the next desk to you at work *gets on your* _____s (= annoys you/ irritates you)
- You *don't see* _____ to _____ *with* (= don't have the same opinion as) your fiancé(e) about your wedding

Check with the previous page. In most or all cases, no other answers are possible.

Brainstorm useful language for asking for advice, giving advice and responding to advice that you used or could have used in the first stage.