

### Idioms starting with like pairwork matching

*Optional: With someone with the same worksheet, try to think of how the halves of idioms that you have might start or end (with “like” always the first word).*

*Work with someone with the other worksheet. Without showing your worksheets to each other, try to match your endings with the beginnings on your partner’s worksheet and vice versa, and write in the missing halves of the idioms starting with “like”. You don’t need to write the definitions down, but knowing them might help you match the two halves up.*

#### Useful phrases for doing the activity

I think it matches with... because...

I think that’s right. I’ll write it in/ You should write it in.

(That could be right but) I think... is a better match.

-----fold or cut-----

### Suggested answers

- Like bringing coal to Newcastle – offering something that is already in great supply, e.g. giving young people advice on using social media
- Like falling off a log – incredibly easy
- Like flogging a dead horse – trying to sell an idea or product which is unlikely to gain or regain popularity
- Like getting blood from a stone – very difficult, e.g. to get someone to talk
- Like herding cats – trying to control people with very different ideas about what to do
- Like looking for a needle in a haystack – difficult to find, e.g. a clue to solve a crime
- Like rearranging deckchairs on the Titanic – busy doing something that won’t stop the disaster from happening
- Like riding a bike – a skill that you will never forget/ a skill you will quickly remember when you try to do it again, even after a long time
- Like talking to a brick wall – trying to persuade a stubborn person to change their mind
- Like watching paint dry – very boring
  
- Like a bear with a sore head – very grumpy/ bad-tempered
- Like a bird in a gilded cage – with luxury but no freedom, e.g. someone with a rich but jealous husband or the royal family
- Like a breath of fresh air – someone with a new approach, e.g. someone much more cheerful and optimistic than a previous manager
- Like a kid in a candy store – with unbelievable freedom to do what you enjoy, e.g. an inventor with many new tools
- Like a red flag to a bull – something that is very likely to make someone angry
- Like chalk and cheese – totally different
- Like death warmed up – really unhealthy, e.g. with a really bad hangover
- Like putty in someone’s hands – easy for someone to control
- Like rats from a sinking ship – running away from a difficult situation such as a failing company, maybe though you could have helped
- Like two peas in a pod – very similar, and maybe therefore likely to get on well

**Student A**

Like bringing

Like falling off

Like flogging

Like getting

Like herding

Like looking for

Like rearranging

Like riding

Like talking to

Like watching

and cheese – totally different, and maybe unlikely to get on well

from a sinking ship – running away from a difficult situation such as a failing company, maybe though you could have helped

in a candy store – with unbelievable freedom to do what you enjoy, e.g. an inventor with many new tools

in a gilded cage – with luxury but no freedom, e.g. someone with a rich but jealous husband or the royal family

in a pod – very similar, and maybe therefore likely to get on well

in someone's hands – easy for someone to control

of fresh air – someone with a new approach, e.g. someone much more cheerful and optimistic than a previous manager

to a bull – something that is very likely to make someone angry

warmed up – really unhealthy, e.g. with a really bad hangover

with a sore head – very grumpy/ bad-tempered

**Student B**

a bike – a skill that you will never forget/ a skill you will quickly remember when you try to do it again, even after a long time

a brick wall – trying to persuade a stubborn person to change their mind

a dead horse – trying to sell an idea or product which is unlikely to gain or regain popularity

a log – incredibly easy

a needle in a haystack – difficult to find, e.g. a clue to solve a crime

blood from a stone – very difficult, e.g. to get someone to talk

cats – trying to control people with very different ideas about what to do

coals to Newcastle – offering something that is already in great supply, e.g. giving young people advice on using social media

deckchairs on the Titanic – busy doing something that won't stop the disaster from happening

paint dry – very boring

Like a bear

Like a bird

Like a breath

Like a kid

Like a red flag

Like chalk

Like death

Like putty

Like rats

Like two peas

### Idioms starting with like gapfill

Without looking above, put one word into each gap below.

- Like bringing \_\_\_\_\_ to Newcastle – offering something that is already in great supply, e.g. giving young people advice on social media
- Like falling \_\_\_\_\_ a log – incredibly easy
- Like flogging a dead \_\_\_\_\_ – trying to sell an idea or product which is unlikely to gain or regain popularity
- Like getting \_\_\_\_\_ from a stone – very difficult, e.g. to get someone to talk
- Like herding \_\_\_\_\_ – trying to control people with very different ideas about what to do
- Like looking for a \_\_\_\_\_ in a haystack – difficult to find, e.g. a clue to solve a crime
- Like rearranging deckchairs on the \_\_\_\_\_ – busy doing something that won't stop the disaster from happening
- Like riding a \_\_\_\_\_ – a skill that you will never forget/ a skill you will quickly remember when you try to do it again, even after a long time
- Like \_\_\_\_\_ to a brick wall – trying to persuade a stubborn person to change their mind
- Like watching \_\_\_\_\_ dry – very boring
  
- Like a \_\_\_\_\_ with a sore head – very grumpy/ bad-tempered
- Like a \_\_\_\_\_ in a gilded cage – with luxury but no freedom, e.g. someone with a rich but jealous husband or the royal family
- Like a breath of \_\_\_\_\_ air – someone with a new approach, e.g. someone much more cheerful and optimistic than a previous manager
- Like a kid in a \_\_\_\_\_ store – with unbelievable freedom to do what you enjoy, e.g. an inventor with many new tools
- Like a \_\_\_\_\_ flag to a bull – something that is very likely to make someone angry
- Like \_\_\_\_\_ and cheese – totally different
- Like \_\_\_\_\_ warmed up – really unhealthy, e.g. with a really bad hangover
- Like putty in someone's \_\_\_\_\_ – easy for someone to control
- Like rats from a \_\_\_\_\_ ship – running away from a difficult situation such as a failing company, maybe though you could have helped
- Like two \_\_\_\_\_ in a pod – very similar, and maybe therefore likely to get on well

Check above, then test each other on the same idioms:

- Say the idioms with a different word missing (with the definitions if that helps)
- Say the definition and help your partner make the idiom (by giving key words etc)