

### Unit 5 How rude!

#### Idioms using parts of the body

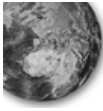
##### Learn the expressions

1 In this unit, we saw how some kinds of “body language” can be rude, such as snapping your fingers or putting your elbows on the table. Let’s look at some idioms that use body language. Read the sentences. Each sentence contains a clue to the meaning of the boldfaced idiom. Look for the clue and use it to guess the meaning of the idiom. Check your answers in the Answer Key at the end of the exercise.

1. Signing up for college courses used to **be a pain in the neck**, but it’s much easier now that students can register online. be difficult and unpleasant
2. I thought Eli **was pulling my leg** when he first started telling me the story, but I soon realized he wasn’t joking. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Since I woke up this morning, I’ve known something wonderful was going to happen. I **felt it in my bones**. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Don’t **look down your nose** at Josh. He may not look very athletic, but he’s a wonderful tennis player. In fact, he may be stronger than you are. \_\_\_\_\_
5. My boss knows I lived in Seoul for several years, so she wants to **pick my brain** about doing business in Korea. \_\_\_\_\_
6. It’s quite common for engaged couples to **get cold feet**; just weeks before the wedding, they start to think they’re not ready to get married after all. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Of course Tina’s parents were angry when she told them she was dropping out of college. They **were foaming at the mouth!** \_\_\_\_\_
8. Parents sometimes must **put their foot down** and say “no” to their kids instead of letting them do whatever they want. \_\_\_\_\_
9. When you’re doing a big project for the first time, be careful and plan well so you don’t **get in over your head**. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Don’t bother giving Lisa advice. Whatever you say to her will **go in one ear and out the other**. \_\_\_\_\_

##### Answer Key

1. be difficult and unpleasant
2. tell someone something that isn’t true, as a joke
3. have a feeling that something good or bad is going to happen
4. think you’re better than someone else
5. ask someone who knows a lot about a subject for information or advice about it
6. suddenly feel you’re not brave enough or ready to do something
7. be very angry
8. say very firmly what someone must do or not do
9. try to deal with a situation that is too difficult or complicated
10. be heard but then immediately forgotten



### Use the expressions

#### 2 Complete each expression with the appropriate part of the body.

brain	bones	ear	feet	foot	head	leg	mouth	neck	nose
-------	-------	-----	------	------	------	-----	-------	------	------

1. You should put your foot down.
2. I felt in my \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Don't look down your \_\_\_\_\_.
4. He called to pick my \_\_\_\_\_.
5. He got cold \_\_\_\_\_.
6. He was foaming at the \_\_\_\_\_.
7. He was pulling my \_\_\_\_\_.
8. You're getting in over your \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Please don't be a pain in the \_\_\_\_\_.
10. It went in one \_\_\_\_\_ and out the other.

#### 3 Complete the sentences with the appropriate form of the expressions from Exercise 2.

1. Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ last term when she took six courses. I warned her, but as usual with her, my advice went \_\_\_\_\_.
2. When I came back from my business trip, I \_\_\_\_\_ that my boss would be angry at me. The moment I walked into his office, there he was, \_\_\_\_\_, apparently because I hadn't returned a phone call from a client.
3. Wayne and I had made plans to go skydiving while we were in Hawaii, but at the last minute, he \_\_\_\_\_ and decided not to go. Wayne does this stuff all the time--it really ticks me off!
4. One of the children was being a \_\_\_\_\_ today. He was driving his teacher crazy. He stopped misbehaving only when the teacher \_\_\_\_\_ and told him that he would be punished with no recess for a week.
5. Every time I need help at work, I call Halle because I trust her experience. I don't mind going to her and \_\_\_\_\_ mainly because she's very humble and never \_\_\_\_\_ at her colleagues.
6. Don told me he'd won the lottery, and I believed him. Then I found out he was just \_\_\_\_\_. He always does this to me, and I always seem to fall for it!

### Make the expressions your own

#### 4 Answer these questions about yourself. Give details.

1. Have you ever made a decision about something and then gotten cold feet at the last minute?
2. Do you sometimes feel it in your bones that something is going to happen? Do you follow your instincts or just ignore them?
3. What three everyday routines are a pain in the neck for you? What do you do about it?