

Practicing Idioms Answer Key

A. After cleaning the house, shopping for dinner, and preparing dinner, Carla was sick of **bending over backwards** to gain her mother-in-law's love.

Answer: C. Carla did a lot to gain her mother-in-law's love.

Definition: to try very hard to do something

B. Patty, my baby sister, ruins all the fun. She cries at the drop of a hat.

Answer: B. Patty cries easily and often.

Definition: immediately; instantly

C. Deciding on who is the better artist, Michael Jackson or Elvis, is like comparing apples and oranges.

Answer: B. The two artists are so different from one another that they cannot be compared.

Definition: when two items or groups of items are compared that cannot be practically compared

D. Sue shouted at her kid brother, Rob, for riding her bike without asking. Rob smiled because he knew that her **bark was worse than her bite**.

Answer: C. Rob thinks that Sue is loud but not dangerous.

Definition: something is not as threatening or frightening as it seems

E. You forgot to feed my fish while I was on vacation! All my fish have **kicked the bucket!**

Definition: to die

F. The repairman **cut corners** by gluing the bookshelf together instead of nailing it together.

Definition: to do something in the easiest or cheapest way by skipping something important

G. Maria worked on her feet for 12 hours. All she could think about was **hitting the sheets** when she got home.

Definition: to go to bed

H. Tony's dog ate Tony's winning lottery ticket. I told him there's no use in **crying over spilled milk**.

Definition: to complain about a loss from the past.

I. Add fuel to the fire

J. Keep your eye on

K. Work around the clock

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add fuel to the fire- to make a bad situation worse

keep your eye on- to watch someone or something or stay informed about the person's behavior, esp. to keep someone out of trouble:

work around the clock- all the time

bending over backwards-to try very hard to do something

at the drop of a hat-immediately; instantly

comparing apples and oranges-when two items or groups of items are compared that cannot be practically compared

bark was worse than the bite-something is not as threatening or frightening as it seems

kicked the bucket-to die

cut corners- to do something in the easiest or cheapest way by skipping something important

hitting the sheets-to go to bed

crying over spilled milk- to complain about a loss from the past.