

KEY TO ACTIVITIES

IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS

Activity 1

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| 1. as pleased as Punch | 11. as snug as a bug in a rug |
| 2. as old as the hills | 12. as hard as a rock |
| 3. as quick as a flash | 13. as solid as a rock |
| 4. as high as a kite | 14. as safe as houses |
| 5. as smooth as a mill pond | 15. as fit as a fiddle |
| 6. as thick as two (short) planks | 16. as stiff as a poker |
| 7. as thick as thieves | 17. as proud as a peacock |
| 8. as happy as Larry | 18. as clear as crystal |
| 9. as plain as day/as the nose on your face | 19. as meek as a lamb |
| 10. as mad as a hatter/as a March hare | 20. as sweet as pie |

The pairs with an exact Italian equivalent are:

1. chiaro come la luce del sole
3. veloce come un lampo
13. saldo come una roccia
20. docile come un agnello

Activity 2

- 1.e *fighting cocks* vivere da pascià, avere ogni ben di Dio
- 2.i *house* andare d'amore e d'accordo, intendersela a meraviglia
- 3.k *fish* bere come una spugna
- 4.b *fishwife* gridare come una pescivendola
- 5.a *grim* aggrapparsi a qcn. con le unghie e con i denti
- 6.l *hawk* avere una vista da falco
- 7.c *headless* essere completamente allo sbando
- 8.g *million* avere un ottimo aspetto
- 9.j *nobody* lavorare come un pazzo
- 10.d *poison* odiare a morte qualcuno
- 11.f *sack* essere sformato
- 12.h *hand* conoscere qcs. a menadito, come le proprie tasche

Activity 3

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| 1. to sleep like a log | ghiro/dormire |
| 2. to scream/yell blue murder, to wail like a banshee | ossesso |
| 3. to puff and pant, to puff like an engine | sbuffare/locomotiva |
| 4. to talk nineteen to the dozen, to talk a mile a minute AE | macchinetta |
| 5. to smoke like a chimney | fumare/turco |
| 6. to cry fit to burst, to cry one's eyes/heart out | vite/piangere |
| 7. to run like anything, to run like hell/the devil | disperato |
| 8. to work like crazy/like a Trojan BE | bestia |
| 9. to gambol like a lamb | grillo |
| 10. to drive like a lunatic/a maniac | pazzo |

Activity 4

- 1.j *penny* il risparmio comincia dal centesimo
- 2.c *pudding* provare per credere
- 3.h *bird* chi s'assomiglia si piglia; Dio li fa e poi li accoppia
- 4.e *cross* è inutile fasciarsi la testa prima di essersela rotta
- 5.d *hand* = la collaborazione rende il lavoro più facile

- 6.b *handsome* = non si deve giudicare qcn. dal suo aspetto ma dalle sue azioni
 7.i *head* quattro occhi vedono meglio di due
 8.f *miss* = per un punto Martin perse la cappa
 9.a *merry* più si è meglio è
 10.g *broth* troppi cuochi guastano la cucina

Activity 5

1. maestro all trades must be learnt
2. mattino early to bed, early to rise
3. mela an apple a day keeps the doctor away
4. nespole = everything comes to him who waits
5. morde one's bark is worse than one's bite
6. bigi all cats are grey in the dark
7. Natale = you should spend Christmas with your family, but you can choose who to spend Easter with
8. mezzo forewarned is forearmed
9. morire = to say goodbye is to die a little
10. novanta fear is an ugly beast
11. nulla grasp all, lose all
12. ospite = a guest has overstayed his welcome after three days
13. occhio what the eye doesn't see (the heart doesn't grieve over)
14. nuova no news is good news

Activity 6

1. big; 2. cold; 3. sharp; 4. high; 5. dark; 6. fine

Activity 7

- A. 1. ants 5. bat 9. sheep
 2. bee 6. rat 10. snake
 3. butterflies 7. wolf
 4. duck 8. cats

- B. 1. h; 2. j; 3. f; 4. i; 5. e; 6. c; 7. g; 8. a; 9. d; 10. b.

Activity 8

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|---|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. to eat like a horse | it. bue ox | ingl. horse cavallo |
| 2. to put the cart before the horse | it. buoi oxen | ingl. horse cavallo |
| 3. to stink like a pig | it. caprone billy goat | ingl. pig maiale |
| 4. to work like a horse | it. mulo mule | ingl. horse cavallo |
| 5. to kill the golden goose | it. gallina hen | ingl. goose oca |
| 6. to be up with the lark | it. gallo cock, rooster | ingl. lark allodola |
| 7. to look like a drowned rat | it. pulcino chick | ingl. rat ratto |
| 8. to be enough to make a cat laugh | it. polli chickens, fowl | ingl. cat gatto |
| 9. to be blind as a bat | it. talpa mole | ingl. bat pipistrello |
| 10. to die like a rat in a trap | it. topo mouse | ingl. rat ratto |
| 11. to stick one's head in the lion's mouth | it. lupo wolf | ingl. lion leone |
| 12. to nurse a viper in one's bosom | it. serpe snake | ingl. viper vipera |
| 13. to run off like a startled rabbit | it. lepre hare | ingl. rabbit coniglio |
| 14. to have other/bigger fish to fry | it. gatte cats | ingl. fish pesce |

Activity 9

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|-------------|--|------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Achilles | tallone d'Achille | 5. Midas | trasforma in oro tutto ciò che tocca |
| 2. Aladdin | = luogo pieno di ricchezze | 6. Croesus | è un creso, un nababbo |
| 3. Pandora | vaso di Pandora | 7. Job | ha la pazienza di Giobbe |
| 4. Hobson | o mangi questa minestra
o salti questa finestra | 8. Adam | non lo conosco affatto |

Activity 10

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|--------------|---------------|
| 1. Francesco | 4. Tizio |
| 2. Berta | 5. Pulcinella |
| 3. Pietro | 6. Colombo |

1. e; 2. d; 3. f; 4. b; 5. a; 6. c.

Activity 11

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|--------------|-----------|---------------|--------------|
| a. apple pie | f. butter | k. bacon | p. grapes |
| b. bananas | g. bean | l. cherry | q. mincemeat |
| c. cucumber | h. cake | m. beer | r. mustard |
| d. beef | i. tea | n. biscuit | s. omelette |
| e. bread | j. cheese | o. fruit cake | t. pancake |

Activity 12

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|-------------|---------------|
| 1. pane | 4. limone |
| 2. pagnotta | 5. mozzarella |
| 3. miele | 6. spaghetti |

1. f; 2. c; 3. b; 4. e; 5. d; 6. a.

Activity 13

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| a. a kidnapper to a hostage | e. an employee to a colleague |
| b. the headmaster to a pupil | f. a kidnapper to the police |
| c. a physical education teacher to the students | g. a TV anchorman to a politician |
| d. a pupil to the headmaster | h. a political advisor to a politician |

Activity 14

A. 1. breath 2. chest 3. head 4. heart 5. hair 6. heel 7. legs 8. lip 9. eye 10. foot 11. skin 12. throat 13. mouth 14. neck 15. arms

B. 1. wonder 2. relief 3. panic 4. strong determination 5. terror 6. obstinacy 7. weakness 8. calmness 9. disagreement 10. embarrassment 11. surprise 12. incompatibility 13. depression 14. irritation 15. enthusiasm

C. The following idiomatic expressions have an exact equivalent in Italian:

1. togliere il fiato, far restare senza fiato
5. far rizzare i capelli in testa
6. ricevere a braccia aperte

Activity 15

1. one; 2. two; 3. third; 4. eight; 5. first; 6. five; 7. fours 8. nineteen 9. nines 10. sixes 11. seventh 12. second 13. thousand; 14. million; 15. one; 16. second; 17. two; 18. four.

Activity 16

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|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 1. mild | 6. rack | 11. earth | 16. square |
| 2. skittles | 7. high | 12. verse | 17. games |
| 3. sound | 8. tongs | 13. clear | 18. wide |
| 4. pieces | 9. hand | 14. dry | 19. heart |
| 5. hale | 10. early | 15. part | 20. spills |

Activity 17

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|------------|-------------|
| 1. scatola | 6. ferro |
| 2. fuoco | 7. asso |
| 3. carte | 8. ora |
| 4. gola | 9. piccioni |
| 5. piombo | 10. porta |

1. f; 2. e; 3. c; 4. a; 5. g; 6. d; 7. b; 8. j; 9. h; 10. i.