

READING B2

IDIOMS IN CONTEXT

When Daniel Hughes moved to a new city for a job in finance, he knew he was taking a risk. He had left behind a stable position, but he wanted a fresh start and a chance to prove himself.

On his first day, his manager told him that the company expected new employees to hit the ground running. Daniel didn't ask for clarification because he didn't want to look out of his depth. Instead, he simply nodded and hoped he would understand as he went along.

At first, everything seemed manageable, but by midweek Daniel began to feel under pressure. He was given several projects at once, and the deadlines were tight. Although he tried to stay calm, he soon realized he had taken on more than he could chew.

One afternoon, during an important meeting, Daniel was asked a question he couldn't answer. He tried to think on his feet, but his response wasn't very clear. After the meeting, he felt embarrassed and worried that he had made a bad impression.

Things got worse on Thursday when Daniel missed an important email and failed to complete a task on time. He was sure he would be in hot water. However, instead of getting angry, his manager decided to give him the benefit of the doubt and assumed it was just a misunderstanding.

That evening, Daniel decided he needed to face the music. He reviewed everything he had done that week and realized that he had been trying too hard to do everything perfectly instead of asking for help. The next day, he spoke honestly with his manager and colleagues.

To his surprise, they were very supportive. One colleague told him that everyone feels out of their depth at the beginning and that it takes time to adjust. Another advised him to focus on one task at a time and not to worry about making small mistakes.

By the end of the week, Daniel felt more confident. He had started to get the hang of things, and his manager even praised him for his effort and honesty. Daniel realised that although the week had been difficult, he was now on the right track.

Looking back, he understood that success doesn't come overnight. Sometimes, you have to struggle at first before things begin to fall into place.

Part 1: Multiple Choice (Choose A, B, C or D)

1. Why didn't Daniel ask about the meaning of hitting the ground running?

- A. He already knew the meaning
- B. He didn't care about the job
- C. He didn't want to seem inexperienced
- D. He forgot to ask

2. What does taking on more than he could chew suggest?

- A. He was eating too much
- B. He accepted more work than he could manage
- C. He refused to work
- D. He worked very slowly

3. What happened during the meeting?

- A. Daniel answered all questions perfectly
- B. Daniel avoided speaking
- C. Daniel struggled to respond quickly
- D. Daniel left early

4. Why wasn't Daniel punished for missing the task?

- 1. A. The manager didn't notice
- 2. B. The task wasn't important
- 3. C. The manager trusted him and understood
- 4. D. His colleague completed it

5.What did Daniel do after Thursday?

- A. He quit his job
- B. He ignored his mistakes
- C. He reflected and asked for help
- D. He complained to his manager

6.How did his colleagues react?

- A. They criticized him
- B. They ignored him
- C. They supported and advised him
- D. They reported him

7.What does get the hang of things mean in the text?

- A. To finish work quickly
- B. To begin to understand how to do something
- C. To stop working
- D. To teach others

8.What is the main message of the text?

- A. Work should always be easy
- B. Mistakes mean failure
- C. Success takes time and learning from difficulties
- D. Managers are always strict

Part 2: Match the Idioms (1–8) with Their Meanings (A–H)

Idioms:

- 1.Hit the ground running
- 2.Look out of your depth
- 3.Under pressure
- 4.Take on more than you can chew
- 5.Think on your feet
- 6.In hot water
- 7.Face the music
- 8.Get the hang of things

Meanings:

- A. To be in a stressful situation
- B. To deal with the consequences of your actions
- C. To start something quickly and actively
- D. To appear inexperienced or not capable
- E. To respond quickly without preparation
- F. To be in trouble
- G. To accept more responsibility than you can manage
- H. To learn how to do something

Part 3: Use of English

Complete the sentences with an appropriate idiom from the text:

1. She had to _____ when the teacher suddenly asked her a difficult question.
2. If you keep missing deadlines, you'll be _____ with your boss.
3. He didn't want to _____, so he stayed quiet during the discussion.
4. I finally _____ after a few weeks in my new job.
5. You need to _____ and accept responsibility for your mistake.
6. They expect new employees to _____ from day one.