**1. Translate the idioms. Tick the pairs of idioms that have a similar meaning.**

1   live hand to mouth / be well off

2   be rolling in it / live in the lap of luxury

3   be hard up / be a rip-off

4   make a killing / make a fortune

5   be broke / be in the red

6   make ends meet / pay through the nose

7   be dirt cheap / tighten one’s belt

**2. Complete the sentences with the correct words.**

1 How much did you pay for that jacket? What a …………………………-off!

2 If I weren’t so …………………………, I could afford to come out tonight.

3 Vic used to be ………………………… off before his business failed and he lost everything.

4 Do you think it’s possible to be ………………………… up, but still be very happy?

5 You can often buy fruit and vegetables dirt ………………………… at the weekly market.

6 My family aren’t exactly ………………………… in it, but we live quite comfortably.

**3. Match the sentence halves.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 I’ll have to tighten my2 You’ll never make ends3 After living hand to4 Very few people make5 Ben’s careful with money so he’s never been in6 We had to pay7 I often dream about living in | a the red for very long.b mouth for years, she finally became a successful writer.c a fortune through playing the lottery.d belt next month or I’ll soon run out of money.e the lap of luxury, but it’s unlikely to happen.f meet if you spend more than you earn.g through the nose for the concert tickets, but it was worth it! |

**VOCAB BOOST!**

Try to find out the literal meaning of idioms to help make them more memorable. Often, although not always, this meaning has a logical or metaphonical connection to the meaning of the idiom.

**4. Read the *Vocab boost!* box. Then match the idioms and their literal meanings (1-4) with their actual meanings (a-d).**

**1**   to be born with a silver spoon in your mouth

     Spoons are often given to babies as presents. Silver used to be an expensive metal and it’s probable that richer children were given silver spoons.

**2**   a cash cow

     This is a metaphor for a dairy now, which produces milk.

**3**   to live on the breadline

     In America during the Depression, people would wait in line to be given free food, paid for by the government.

**4**   money for old rope

     The original meaning for this term meant to make money by selling something that has been used an ought to be worthless. It comes from the days of sailing ships, when sailors would cut damaged rope into shorter, undamaged lengths to sell on land. At sea, long ropes are needed, but on land, shorter lengths were still useful and could be sold.

**a**  to be very poor

**b**  to make money for very little effort

**c** to be privileged

**d**  business or invention that returns a good level of profit every year

**5. Check the meaning of these idioms in a dictionary. Make up your own sentences with them.**

1 feel the pinch

2 cost the earth

3 work for peanuts

4 cost an arm and a leg

5 keep your head above water

6 put your money where your mouth is