

Idioms with fruit and veggies

1. Read the conversations below and for each phrase in bold choose its correct meaning.

- a) A: Everyone knew about the surprise at the annual company party. We need to learn who **spilt the beans**!

B: I think it could have been Mary. She has such a big mouth.

MEANINGS:

- 1) gossip 2) give away a secret

- b) A: Have you seen the news? It seems that the number of crimes has doubled over the last decade and no one has done anything about it!

B: Crime figures have always been a political **hot potato**.

MEANINGS:

- 1) difficult situation to deal with 2) scandal

- c) A: How come your children learn and behave so well?

B: Well, I use the **carrot and stick approach** with them and it works the best!

MEANINGS:

- 1) motivational system based on benefits
- 2) motivational system based on rewards and threats

- d) A: Do you think I should have private insurance?

B: I think so. It happens that people who don't have it often find themselves **in a pickle** if something goes wrong.

MEANINGS:

- 1) in a difficult situation 2) without a solution

- e) A: Which dance is better: hip-hop or tango?

B: Come on! I can't choose! It's **apples and oranges**.

MEANINGS:

- 1) two different things 2) two similar things

- f) A: Oh, this place looks like a mess!

B: Yeah, I know. I haven't spent **a bean** on it for years.

MEANINGS:

- 1) any money 2) any time

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2. Work in pairs. Your teacher will give you two cards with phrases and their meanings. Your task is to write conversations (similar to those in ex. 1) so that the other pair can guess the meaning of your idioms.

CONVERSATION 1

A:

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B:

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MEANINGS:

1) 2)

CONVERSATION 2

A:

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B:

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MEANINGS:

1) 2)

3. Discuss the questions.

- Do you remember a situation when somebody spilt the beans and ruined a surprise? What happened?
- What is a hot potato in your country right now?
- What do you think about the carrot and stick approach to motivation?
- When was the last time you were in a pickle at work? What happened?
- Do you know anyone who is a couch potato?
- When you find yourself in a stressful situation, are you nervous or stay as cool as a cucumber?
- What two people from your family or friends are like two peas in a pod?
- When was the last time you went bananas over something you heard? What was it about?

