

## Appendix A: List of the Idioms used in the Study

[www.english-listening-world.com/idioms.html](http://www.english-listening-world.com/idioms.html)

- |                           |                                  |                                     |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Turn a deaf ear to     | 11. Be a bundle of nerves        | 21. Shake in one's boots            |                            |
| 2. At sixes and sevens    | 12. At the crack of dawn         | 22. Scare someone out of one's wits | 31. Down in the mouth      |
| 3. All in                 | 13. Foot the bill                | 23. Have the bottle                 | 32. In the red             |
| 4. Lie low                | 14. Put sth on the backburner    | 24. Put a brave face on it          | 33. Teething troubles      |
| 5. In someone's bad books | 15. Hit the nail on the head     | 25. Bite the bullet                 | 34. Get sth off the ground |
| 6. Set one's heart on     | 16. Turn sth upside down         | 26. Be sitting pretty               | 35. Go to the wall         |
| 7. Screw up one's courage | 17. Make oneself scarce          | 27. Be in a cold sweat              | 36. In the long run        |
| 8. A piece of cake        | 18. In hot water                 | 28. In the nick of time             | 37. Hit the roof           |
| 9. With flying colors     | 19. Like a cat on a hot tin roof | 29. Laugh one's head off            | 38. On tenterhooks         |
| 10. Grin from ear to ear  | 20. The coast is clear           | 30. Take the mickey out of          | 39. Above board            |
|                           |                                  |                                     | 40. Tighten one's belt     |

## Appendix B: Group 1 (sample texts)

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### Sample Text 1: Late Homework

Tom attends a very strict school. The teachers give a lot of homework and they get angry if it is not done. One day Tom lost his homework. He **turned his room upside down** looking for it. He couldn't find it. He was **in hot water**. On the way to school he thought, 'I'd better **make myself scarce** today!' In class, he was **like a cat on a hot tin roof** waiting for the teacher to ask for the homework. About half way through class, there was a fire drill and the whole class had to go outside. The **coast was clear**! He was safe for another day. Later on, Tom did find his homework and he handed it in with pride.

### Sample Text 2: An Honest Boy

George is getting ready for a parade with his school. He was playing in his uniform and got it dirty. He knew his mother was going to **hit the roof**, and he was **on tenterhooks** on his way home. At least he was **above board** when he came in, because he knew that **in the long run** honesty is the best policy. Now his whole family will have to **tighten their belts** so they can buy material to make him a new uniform for the parade.

## Appendix C: Group 2 (sample)

*Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (2009)*

**1. The coast is clear**

*You can come out of your hiding place now. The coast is clear!*

**2. In hot water**

*She was in hot water since she didn't do her homework.*

**3. Like a cat on a hot tin roof**

*He was like a cat on a hot tin roof waiting for the teacher to ask for the homework.*

**4. In the long run**

*My uncle is losing money on his stocks but in the long run he should make money.*

**5. Tighten one's belt**

*In the new economy, we all have to learn to tighten our belts.*

## Appendix D: Group 3 (sample)

*Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (2009)*

**1. The coast is clear**

*There is no longer any danger or difficulty present*

**2. In hot water**

*In trouble*

**3. Like a cat on a hot tin roof**

*Very nervous and restless*

**4. in the long run**

*Eventually, in the end, after a long period of time*

**5. Tighten their belt**

*To economize greatly, to spend a great deal less money*

## Appendix E: Sample gap-fill exercise

Fill in the blanks with appropriate idioms.

1. His whole family will have to ..... so they can buy material to make him a new uniform for the parade.
2. He ..... his room ..... looking for keys.
3. Moving to Spain will be better for you .....
4. You can come out of your hiding place now. ....!
5. John's parents told him to take a rest, but he .....to them and kept on working.

## Appendix F: Sample items from the immediate and delayed posttests

### Identify the choice that best completes each statement

1. I was ..... that I would fail the driver's test.
  - a. scared out of my wits
  - b. sitting pretty
  - c. biting the bullet
  - d. tightening my belt
  
2. A: Have you talked to Randy lately? He just got a new job and a raise.  
B: Yes, I've heard. He sure is .....
  - a. sitting pretty
  - b. in the long run
  - c. hitting the roof
  - d. on tenterhooks
  
3. In theory, good companies will grow and prosper and bad companies will .....
  - a. foot the bill
  - b. hit the nail on the head
  - c. go to the wall
  - d. screw up their courage
  
4. A: Did you miss your flight?  
B: No, fortunately, I got to the airport .....
  - a. in the red
  - b. in the nick of time
  - c. in hot water
  - d. in the long run
  
5. The thieves are trying to ..... for a few days in the farmhouse and then they will escape.
  - a. go to the wall
  - b. hit the roof
  - c. foot the bill
  - d. lie low