

Identifying Meanings

Each pair of expressions has a similar meaning. Match the letter of the correct meaning from the box to each pair.

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| a. someone who's in charge | e. behavior that is offending or upsetting |
| b. acting without reason | f. cause trouble |
| c. having a troubling problem | g. someone you shouldn't trust |
| d. lose your temper | h. save something |

- _____ 1. stir up a hornet's nest
open a can of worms

- _____ 2. hit the ceiling
blow up

- _____ 3. rubbed me the wrong way
left a bad taste in my mouth

- _____ 4. top banana
high man on the totem pole

- _____ 5. salt it away
keep it for a rainy day

- _____ 6. lose your head
go off the deep end

- _____ 7. a snake in the grass
a back stabber

- _____ 8. between a rock and a hard place
in a pickle

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| a. being very upset about something | e. envious; jealous |
| b. draw attention away from someone else to yourself | f. if you say you believe in something, then you should act that way |
| c. a situation where there is no hope | g. easy, enjoyable situation |
| d. disappoint or discourage someone | h. cowardly |

- _____ 1. a bed of roses
a bowl of cherries
- _____ 2. rain on his parade
burst his bubble
- _____ 3. lily-livered
yellow
- _____ 4. practice what you preach
put your money where your mouth is
- _____ 5. turn green
eat your heart out
- _____ 6. down the drain
a lost cause
- _____ 7. up in arms
beside yourself
- _____ 8. upstage him
steal his thunder

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|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| a. to discipline strictly | e. spend a lot of money on something |
| b. act like everybody else | f. to start something |
| c. seize an opportunity without delay | g. understand how someone else feels |
| d. don't bother or upset someone | h. don't be ungrateful |

- _____ 1. Get the ball rolling.
Kick it off.
- _____ 2. Put the shoe on the other foot.
Walk a mile in her moccasins.
- _____ 3. Pay through the nose.
It cost an arm and a leg.
- _____ 4. Don't rattle his cage.
Let sleeping dogs lie.
- _____ 5. When in Rome, do as the Romans do.
Get on the bandwagon.
- _____ 6. Lower the boom.
Crack down.
- _____ 7. Don't bite the hand that feeds.
Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.
- _____ 8. Strike while the iron is hot.
Don't let the grass grow under your feet.