

# 7A

## Body idioms

**A** Read sentences 1–10 and match the idioms in **bold** with their meanings a–j.

- 1 Susan and Sally are really mean. They're always **talking about people behind their backs**.
- 2 We spent all evening **racking our brains**, but didn't come up with a **solution** to the problem.
- 3 We should get the bill. Can you try to **catch the waiter's eye**?
- 4 My neighbour really **gets on my nerves**. She's always playing loud **music** and watching everyone out of the window.
- 5 Kim's always boasting about herself. She is **such a big-head**!
- 6 I'm going out tomorrow evening. Do you think you could **keep an eye on** the children for me?
- 7 I always **get butterflies in my stomach** before I travel by plane.
- 8 My dad is **so tight-fisted**! He really hates spending money.
- 9 I always **get a lump in my throat** when I go to weddings. **They're** so emotional!
- 10 It **makes my blood boil** if I see people being cruel to animals.

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| a annoy someone                              | f make someone very angry |
| b think really, really hard about something  | g be arrogant             |
| c feel like you are about to cry             | h get someone's attention |
| d watch or look after something or someone   | i feel very nervous       |
| e speak about someone when they aren't there | j be mean                 |



**B** Complete the following with **ONE** word and then ask your partner the questions. Make some notes, so you can remember what your partner says!

- 1 What types of people or behaviour really get on your \_\_\_\_\_?
- 2 Do you ever talk about your friends behind their \_\_\_\_\_?
- 3 Have you ever asked someone to keep an \_\_\_\_\_ on your bag while you went to the toilet?
- 4 Is anyone in your family tight-\_\_\_\_\_?
- 5 What do you do if you're in a restaurant and you want to catch the waiter's \_\_\_\_\_?
- 6 What makes your \_\_\_\_\_ boil?
- 7 When was the last time you racked your \_\_\_\_\_ about something?
- 8 Do you get a lump in your \_\_\_\_\_ when you watch a sad film?
- 9 Do you know someone who is a big-\_\_\_\_\_?
- 10 Do you get butterflies in your \_\_\_\_\_ before you take an exam?



## 7A Body idioms

**Aims** To introduce and practise idioms related to the body

**Time** 15 minutes

**Materials** 1 handout for each student

- Before beginning, ensure that students are familiar with the meaning of the word *idiom*.
- Give each student the handout and get them to do task A.

### ANSWER KEY

1 e      3 h      5 g      7 i      9 c  
2 b      4 a      6 d      8 j      10 f

- In task B, students need to complete the questions.

### ANSWER KEY

- 1 nerves
- 2 backs
- 3 eye
- 4 fisted
- 5 eye
- 6 blood
- 7 brains (used in the plural form, even if we are only referring to one person)
- 8 throat
- 9 head
- 10 stomach

- Now working in pairs, students ask and answer the questions from task B.
- Select a few students to give you some information about their partner.