

2. Match the sentences in the two columns according to the similarity of meaning.

a.

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| 1. I can make nothing of it. | a. I feel uncomfortable. |
| 2. I think this would be beneath you. | b. Something is happening. |
| 3. I am afraid you have a sweet tooth. | c. He's utterly unsuitable. |
| 4. Do it now! Don't be a slacker! | d. Why complain? |
| 5. I'll drink my whisky neat. | e. I can't grasp it. |
| 6. It sets my teeth on edge. | f. See if I care! |
| 7. He looks fagged out with all these worries. | g. Don't be lazy! |
| 8. These ghost-stories always give me the creeps. | h. Let's see how things will shape. |
| 9. Let's be off; it isn't worth kicking up a row about. | i. I'll drink it straight. |
| 10. Are you so very hard-up? | j. They reached a dead end. |
| 11. I don't care a snap what he does. | k. He looks extremely tired. |
| 12. He is an old hand at the game. | l. I didn't smile in spite of myself. |
| 13. There is something in the wind. | m. He is quite experienced. |
| 14. I nearly fell into the snare. | n. They make me nervous. |
| 15. Let us wait and see which way the cat will jump. | o. This would be not good enough for you. |
| 16. That should put the lid on the whole business. | p. I was almost tricked. |
| 17. He is a square peg in a round hole. | q. Don't be silly! |
| 18. The negotiations met with a snag. | r. You like sweet things. |
| 19. Don't play the giddy goat. | s. This finally brings it to an end. |
| 20. I could hardly keep my face straight. | t. Are you broke? |

b.

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| 1. Probably they wouldn't hit it off. | a. We disagreed. |
| 2. This is a wonderful pick-me-up. | b. She's got the blues. |
| 3. I have the utmost confidence in her. | c. You've annoyed me and we have to talk. |
| 4. He trod on my toe. | d. He understood. |
| 5. I am through with you! | e. He did it secretly. |
| 6. Our opinions clashed on that point. | f. They might not manage. |
| 7. His words stung her to the quick. | g. He is drunk. |
| 8. I have a bone to pick with you. | h. He ranks high in society. |
| 9. Quick! Do not dally! | i. It is a complete failure. |
| 10. She looks as if butter wouldn't melt in her mouth. | j. They had no effect. |
| 11. He did it on the sly. | k. She felt extremely upset. |
| 12. I think we'd better make a bolt of it. | l. He just pretended to be ill. |
| 13. She's got in the dumps. | m. I wish they could forgive me. |
| 14. It is a dead loss. | n. She is not sincere. |
| 15. He is half-seas over. | o. He offended me. |
| 16. He was shamming illness. | p. I wholly trust her. |
| 17. He took the hint. | q. Don't waste time! |
| 18. His jokes always fall flat. | r. We'd better try to escape. |
| 19. I crave their pardon. | s. That's all there is to it! |
| 20. He is a man of good standing. | t. This is a real stimulant. |

C.

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| 1. She's as nutty as a fruitcake. | a. She kept annoying him. |
| 2. He is a chip off the old block. | b. You'll get it at the right time. |
| 3. He gave me a dig in the ribs. | c. I was in permanent trouble. |
| 4. I got into no end of scrapes. | d. He is open-hearted! |
| 5. I have other fish to fry. | e. She's completely crazy. |
| 6. You had better kick off at once. | f. It is a difficult matter. |
| 7. She drove him to distraction. | g. That would help us. |
| 8. He is always poking fun at me. | h. He can quickly find a way out. |
| 9. It looked rather down-at-heel. | i. He takes after his parents. |
| 10. He knit his brows. | j. I was very surprised. |
| 11. I will send it to you in due course. | k. Her work is not good enough. |
| 12. That would tend towards our aims. | l. He frowned. |
| 13. I don't like the look of him. | m. He pushed me quickly and lightly. |
| 14. I was struck all of a heap. | n. Why can't he show any emotion? |
| 15. He has all his wits about him. | o. I have more important things to do. |
| 16. This is a knotty point. | p. It looked not well cared for. |
| 17. Her work just isn't up to the mark. | q. He can't help mocking at me. |
| 18. He wears his heart on his sleeve. | r. Let's put an end to this controversy. |
| 19. Why be so matter-of-fact? | s. You should start now. |
| 20. Let's drop this bone of contention. | t. I can't bear him. |

d.

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| 1. Does he ever know what's what? | a. Not soon enough. |
| 2. It was a long-drawn-out denouement. | b. It was unpleasant. |
| 3. Your answer is a long way out. | c. Do you know where he is? |
| 4. I'm telling you once and for all! | d. You are not joking, are you? |
| 5. She was slovenly dressed. | e. He is exhausted. |
| 6. I am at my wits' end. | f. He is a liar. |
| 7. There he is! And none too soon. | g. Is he knowledgeable? |
| 8. He looks down in the mouth. | h. It's not worthwhile. |
| 9. She is as good as her word. | i. I have forgiven you. |
| 10. Do you know his whereabouts? | j. It is inaccurate. |
| 11. And that's flat! | k. It was unconvincing. |
| 12. The blows fell thick and fast. | l. It was all to no end. |
| 13. It was in vain. | m. They came many and quickly. |
| 14. You are not pulling my leg, are you? | n. It's for the only/final time. |
| 15. I had a thin time. | o. It lasted too long. |
| 16. He is dead beat. | p. She was wearing improper clothes. |
| 17. That was a lame excuse. | q. This is my last word on the matter. |
| 18. They won't listen, so don't waste your breath. | r. He looks unhappy. |
| 19. He will swear black is white. | s. I am at a loss. |
| 20. I bear you no grudge. | t. She is reliable. |

e.

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| 1. He is a big shot. | a. It is exaggerated. |
| 2. Go on, it is your cue. | b. She's growing weaker. |
| 3. This won't do. | c. It is valuable but useless. |
| 4. "How are you?" "I'm in the pink." | d. He's likely to complain. |
| 5. Come, cheer up, don't be downhearted! | e. They drop in occasionally. |
| 6. He was kept on his toes. | f. Hers was a great success. |
| 7. Here are some rough and ready rules. | g. You are wrong. |
| 8. She's passed it with flying colours. | h. They made sure he was ready. |
| 9. He wants all wrongs righted. | i. I was terribly frightened. |
| 10. This is tall talk. | j. He's an important person. |
| 11. It is just a white elephant. | k. It is not acceptable. |
| 12. He is very well off now. | l. He was easy-going. |
| 13. Don't be rash. | m. I can't answer immediately. |
| 14. She is gradually fading away. | n. It's your turn. |
| 15. You are wide of the mark. | o. They are not exact, only approximate. |
| 16. He's bound to grumble. | p. I'm very well. |
| 17. I was startled out of my wits. | q. He wants to put an end to something bad. |
| 18. They visit me off and on. | r. Don't be disappointed. |
| 19. His father was happy-go-lucky. | s. He is quite rich. |
| 20. I can't answer you offhand. | t. Be cautious! |

3. a. Which verb makes up an idiom with each of the given nouns?

break, do, keep, lose, make, play, pull, stand, take.

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| 1. measures | 11. accounts | 21. the fool | 31. a promise |
| 2. harm | 12. offence | 22. the honours | 32. a tune |
| 3. bounds | 13. wonders | 23. flight | 33. the news |
| 4. room | 14. contact with | 24. a muscle | 34. a fuss |
| 5. strings | 15. patience | 25. charge of | 35. revenge |
| 6. guard | 16. rank | 26. heart | 36. a recording |
| 7. ball | 17. a living | 27. a favour | 37. house |
| 8. interest | 18. the ice | 28. the curtains | 38. punches |
| 9. friends | 19. a face | 29. a point | 39. height |
| 10. tricks | 20. a vow | 30. a record | 40. 10 miles |

b. What idioms can you identify by using one word at a time from each line?

break, fall, follow, go, make, play, see, set, stand, strike.

bust, fast, flat, free, loose, lucky, merry, red, suit, truant.

4. Romanian and English idioms

a. Translate the following sentences into English using the corresponding idioms of the ones printed in italics.

1. Mi-a forțat mâna atunci și nu mai suntem prieteni.
2. Dacă știi să citești printre rânduri, vei înțelege ce vrea de fapt.
3. E tipic lui să lovească sub centură când te aștepți mai puțin.
4. Trebuie să-i plătești cu aceeași monedă.
5. Nu te lăsa iar dus de nas de unul ca el.
6. Ca de obicei, a încercat să arunce praf în ochii celorlalți.
7. Știi că încerci să câștigi teren, dar nu te vom lăsa.
8. Vino-ți în fire, pentru numele lui Dumnezeu!
9. A strâmbat din nas la sugestia mea de a-i invita și pe prietenii mei.
10. Are un fel de a se băga pe sub pielea șefului și chiar îi merge!
11. Cei care pescuiesc în ape turburi pot avea surprize neplăcute.
12. Ai de gând să-i calci pe urme?
13. Au răscolit cerul și pământul, dar nu i-au dat de urmă.
14. Îi detest pe cei care își spală rufele murdare în public.
15. După cheltuielile de anul ăsta va trebui să strângem cureaua.
16. S-a spălat pe mâini de toată afacerea și ne-a lăsat pe noi să ne descurcăm.
17. Am să mătur podeaua cu el pentru că ne-a mințit.
18. Ați încheiat afacerea în cele din urmă?
19. Adună-ți gândurile și hotărăște-te odată!
20. Nu te mai pierde cu firea pentru orice fleac.
21. E timpul să tragem linia.
22. Îmi pare rău, am pierdut firul poveștii.
23. Spune ce ai de spus și să terminăm odată!
24. Așa se întâmplă când slujești la doi stăpâni.
25. Probele pun cazul într-o nouă lumină.

b. Translate the following sentences into Romanian using the corresponding idioms for the ones printed in italics.

1. Don't take for granted everything you read in the papers.
2. She is always making a mountain of a molehill!
3. I wish you could turn an honest penny.
4. Let's call a spade a spade.
5. Have you got out of bed on the wrong side again?
6. He likes to make a bee-line for his goals.
7. Why make so much ado about nothing?!
8. Let's bury the hatchet once for all, shall we?
9. Father used to find fault with whatever I did.
10. Stop handling her with kid gloves when you know she is the culprit!

11. *It sticks out a mile* that he tried to take you in.
12. We will *weather the storm* this time, too.
13. Why should you always *split hairs*?
14. He *affects ignorance* but I wouldn't believe him.
15. You are *asking for trouble* by all means!
16. He stole away and *left us in the lurch*.
17. It was then that *I met my Waterloo*.
18. I guess he *spilt the beans* unawares.
19. You are *skating on thin ice*.
20. The council *cooked the books* and misled the people.
21. His *dropping the brick* at the very end of the meeting is unpardonable.
22. I'm sure he enjoyed *leading us up the garden path*.
23. I've just *heard it through the grape-vine*.
24. I'd rather *sit on the fence* than interfere.
25. You'd better *let bygones be bygones*.

5. a. Make up sentences of your own using the following idioms. Try to find the best Romanian counterparts.

be barking at the wrong tree, build castles in the air, catch smb's eye, clear one's name, cross swords, drop smb a hint, eat one's words, feather one's nest, fight shy of sth, fish for compliments, fly off the handle, gild the lily, harp on the same string, hide one's light under a bushel, iron out differences, jog smb's memory, kill two birds with one stone, know which side one's bread is buttered, lead smb astray, let the grass grow under one's feet, lose track of, mind your p's and q's, raise one's glass to smb, raise hell/the roof, ring a bell, rise to the occasion, sail under false colours, show one's teeth, show the white feather, speak volumes, stick one's neck out, stick to one's guns, tell smb his fortune, tell tales, throw cold water on sth, throw a party, throw the towel, throw one's weight about, weave a web of lies/illusions/deceit, wring one's hands.

- b. Explain the meaning of the following English idioms.

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| come down on someone like a ton of bricks | play fast and loose with |
| take smb down a peg or two | burn a hole in one's pocket |
| make neither head nor tail of sth | cut one's coat according to one's cloth |
| get hold of the wrong end of the stick | gain the upper hand |
| run with the hare and hunt with the hounds | look daggers at smb |
| hold out the olive branch | win hands down |
| pull the wool over smb's eyes | throw a fit/tantrum |
| put two and two together | cut the Gordian knot |
| give someone the cold shoulder | put oneself in someone else's shoes |
| keep body and soul together | take to sth like a duck to the water |
| go off the beaten track | put all one's eggs in one basket |

6. Fill in the gaps with the appropriate idioms. Make the necessary changes.

a. *bring sth home to someone, burn the candle at both ends, call someone names, come in handy, fall between two stools, give vent to sth, go to the dogs, hold one's ground, keep your hair on, make a clean breast of sth, pay through the nose, play second fiddle, pull one's socks up, put out one's feelers, see eye to eye, set the ball rolling, slip one's memory, stand clear of, take sides, turn the tables on.*

1. Take your credit card with you – it might
2. He's by admitting he has wronged us deliberately.
3. I hate but I share her point of view, not yours.
4. The incident the pointlessness of criticism for its sake.
5. It was Ulysses's gift-horse that the Trojans.
6. I remember how the kids in the neighbourhood used to because I was a loner.
7. We didn't exactly but we made a compromise, eventually.
8. I can't make up my mind which is the better – I feel like I
9. Tom vowed to even if it meant losing his job.
10. If you are really determined to win a medal, you'll have to
11. To be successful on the market you need to so as to be able to fend competition.
12. How much are you ready to contribute to
13. Should he his feelings, he would upset the whole family.
14. All right,, please! I'm awfully sorry, I've gone too far!
15. Their company is, take my word for it.
16. It is not like her to but she has no choice until the boss retires.
17. them unless you want to be bullied.
18. He looks dead tired; I guess he for a long while now.
19. I meant to send you a message, but it completely
20. My brother and it served him right as he wouldn't listen to us.

b. *break a habit, bring the total, call to mind, come of age, fall on stony ground, get to grips with, give the game away, go all out, hold water, keep smb in the dark, make no bones about it, play it cool, pull one's weight, put paid to, run riot, see the back of smb, set the pace, stand accused of, take smb unawares, turn the corner.*

1. We will to pass the exam
2. The deadline is near – you should like everyone else here.
3. She enjoying a drink.
4. He racism due to his latest speeches.
5. This of casualties to 16.
6. The Italians for the first eight laps.
7. It was as late as the 1950s that space technology
8. I can't put up with him any more; I'd be glad to one of these days.
9. The management claims that they after one year of decline.