

Common Business Idioms - 11

A. Look at the following idioms and decide if you know what they mean. Try and connect the meaning with the explanation given:

<i>Idiom:</i>	<i>Meaning:</i>
1. think big	a) Think of creative solutions instead of common ones.
2. time's up	b) Big problem or controversial issue which is obvious, but which no one wants to talk about.
3. twist someone's arm	c) To quit.
4. think outside the box	d) Time for something or someone has ended.
5. under the table	e) Persuade someone to do something that they don't want to do.
6. touch base	f) Something done secretly (and usually illegally).
7. the elephant in the room	g) Have high goals and big plans for the future.
8. throw in the towel	h) Make contact with someone.

B. Now look at the following sentences and use the correct idiom in the right place:

1. The owner thought the marketing budget was a little high. We had to _____ her _____ to get her to agree to it.
2. I was trying to learn Spanish, but I got frustrated and _____.
3. If we really want to grow our business we need to be creative and _____.
4. I think Rosy's _____ as the CEO. They're going to replace her as soon as they find a suitable candidate.
5. We should have been talking about our huge debt, but it seemed like no one wanted to talk about the _____.
6. I'm not content with just one or two more product lines. I'm _____ - I think we can have maybe 10 more lines by the end of the year.
7. Let me make a few phone calls to find out what you want. I'll _____ with you later.

8. To avoid paying taxes, they paid some of their employees
_____.