

Common Business Idioms - 6

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. in the driver's seat	a) The last annoyance, disturbance, or betrayal, which causes someone to give up, lose his or her patience, or become very angry.
2. the last straw	b) To learn the basics of something.
3. a long shot	c) To lose some type of an advantage (market share, for example) to a competitor.
4. a loop hole	d) Not profitable and operating at a loss.
5. keep your eye on the ball	e) A job during normal working hours. The term came into existence because many work days start at 9 AM and end at 5 PM.
6. lose ground	f) When someone has to choose between various options and all the options are bad.
7. nine to five	g) Occurs if a law is unclear or omits information. This lack of legal clarity allows people or corporations to take advantage of the situation and gain some advantage.
8. a no-win situation	h) When there is little chance that something will happen.
9. learn the ropes	i) to focus and concentrate on what you want to achieve.
10. in the red	j) To be in control.

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

1. I'm not used to being _____. I should probably do some more training or buy some management books.
2. When I started my own business, we were _____ for the first two years. We didn't see a profit until the third year.
3. Our boss was unhappy with Brian's performance for a while, but when he came to work three hours late without calling, it was _____.

4. I like my new position, but I'm only just starting to _____ so it's a bit of a challenge.
5. Some people complain that some multi-national companies avoid paying taxes by finding _____ in tax laws.
6. Winning the lottery is _____, but millions of people still buy lottery tickets.
7. Apple _____ some _____ to Samsung over the course of the last quarter.
8. She was tired of working _____ job, so she took her savings and started a restaurant.
9. It's _____ situation. If they lay off more workers, they'll get bad press. If they don't lay off more workers, they won't be able to compete.
10. I know we can do it. We just need to _____ and not lose our focus.