

Common Business Idioms - 8

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. out in the open	a) To not know something that a select group of people knows.
2. play hardball	b) To do or think about things in the wrong order.
3. put all your eggs in one basket	c) To set the standards or expectations higher usually by achieving or creating something better than what had previously existed.
4. put the cart before the horse	d) Excessive rules, procedures, etc., that make it difficult to accomplish something. Often used to talk about government requirements that create difficult, time-consuming barriers for people and businesses.
5. read between the lines	e) To rely on only one thing to bring you success.
6. red tape	f) To cause problems or disrupt a peaceful situation.
7. raise the bar	g) 24/7
8. out of the loop	h) To understand something that wasn't communicated directly. It involves understanding what someone is implying or suggesting but not saying directly.
9. rock the boat	i) To be competitive in a negative way, doing anything possible to win.
10. round-the-clock	j) Public knowledge, not hidden from people.

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

1. He _____ to get where he is, so I would be careful what you say and do around him.
2. They were trying to find investors without even having a business plan. They were _____.

3. He didn't say that he wants to leave the company, but _____ it looks like he's getting a new job.
4. I felt like I was _____ after being on vacation for two weeks.
5. The new software is getting great reviews. It looks like they've really _____ for the competition.
6. The new law is going to create a lot of extra _____ and we're going to have to pay our lawyers a lot more money.
7. We have _____ production at all our manufacturing facilities.
8. He thought about demanding a raise, but then he decided he didn't want to _____.
9. I think it's a good policy to do things _____ because people get suspicious if you do things in secret.
10. It's not good to only invest in the stock market. You don't want to _____.