



February

Idioms from the Heart

Part One



Ben's *heart skips a beat* every time Myra walks by.

All of the following sentences are structured around an idiom with the word **heart** in it. Idioms, as you know, are figures of speech that allow us to say one thing and mean another. In the cartoon caption above, for example, Ben's heart does not actually skip a beat when Myra walks by, but it does react to the emotional surge that he feels in Myra's presence, and it probably beats a little faster. The hidden message in the idiom is that Ben really likes Myra!

Read each of the following sentences and its accompanying question. Prove that you have skills in unmasking the disguised meanings in the idioms by writing the letters of the correct answers in the blanks to the left.

- _____ 1. *Though he has a reputation for having a heart of stone, Raymond couldn't resist the pleading look in the lost puppy's eyes.*
The lost puppy proved that, in spite of his reputation, Raymond is not always
(A) unfriendly and unkind,
(B) stubborn and difficult to deal with,
(C) angry and argumentative,
(D) willing to help someone in need.
- _____ 2. *Marion and Rebecca had a heart-to-heart talk about their tendency to compete and argue with each other, and they are now the best of friends.*
Marion and Rebecca
(A) had one loud, final argument,
(B) had orders from their parents to stop competing with each other,
(C) got together and talked honestly and openly about their feelings,
(D) decided to be teammates rather than members of competing teams.
- _____ 3. *At first, Simon thought the substitute teacher was awful, but he had a change of heart when she complimented his hair style.*
What happened when Simon had a change of heart?
(A) He formed a different opinion of the substitute.
(B) He realized things were worse than he thought.
(C) He wondered if he might be wrong about the teacher.
(D) He made up his mind to ignore the substitute.