

WORD PAIRS: MOANS AND GROANS



“all f_____ and t_____”



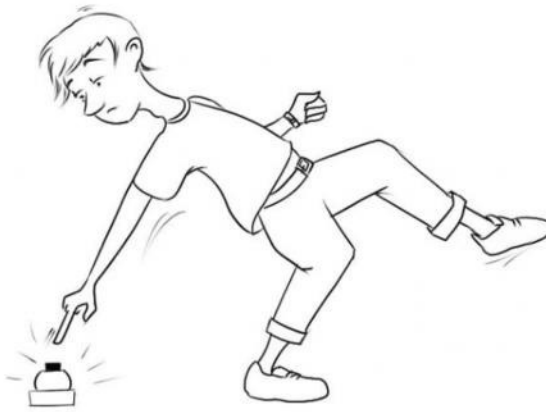
“s_____ and t_____”



“n_____ and b_____”



“make a s_____ and d_____” (about sth)



“t_____ and g_____”



“b_____ and b_____”



“b_____ and c_____”



“between a r_____ and a h_____ p_____”



“all s_____ and r_____”

(all fingers and thumbs; sick and tired; nuts and bolts; make a song and dance; touch and go; belt and braces; ball and chain; between a rock and a hard place; all sunshine and rainbows)

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| <p>1. If someone is all fingers and thumbs, they:</p> <p>a) Are uncoordinated and clumsy b) Have bad handwriting c) Are good at math</p> | <p>2. If someone is sick and tired, they are:</p> <p>a) Overworked b) Exhausted c) Fed up</p> | <p>3. If someone knows the nuts and bolts, they know:</p> <p>a) A lot of different things b) Basic and practical details c) Small details</p> |
| <p>4. If someone makes a song and dance about something, they:</p> <p>a) Try to distract attentions from something important b) Complain about little things c) Are happy and pleased with it</p> | <p>5. If something is touch and go, it's:</p> <p>a) Uncertain b) Simple and easy to do c) Urgent</p> | <p>6. If someone is a belt and braces type, they:</p> <p>a) Find it difficult to make decisions b) Wear old-fashioned clothes c) Are extra-careful and always have plan "B"</p> |
| <p>7. If something is a ball and chain, it:</p> <p>a) Helps you to be very practical b) Limits your opportunities or freedom c) Is a challenging task</p> | <p>8. If you're between a rock and a hard place, you:</p> <p>a) Have a difficult decision to make b) Are running out of time c) Are feeling safe and secure</p> | <p>9. If a period in your life is all sunshine and rainbows:</p> <p>a) It's full of uncertainty b) It's happy and care-free c) Things are changing very fast</p> |

Complete the conversations with one of the word pairs:

- A: Matt doesn't want me to go out anymore.
B: He's become a bit of _____, hasn't he.
- A: Everything was going so well until this new manager was taken on!
B: Sorry, but I guess life can't always be _____, can it.
- A: I was so anxious they wouldn't get my email – so I texted and left a voicemail and...
B: Oh _____, aren't you!
- A: I'm so sorry! Was that your report? I didn't mean to, my cup was just...
B: I see someone's _____ today.
- A: ...and I've just done a degree in business management.
B: Even with your degree it will take quite some time to learn _____ of this job.
- A: If I do it, my parents are going to kill me - but if I don't, I'll be mad at myself forever!
B: Caught _____, are you?
- A: He just goes on and on about how things were better when he was our age...
B: I hate it when he does it - I'm so _____ of his rants myself.
- A: I just don't get it: why does everything have to be so last minute?!
B: I know! It drives me mad when things are so _____!
- A: He was moaning about having to get up early for a good half hour!
B: Typical! He just has to _____ about every tiny inconvenience.

Choose an experience in your life you can moan about that illustrates one of the word pairs. Prepare to tell your story. Work in pairs and take turns. Student A: tell about your experience without using the word pair. Student B: respond in a natural way, if possible using the word pair you think Student A is describing.