

# RED HAIR!

## Reading

Before you read...

### PART 1

You are going to read a story from the newspaper that includes the following four items.

- red hair dye
- an angry pub manager
- a pretty woman
- a pub in England

Before reading the text try to imagine how these items may relate in the story?

E.g. Why is the pub manager angry?

What relationship is there between the woman and the pub manager?

Why is the red hair dye important?

### PART 2

These words are all in the headline of the article you are about to read. See if you can arrange the words into a suitable headline!

**with Pub (n)**

**red (adj) bans (v) girl (n)**

**a hair (n)**

*Scroll down to check your answers!*

## Reading

Quickly read the text.

### Pub bans a girl with red hair

A pretty girl has been barred from a town center pub because she dyed her hair red. Samantha Thomas, 24, was shown the door when she popped into a Tudor pub in Shrewsbury, Shropshire. She said yesterday: 'I had just gone into the pub to get some lunch. The landlord took one look at my hair and said that I must leave without being served.' I told him I was a respectable

person with a job and a mortgage, but he said 'it made no difference.' Samantha, of Stanwood Road, Bicton, said 'I only changed my hair to red to brighten up the dull January days.' She was refused service by Bill Goose, general manager of the pub and restaurant, when she walked in with her 19-year-old brother, Timothy. Mr Goose said: 'The girl's hair was red and very bright. She stuck out like a sore thumb among the pensioners here drinking Guinness. I asked her politely to leave, but she got a bit haughty.'

*Worldwide School of English, 2003.*

#### CHECK WHAT YOU KNOW:

Was the story similar to what you had imagined?  
How was it different?

Read the article again and answer the following the questions.

1. Do you agree with the decision of the landlord? Why or why not?
2. Do you think this would happen in your country? Why or Why not?
3. If you had been Samantha Thomas, what would you have done?

## Vocabulary

Look at the vocabulary from the text and match the words and phrases on the right with the correct meaning on the left. Look at the story again to help you.

Vocabulary	Meanings
to be shown the door (idiom)	not bright, uninteresting and without colour
to pop into somewhere (idiom)	to be very easily noticed
dull (adj.)	to be asked to leave somewhere
to be barred from somewhere (idiom)	a loan taken from a bank to pay for a house
mortgage (n)	to be prohibited from visiting a place
to stick out like a sore thumb (idiom)	to go somewhere for a short visit
haughty (adj.)	arrogant and rude

## Vocabulary Extension

This story is not a serious news story. It is rather a human-interest story. The language is colloquial or conversational in tone. One aspect of colloquial language is the use of idioms. In this article there are a number of idioms as seen above.

A useful strategy when studying idioms is to learn them in groups. For example, many idioms are based on

- **Parts of the body** e.g. “to stick out like a sore *thumb*” (to be very easily noticed)
- **Animals** e.g. “to feel like a *fish* out of water” (to feel awkward or uncomfortable in a situation)
- **Colours** e.g. “to feel *blue*” (to feel sad or a little depressed).

# Part of the body idioms

Below are ten common idioms used in everyday conversation. Each is based on a part of the body. Your job is to fill in the gaps with the correct body-part. Each gap represents a missing letter.

<i>hand</i>	<i>arm</i>	<i>eye</i>	<i>head</i>	<i>heels</i>
<i>eyes</i>	<i>feet</i>	<i>neck</i>	<i>heart</i>	<i>lips</i>

1. Can you keep an \_ \_ \_ on my bag?
2. She broke my \_ \_ \_ \_ \_.
3. My \_ \_ \_ \_ are sealed.
4. Can you give me a \_ \_ \_ \_ with my homework?
5. Sarah and John are \_ \_ \_ \_ over \_ \_ \_ \_ in love.
6. When I saw the price, I couldn't believe my \_ \_ \_ \_.
7. I didn't want to do it, but she twisted my \_ \_ \_.
8. I don't see \_ \_ \_ to \_ \_ \_ with my brother.
9. I've got cold \_ \_ \_ \_.
10. Writing reports at the end of the month is a pain in the \_ \_ \_ \_.

***To check your answers scroll down!***

## **To Think About...**

What do you think these idioms mean?

Do you have any similar idioms in your language?

In what situation could you use these idioms?

# Answers

1. Can you keep an eye on my bag?
2. She broke my heart
3. My lips are sealed.
4. Can you give me a hand with my homework?
5. Sarah and John are head over heels in love.
6. When I saw the price, I couldn't believe my eyes.
7. I didn't want to do it, but she twisted my arm.
8. I don't see eye to eye with my brother.
9. I've got cold feet.
10. Writing reports at the end of the month is a pain in the neck.

## Match the following meanings with the idioms.

- a) annoying or irritating
- b) to keep a secret and be discrete
- c) to strongly influence someone and make them do something
- d) to disagree
- e) to feel nervous or unsure
- f) to feel sad from loss of love
- g) to be very surprised
- h) to be very much in love
- i) to help someone with something
- j) to watch or look after something

***To check your answers scroll down!***

## Answers:

- |      |      |      |      |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. j | 2. f | 3. b | 4. i | 5. h  |
| 6. g | 7. c | 8. d | 9. e | 10. a |

## Study Note

If you hear or read an idiom that you don't understand, there are a number of ways you can find out the meaning.

### First

Try to guess the meaning from the situation or context the idiom is used.

### Then

Ask a native-speaker the meaning

**or**

Look in a dictionary under one of the key words. Good dictionaries often have a list of the most common idioms. E.g. For the idiom "to keep an eye on something" you could look up the word eye.

**or**

If the idiom is rather uncommon you can check it in a specialist dictionary of idioms. For example, Collins Cobuild Dictionary of Idioms has a very good list of many English idioms.

