

Autumn idioms (worksheet)

Activity 1

What is the first thing you think when you see this picture?



Activity 2

*What words do you associate with autumn?
Look at the pictures. What can you see?*



Activity 3

Read the sentences. Discuss with your partner literal and figurative meanings of the words in bold:

Example:



(Picture taken from www.education.com)

- 1) I'm so sorry to cancel our lesson but I'm **feeling under the weather**. I'd better go home to get some rest. I am flying to a conference on Friday so I can't afford to be sick this week!
- 2) I didn't expect to receive this much for my annual bonus. It happens so rarely so I should really **save** that money **for a rainy day**.
- 3) I've been **squirreling away** a little bit of money each so that I can afford a trip to Spain next summer.
- 4) Please, don't tell anyone! If my mum **gets wind of** any gossip about me and Mike, I'll be grounded for the rest of summer.
- 5) It was only when she retired and reached her **autumn years** that she learned to live life to the fullest.
- 6) Whenever he's drunk, he goes off with that **old chestnut** about all his missed opportunities and broken heart.
- 7) All these tons of junk emails are **driving me nuts**. **How can I stop it!**
- 8) **I am nuts about** that girl. I can't stop thinking about her. I'd do anything for her.
- 9) I know I always say I'm going to quit smoking but I'm really serious. It's time **to turn over a new leaf**. I have no doubts this time I will quit.
- 10) For example: After many days of hard work, Mike completed the project. You should **take a leaf out of his book**.

Activity 4

Match the idioms with the meanings:

	Idiom		Meaning
1	Present Simple		The later years of a person's life when they are past middle age and approaching old age
2	Save for a rainy day		To hide, reserve, or hoard something for future use
3	Squirrel away		To feel ill; unwell
4	Drive someone nuts		To be obsessed with someone or something
5	Autumn years		To make someone very annoyed or go crazy
6	Old chestnut		To follow someone's example or imitate them in a certain way
7	Get wind of something		A topic, saying, story or joke that has been repeated so much that it has become boring and irksome
8	Be nuts about someone or something		To reserve something (usually money) for a future need
9	Turn over a new leaf		To change your life by starting to be a better person or stopping a bad habit
10	Take a leaf (or page) out of someone's book		To become aware of something, especially something being kept secret, through indirect means

Activity 5

Complete the sentences with the right idioms :

- 1) That noise _____. Please stop at once!
- 2) I've been _____ a bit _____ this week. I might go to the doctor tomorrow.
- 3) I don't want my colleagues to _____ the fact that I'm leaving.
- 4) Andy happily spent his _____ with his wife Matilda in their house by the sea.
- 5) After many days of hard work, Mike completed the project. You should _____ .
- 6) Lisa _____ a lot of money while she was working and now she can enjoy her retirement.
- 7) Billy, please... Stop telling us this _____. We've already heard that story so many times.
- 8) I'm usually late for work, but starting tomorrow, I'm _____. I'm going to be on time from now on.
- 9) Sophie _____ dinosaurs.
- 10) I just purchased a new board game for the kids. They're going to love it! But I'm not going to give it to them yet. I _____ during the winter school break.

Activity 4

Discuss the questions in pairs:

1. What is the best treatment when somebody is feeling under the weather?
2. When was the last time you were feeling under the weather?
3. Do you try to save for a rainy day? Why (not)?
4. Have you ever squirreled away? What was it?
5. Has it ever happened to you that you got wind of something bad?
6. How would you like to spend your autumn years?
7. What old chestnuts irritate you the most? Do you have a habit of telling old chestnuts?
8. Does someone you know or something drive you nuts? Why?
9. What is something or somebody you're nuts about?
10. Have you ever tried to turn over a new leaf? What happened?
11. Have you ever taken a leaf out of someone's book?

