Idioms

**Lesson 1:**

1. **A penny for your thoughts** = tell me what you are thinking about.
2. **A chance in a million** = either no chance at all or a very slim chance.
3. **Two sides of the same coin** = two contrasting characters in the same category.
4. **A million dollar question** = a question with a much awaited and valuable answer.
5. **As good as gold** = very well behaved.
6. **To cash in on** = to take advantage.
7. **Thirty pieces of silver** = the money paid to Judas Iscariot for an act of betrayal.

**Lesson 2:**

1. **To face the music** = to answer for the consequences of one’s actions.
2. **To harp on the same string** = to make the same point over and over again.
3. **To strike a chord** = to remind one of something; a feeling of instant rapport with others.
4. **To sing someone’s praises** = to speak very highly of someone.
5. **To make a song and dance about** = to make an unnecessary fuss about.
6. **To beat the drum** = to spread the news, support enthusiastically.
7. **To play second fiddle** = to be treated low/ hold a position of less importance.

**Lesson 3:**

1. **Drag up a child** = bring up a child without proper training.
2. **Done to a turn** = extremely well done.
3. **Drop out** = cease to complete.
4. **Drop-outs** = those who withdraw.
5. **Exact from** = demand and get from.
6. **Feather in one’s cap** = something one may feel proud of.
7. **Follow something up** = pursue.
8. **Heart and soul** = completely, with utter dedication.

**Lesson 4:**

1. **In deep water** = in difficulties.
2. **Blood is thicker than water** = one tends to show more affection towards one’s relations.
3. **Fish out of water** = a person who does not fit in, out of place.
4. **Keep one’s head above water** = to make just enough money to survive, to manage a difficult situation with courage.
5. **In hot water** = in serious trouble.
6. **Make one’s mouth water** = to crave or desire something that one loves to eat.
7. Still water run deep = never judge anything by its appearance.

Lesson 5:
1. Child’s play = a simple task for anyone who has the gift or experience to accomplish it.
2. A brain child = one’s original ideas
3. Child-like = having the innocent and frank qualities of a child
4. Second childhood = old age
5. A dropout = a student who leaves school/ college / university / without finishing his/her course.

Lesson 6:
1. A cuckoo in the nest = an unwelcome intruder
2. To chatter like a magpie = to talk incessantly, without interruption
3. To crow over = to rejoice at the defeat of an opponent
4. A cock and bull story = a wildly improbable story, often invented to excuse some wrongful action.
5. To be chicken hearted = to be cowardly
6. An early bird = someone who rises early
7. A bird’s eye view = a view of something from a higher position
8. To take someone under one’s wing = to give a person one’s help and protection
9. To be up with the lark = to wake up early in the morning
10. A jay-walker = a pedestrian who crosses the road without looking for traffic on either side.

Lesson 7:
1. Time out of mind = time immemorial
2. To make history = to do something important, for which one will be remembered
3. Off the beaten track = isolated
4. To build castles in the air = to have impossible desires
5. To tread on unknown waters = to explore
6. Apple of one’s eye = a favourite or special person
7. Have an axe to grind = have a private reason for doing or being involved in something
8. To bark at the moon = to make appeals in vain
9. Full of beans = lively, in high spirit
10. Out of the blue = as a total surprise
11. Caught red handed = caught when doing something wrong
12. At the crack of dawn = very early in the morning
13. Pay back in the same coin = to seek revenge on someone as they treated one
14. Take a trip down memory lane = indulge in pleasant memories
15. To be on tenterhooks = be in a state of nervous suspense
16. Burn the midnight oil = work through the night

11th

1. To blow ones own trumpet = to blow one’s own horn
2. Like a cat on hot bricks = like a cat on a hot tin roof
3. To lock the stable door after the horse has bolted = to lock the barn door after the horse is stolen
4. A storm in a teacup = a tempest in a teacup/teapot
5. At one’s disposal = for one’s use
6. Pick someone’s brains = use someone’s ideas
7. In barren statements = state without value, interest or result.
8. To bear one’s burden in silence = to regret or suffer quietly
9. To get on at/in something = to make progress

Vision for the nation

1. Told him flat = expressed opinion directly
2. Holds good = valid at the time of discussion
3. Tricks of the trade = the expertise of doing business
4. Break even = make no profit or loss
5. Feel the pinch = feeling unpleasant change in one’s standard of living
6. Going from bad to worse = deteriorate further
7. A big way = on a large scale
8. Taken a very hard line = not giving in
9. Thick and fast = in large numbers
10. Make ends meet = manage with the money
11. Matter of concern = something to worry about
12. Call her face to mind = recall something from memory; recognize
13. Armchair expert = one who gives advice in an area in which he was not actively involved
14. Clean slate = a past record without discredit
15. At close quarters = very near
16. At the helm = in charge
17. Break even = make no profit or loss
18. Fair and square = in a fair way
19. Loud and clear = very clearly
20. By and by = as time goes by
21. In short supply = only available in small amounts
22. The burning question = an important, and perhaps scandalous question that requires an answer.
23. One thing leads to another = one action has triggered others, especially those that are
unplanned or unforeseen
24. the whys and wherefores = reason
25. once and for all = finally
26. in deep waters = in trouble or difficulty
27. a drop in the ocean = in a dangerous or vulnerable situation
28. draw a blank = faint
29. a stone’s throw = a short distance
30. a wild goose chase = a foolish and hopeless search for or pursuit of something unattainable

12th
1. I am in two minds about = I am doubtful
2. to give (someone) a = to tell someone frankly what one thinks especially piece of one’s mind when one disapproves of the other’s behavior
3. to be at logger heads = to disagree strongly
4. to be at the end of one’s = to have no power, patience or tether endurance left
5. to be on cloud nine = to be extremely happy
6. a bolt from the blue = unexpected event; complete surprise (usually unwelcome)
7. a yellow streak = cowardice in one’s character
8. in the pink (of health) = extremely healthy, in perfect condition
9. a shadow of one’s self = not having the strength, former influence, etc., that one once had
10. honour bound (to do something) = required to do as a something as a moral duty but not by law
11. put on airs = behave in an unnatural way to impress others