

Towards Proficiency

vocabulary **idioms**

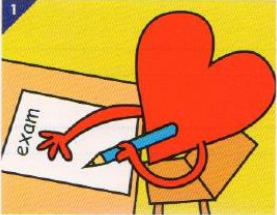
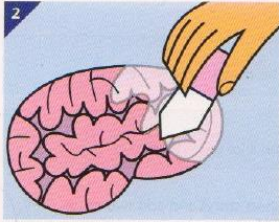
1 The idioms in 1–3 are associated with memory – or lack of it. Use the context to explain the meaning of each one.

1 I'd met that girl at the party somewhere before, but right at that moment her name **escaped me**. I was frantically **racking my brains** trying to recall where I'd seen her, when she happened to mention the coffee bar on the high street. That **jogged my memory** and after a moment's thought I had it: she was called Clara.

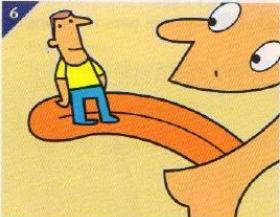
2 Before the day of the exam, I'd spent hours studying that poem until at last I'd **learned it by heart**. But the moment I sat down in the exam room, disaster struck: **my mind went blank**. I felt sure that if only I could remember the first few words, they'd be enough to **refresh my memory**.

3 It must be five years since I last went to Ireland, but I can remember my stay on the coast as if it was yesterday. The one thing I can't quite recollect is the name of the first place we went to, though **it's on the tip of my tongue**. It's right next to Croagh Patrick, the Holy Mountain. And it's a fishing port. 'Port' – **that rings a bell**, and it's on the west coast, so ... 'Westport', that's it!

2 Match the pictures to seven of the idioms in 1, then use them to give an appropriate response to 1–7 below.






1 Isn't there an easier way of remembering people's phone numbers?

2 Did you see that quiz show on TV last night? They asked someone the simplest of questions but she couldn't say a thing.

3 Have you ever met Conchita, my cousin from Uruguay?

4 Whereabouts are the remains of the medieval castle?

5 I thought you'd completely forgotten my birthday this year.

6 I liked that song they brought out last Christmas. What was it called?

7 I'm sorry officer, but I don't remember anything about a gold necklace.