

THE FLATMATES

Quiz:

Idioms: fingers and thumbs



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BBC Learning English – The Flatmates

The Flatmates – Quiz – Idioms: fingers and thumbs

You can try the quiz online at:

<http://www.bbclearningenglish.com/flatmates/episode55/quiz.shtml>

For each of the six questions choose the one correct answer.

1. Because they saw him with a lot more money than usual, they ... for the robbery.
 - a) didn't lay a finger on him
 - b) pointed the thumb at him
 - c) pointed the finger at him
 - d) crossed their fingers for him

2. He thinks he's really ... but he's so out of touch he doesn't know what young people are really interested in.
 - a) got his thumb on the pulse
 - b) got his finger on the pulse
 - c) got his finger in every pie
 - d) got his thumb in every pie

3. She's very good with plants, she's got ...
 - a) fingers green
 - b) green thumbs
 - c) green fingers and thumbs
 - d) green fingers

4. I can't believe how long I've been waiting for you. I've been sitting here twiddling ... for hours!
 - a) my thumbs
 - b) my finger
 - c) my fingers
 - d) my thumb

5. That film got a big ... from the critics. They loved it!
 - a) thumb down
 - b) thumb up
 - c) thumbs up
 - d) thumbs down

6. He's so unpopular since he admitted having that affair. He can ... his friends ... these days.
 - a) add up/finger of one hand
 - b) count/on the finger of one hand
 - c) add up/on the fingers of one hand
 - d) count/on the fingers of one hand

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Answers

1. Because they saw him with a lot more money than usual, they ... for the robbery.
 - a) didn't lay a finger on him – Wrong – that means they didn't hit him or hurt him in any way.
 - b) pointed the thumb at him – Wrong – you've got your fingers and thumbs mixed up.
 - c) **pointed the finger at him – Correct – that means they accused him of stealing the money.**
 - d) crossed their fingers for him – Wrong – that means they wished him luck.

2. He thinks he's really ... but he's so out of touch he doesn't know what young people are really interested in.
 - a) got his thumb on the pulse – Wrong – you've got your fingers and thumbs mixed up.
 - b) **got his finger on the pulse – Correct – that means he's up-to-date and knows all about teenage fashion and trends.**
 - c) got his finger in every pie – Wrong – that means he's involved in lots of different projects not that he thinks he's in touch with teenagers.
 - d) got his thumb in every pie – Wrong – this idiom doesn't exist in English.

3. She's very good with plants, she's got...
 - a) fingers green – Wrong – the words are in the wrong order.
 - b) green thumbs – Wrong – you've got your fingers and thumbs mixed up.
 - c) green fingers and thumbs – Wrong – you don't need 'thumbs' in this idiom.
 - d) **green fingers – Correct – that means she's very good at gardening.**

4. Why are you so late? I've been sitting here twiddling ... for hours while I've been waiting for you!
 - a) **my thumbs – Correct – that means I've had nothing to do and been very bored while I've just been waiting for you.**
 - b) my finger – Wrong – this idiom doesn't exist in English.
 - c) my fingers – Wrong – this idiom doesn't exist in English.
 - d) my thumb – Wrong – you need the plural of 'thumb' here.

5. That film got a big ... from the critics. They loved it!
 - a) thumb down – Wrong – this idiom doesn't exist in English.
 - b) thumb up – Wrong – you need the plural of 'thumb' here.
 - c) **thumbs up – Correct – that means the reviewers really liked the film.**
 - d) thumbs down – Wrong – that means the reviewers didn't like the film.

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6. He's so unpopular since he admitted having that affair. He can ... his friends ... these days.
- a) add up/on the finger of one hand – Wrong – you need a different word for 'add up'/you need the plural of 'finger' here.
 - b) count/on the finger of one hand – Wrong – this part of the answer is correct/you need the plural of 'finger' here.
 - c) add up/on the fingers of one hand – Wrong – you need a different word for 'add up'/this part of the answer is correct.
 - d) count/on the fingers of one hand – Correct – that means he hasn't got very many friends since they found out he was unfaithful.

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<http://www.bbclearningenglish.com/flatmates/episode55/languagepoint.shtml>

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<http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode55/languagepoint.pdf>

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