

Please Get Rid of that Smell!



1. Quick Reading

Look at the pictures on page 3.

What is the story about?

Now read quickly to get the main idea.

BALTIMORE, MD, USA ¹It's winter. Barbara Pridgen, 43, is driving her car. ²When she **turns on** the heater, there's a terrible smell in her car. ³It **gets worse and worse**. She **can't stand** it! ⁴She takes the car to the repair shop. "**What's the matter with** my car?" she asks. "Can you **get rid of** this smell?" ⁵The mechanic **takes a look at** the engine. He examines the heating system. ⁶Then Barbara screams. She **loses it**. The mechanic pulls out a big, fat, dead python!

New idioms and expressions

get rid of something*	remove something
turn something on*	start a machine or the flow of electricity, water, etc.
get worse and worse	become very bad
can't stand something	dislike something very much
What's the matter (with something or someone)?	What's wrong (with something or someone)?
take a look (at something)	look quickly (at something)
lose it	become too excited; lose one's self-control

Words in parentheses () can occur with the idiom, but don't have to. *phrasal verb (see Lexicon, pp. 91–113 and Appendix D, pp. 87–90)

2. Listen

Cover the story and look only at these pictures. Listen to the story two or three times.

Note: As the tape or teacher says a number, look at the corresponding picture.



3. Read the Story

Now read the story carefully. Pay special attention to the idioms so that you're ready for Exercise 4.

4. Complete the Idiom

Cover page 2. Look at each definition below and then complete the idiom.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. look at quickly | = take a look <u>a t</u> |
| b. start a machine | = turn _____ |
| c. dislike very much | = can't _____ |
| d. What's wrong? | = What's the _____? |
| e. become very bad | = get worse and _____ |
| f. become very excited | = lose _____ |

5. Tell the Story

Cover the story and look at the pictures above. Tell the story using as many idioms as you can.

- First, work with the whole class to retell the story.
- Then tell the story to a partner or small group.

6. Answer the Questions

About the story.....

- a. Why does Barbara turn on her heater?
- b. What happens when she turns it on?
- c. Does Barbara like the smell?
- d. What does she want the mechanic to do?
- e. What does the mechanic take a look at?
- f. Why does Barbara lose it?
- g. Why do you think the snake was in the heater?

About you.....

- h. What makes you lose it?
- i. What things do you turn on in your house every day?
- j. What are some smells or foods that you can't stand?
- k. Think about the problems in your community, native country, or in the world. Which ones are getting worse and worse? What can you do about them?

7. Write About Yourself

Complete the sentences, writing something true about yourself.

- a. I want to get rid of my _____.
- b. I can't stand _____.
- c. I often turn on _____ because _____.

8. Take a Dictation

When Barbara _____ her heater, there's a terrible smell. It _____. She _____ it! She goes to the repair shop. "_____ with my car?" she asks. "Please _____ that smell!" When the mechanic _____ the heating system, he pulls out a big, dead python. Barbara _____!

9. Complete the Dialogue

a. A mother and her teenage daughter are talking about TV. Fill in the blanks with idioms from the box.

- take a look at
- get rid of
- can't stand
- turn on
- are getting worse and worse



Carmen, why did you
(1) _____
that TV again? You've watched
enough for today.

But mom! This is a good show!



No, it's not.
I (2) _____ it.

Just **sit down*** a minute.
(3) _____
this, mom. It's funny!



These programs
(4) _____.
Turn it off** now. It's time to
do your homework.

Just ten more minutes!



We should just (5) _____
this stupid TV set!

* sit down: sit; have a seat

** turn (something) off: stop a machine or the flow of electricity, water, etc.

b. Work with a partner. Role-play the dialogue together.