

A figure of speech

A Match the sentences on the left with those on the right:

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| 1. Did you think she would be scared? | a. <i>She's really put her foot in it.</i> |
| 2. She just can't find the solution. | b. <i>I told you she wouldn't believe you!</i> |
| 3. She's hoping to win the contract. | c. <i>I couldn't keep a straight face.</i> |
| 4. She said I was wasting her time. | d. <i>She's as two-faced as they come.</i> |
| 5. She's taking an awful risk. | e. <i>I don't see eye to eye with her at all.</i> |
| 6. Don't give her any more jobs! | f. <i>She's really fallen on her feet.</i> |
| 7. I nearly told her what I thought. | g. <i>She's keeping her fingers crossed.</i> |
| 8. She'll have to keep on her toes. | h. <i>She's really got her back to the wall.</i> |
| 9. She's having better luck now. | i. <i>It's really getting on my nerves.</i> |
| 10. What she said was very embarrassing. | j. <i>Yes, but she didn't turn a hair.</i> |
| 11. She said you were pulling her leg. | k. <i>I gave her a piece of my mind.</i> |
| 12. The way she said it was so funny. | l. <i>That really got my back up.</i> |
| 13. You can't trust her an inch. | m. <i>She didn't want to lose face.</i> |
| 14. Ask her to stop that drumming. | n. <i>She's been racking her brains for hours.</i> |
| 15. We're always having arguments. | o. <i>She's up to her eyes in work already.</i> |
| 16. She wouldn't admit to being wrong. | p. <i>The boss is very sharp.</i> |
| 17. Her company's in real trouble. | q. <i>She's really sticking her neck out.</i> |
| 18. I was really angry with her. | r. <i>I had to bite my tongue.</i> |

B Can you complete these sentences?

1. I was really angry with him, so I gave him _____.
2. The insensitive way she spoke to me really _____ up.
3. I'm going to _____ out and take a chance.
4. We never see _____ - we just can't agree on anything.
5. Why don't they stop that dog barking? It's really _____.
6. I've been _____ for ages, but I just can't remember his name.
7. They refused to admit they were wrong because they can't bear to _____.
8. Everything's turned out right after all - we've really _____ feet.
9. The boss looked so funny in his new suit that I couldn't _____!
10. What a terrible mess! I've really _____ it this time!

C Find the matching idioms, then make up some examples of your own:

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| 1. I'm going to take a big risk. | a <i>I'm keeping my fingers crossed.</i> |
| 2. I'm drowning in work at the moment. | b <i>She's really fallen on her feet.</i> |
| 3. I couldn't stop myself laughing. | c <i>I'm going to stick my neck out.</i> |
| 4. I nearly got into terrible trouble. | d <i>I think I've put his back up.</i> |
| 5. I can't afford to admit I'm wrong. | e <i>I couldn't keep a straight face.</i> |
| 6. I didn't react at all. | f <i>I'm up to my eyes in work just now.</i> |
| 7. I hope everything will turn out alright. | g <i>I don't want to lose face.</i> |
| 8. He seems to feel insulted by what I said. | h <i>I didn't turn a hair.</i> |
| 9. His leg-pulling irritates me. | i <i>We've got our backs to the wall.</i> |
| 10. We can't agree about anything. | j <i>I nearly put my foot in it.</i> |
| 11. Everything's turned out fine for her. | k <i>The constant jokes really get on my nerves.</i> |
| 12. We're really in serious difficulty. | l <i>We never see eye to eye.</i> |