

Dialogue

Dan: He doesn't **have a mind of his own**.

Joe: That's true. His wife **leads him around by his nose**.

Dan: Why doesn't he **give her a piece of his mind**? I'd **put my foot down**.

Joe: She's always **at odds** with him. They never **see eye to eye**.

Dan: I know she always **puts him down**.

Joe: He should **stick up for** himself.

Vocabulary

have a mind of one's own	v.) be able to think independently
lead one around by the nose	v.) have full control of, make someone do what you want
give someone a piece of one's mind	v.) say what you really think when angry
put one's foot down	v.) object strongly, take firm preventive action
at odds	adj.) in disagreement
see eye to eye	v.) have the same opinion, agree
put down	v.) make someone look bad, criticize
stick up for	v.) defend, help, support

Exercise I. Complete the sentences with the correct idiom.

a) puts her down b) a piece of her mind c) see eye to eye d) have a mind of her own
e) at odds f) put your foot down g) sticks up for h) leads him around by the nose

1. Don't talk about his family. He them.
2. That wife tells her husband what to do all the time. She
3. My friend and I think alike. We
4. If you don't want to work overtime every night,
5. She was so angry, she gave him
6. They don't get along well. They're always with each other.
7. He always calls her "stupid." I don't like the way he
8. She always agrees with her husband. She doesn't

Exercise II. Rewrite the phrases in italics, using the proper idiomatic expression.

1. John always *defends* his friends.
2. She always *criticizes* her child.
3. They usually *agree* on how to raise their child.
4. They got a divorce because they were always *disagreeing* with each other.
5. I would *object strongly* if my child wanted to smoke.
6. When my friend didn't come to my dinner party, I *told her how angry I was*.
7. She *makes him do whatever she wants*.
8. Never mind what your father says, *can't you think for yourself?*