

Dialogue

David: He's a **nag**. He keeps **hounding** me.

Eugene: I'm **in the same boat**. He won't **get off my back**. He has a **one-track mind**.

David: Well, you **call the shots**. You have to **draw the line** somewhere.

Eugene: Maybe I should tell him to **knock it off**.

David: I just wish he'd **take a powder**.

Vocabulary

a nag	n.) a persistently urging person
hound	v.) continually bother, go after
in the same boat	adv. or adj.) in a similar situation
get off one's back	v.) leave someone alone, don't bother
one-track mind	n.) mind focused on a single idea
call the shots	v.) be in charge, give orders
draw the line	v.) set a limit
knock it off	v.) stop
take a powder	v.) leave quickly, run away

Exercise I. Complete the sentences with the correct idiom.

a) call the shots b) get him off her back c) nag d) draw the line
e) hound f) took a powder g) in the same boat h) knock it off i) one-track mind

1. When the police arrived, the burglars
2. She's always telling me to take out the garbage. She's a
3. My boss's car broke down. My train stalled. We both got to work late.
We were
4. Mothers usually their children to study and brush their teeth.
5. The child constantly kept asking for candy and the mother finally gave him some
to
6. You can't have it. Don't ask anymore.
7. I don't mind if he goes out on the weekend but he's got schoolwork and
I on weekdays.
8. When his parents are away, his older brother
9. All he ever thinks about is football. He has a

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

1. *Stop it.*
2. *Go away.*
3. I told you "no." *Stop asking me all the time.*
4. I understand your problem because *I have the same one.*

5. His father died and now *he's in control of the company.*
6. You cannot have a new car. *Don't bother me anymore.*
7. He is only interested in cars. *He thinks about nothing else.*
8. They have to know when to come home. You must *set a limit.*
9. She is *the kind of person who urges you to do something over and over again.*