

Dialogue

Mike: I'm going to get a promotion.

Pam: You're **pulling my leg!**

Mike: No, I deserve it. I **worked my fingers to the bone.**

Pam: I'm glad they **gave you a break.**

Mike: Finally things are **looking up** for me. I'm **taking on** more responsibility.

Pam: Now you have to get **in the swing of things** and **learn the ropes.**

Mike: It'll be **a breeze.** I'm really **cut out** for this work.

Vocabulary

pull someone's leg	v.) trick, playfully tease, fool
work one's fingers to the bone	v.) work very hard
give someone a break	v.) give someone an opportunity or chance
look up	v.) improve, get better
take on	v.) begin to handle, commit oneself to, accept
get in the swing of things	v.) adapt or adjust to a new environment
learn the ropes	v.) acquire special knowledge of a job
a breeze	n.) easy
cut out	adj.) suited to, have talent for

Exercise I. Complete the sentences with the correct idiom.

- a) give me a break b) works his fingers to the bone c) pulling my leg
d) cut out e) looking up f) learn the ropes g) get into the swing of things
h) a breeze i) took on

1. I started a new job today. Now I have to
2. He loves math and building things. He was to be an engineer.
3. When you move into a new area, it is difficult to
4. Science is so difficult for you but for me it's easy. It's
5. I have enough money, a good job, a lot of friends. Things are for me.
6. I need this job so badly. I will work very hard and stay overtime.
Please
7. I don't believe you're getting married next week. You're
8. He's the hardest worker I know. He
9. She goes to school; but she just a part-time job, too.

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

1. I promise I'll study harder for the exam next time. Please *give me another chance.*
2. Stop *teasing me.*
3. I can do that. It's *easy.*

4. He had a difficult time last year but now everything's *improving*.
5. He just moved to town so he'll have to *learn about the area*.
6. He *works very hard*.
7. She loves to tell stories to little children. I think she's *suited* to be a teacher.
8. Whenever you start a new job, it's necessary to *learn all about it*.
9. He is a good dentist, but he's not *accepting* any more patients now.