

Achilles' heel

Idiom of the month

a cura di Sarah Gudgeon

Edizioni Novembre 2018

1. Tick four things that are vulnerabilities.

being greedy

being kind

being too generous

being too open

being too trusting

being happy

2a. Read

Lucy, where's that big bar of chocolate?

Lucy...

Ok, I'm sorry! I ate it all yesterday. It's not my fault. Chocolate is my Achilles' heel!

2b. Complete

Grant gets really upset when people call him 'Grant the Giant'. His height is his

.....

When someone has a weak spot, something that makes them more vulnerable, we call it their Achilles' heel.



3. Read these idioms derived from Greek mythology. Match each idiomatic phrase (a – e) to the correct definition (1 – 5).

- | | |
|--|--|
| a. Samantha is terrible at computer games. It is her Achilles' heel . | 1. ... gorgeous / very handsome ... |
| b. Jake is really good-looking – he is an Adonis . | 2. ... talks constantly ... |
| c. They opened a Pandora's box when they asked the students what they didn't like about school. | 3. ... suspicious of people who seem too kind... |
| d. You should beware of Greeks bearing gifts , you never know what they really want. | 4. ... started trouble / invited problems... |
| e. My mum harps on all the time about how important school is. | 5. ... weak spot ... |

4. Complete these sentences with an idiom from exercise 3.

- a. My mum says you should because some people have a selfish reason for doing something.
- b. That Hollywood actor is a real He's so handsome.
- c. My dad when he gave my sister a smartphone. She uses it all the time now, and doesn't study.
- d. Mr. Smith all the time about how happy he was when he was a child.
- e. Adriana is really good at school but she's bad at music, it's her

Teacher's Notes

1. Vulnerabilities. You can give a brief explanation and some examples to the class before they do this exercise. They should tick the following:

Being greedy

Being too open

Being too trusting

Being too generous

- 2b. Complete

*Grant gets really upset when people call him 'Grant the Giant'. His height is his **Achilles' heel**.*

3. Match each idiomatic phrase to the correct definition.

a 5 b 1 c 4 d 3 e 2

4. Complete the sentences with an idiom from exercise 3.

- a. My mum says you should **beware of Greeks bearing gifts** because some people have a selfish reason for doing something.
- b. That Hollywood actor is a real **Adonis**. He's so handsome.
- c. My dad **opened a Pandora's box** when he gave my sister a smartphone. She uses it all the time now, and doesn't study.
- d. Mr. Smith **harps on** all the time about how happy he was when he was a child.
- e. Adriana is really good at school but she's bad at music, it's her **Achilles' heel**.

* Sarah Gudgeon

Sarah Gudgeon is a trained journalist and EFL teacher from Manchester, England. She has written numerous books for Pearson over the years and is a regular contributor to the Pearson Portal on pearson.it.