I'm not stubborn, I'm just always right!

Activity 1: How stubborn are you?

With a partner, or your teacher take the following quiz. Make sure you answer honestly!

You are in the middle of an argument… and realise you are wrong. What would you do?

1) Continue arguing, hopefully you will become more convincing.
2) Understand that you were wrong and end the fight even though you lost.
3) Get frustrated and **storm away**.

It is your birthday and you are out with a group of friends. You want to go to l'entrecôte which serves only Steak. One of your friends doesn't eat beef, what do you do?

1) It's your birthday and you really want to go to l'entrecôte. He/she doesn't have to eat if they don't want to.
2) You go to a place that everyone likes.
3) Let your friend choose. As long as everyone is happy, you're happy.

After a silly argument with a friend, you realise you were wrong. Do you stick to your guns or apologize?

1) I always apologise, even if I want in the wrong.
2) I refuse to apologise until she apologises for what she did.
3) I apologise, but talk about what we each did wrong.

When other drivers don't respect your right-of-way, what do you do?

1) Just let them pass.
2) Let them go, but shout a few choice words in their direction.
3) Hold your ground and wait for them to back down.

Activity 2: Role Play. With a partner, or with your teacher, act out one of the following situations being as stubborn as possible! :

1) You are neighbours. Neighbour A is having a house party to celebrate their birthday, the music is loud and the drinks are flowing and everyone is having a good time. Neighbour B lives next door, he/she is very angry because all the noise has woken her baby, who is crying and will not go back to sleep. Neighbour B goes over to tell Neighbour A to turn the music down, Neighbour B refuses and an argument ensues…
2) You share a flat together. You both work the same hours during the week, but Flatmate A usually goes out to play football or see his/her friends in the evening whereas Flatmate B prefers to stay in and relax. Flatmate B is beginning to get really fed up because Flatmate A always leaves his/her dirty plates in the sink and never helps to tidy up because he/she is too 'busy'. Flatmate B decides to confront Flatmate A about the situation and an argument ensues…
3) You are mother and daughter. The daughter, aged 15 went to a party on Friday night, her mother was reluctant to let her go but after much persuasion agreed that her daughter could go as long as she did not drink any alcohol and was back home by 11:30pm. The mother later discovered, however, that a bottle of rum was missing from the drinks cabinet and that her daughter had stayed out until 3:00am with a boy. The mother grounded her for a month. The daughter, however, had been invited to the 'party of the century' the

following Saturday and was desperate to go. Her mother stood her ground and an argument ensued...

Grammar point: Idioms, they're a piece of cake!

An **Idiom** is an expression, which is often metaphorical, whose meanings cannot be understood from the individual words alone. The English language is FULL of idioms, they are used in everyday conversation to make the language more colourful.

e.g "You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink." Which means that you can give someone the opportunity to do something but you can't force them to do it.

A **phrasal verb** is Expression made up of verb and preposition which often has a different meaning than verb alone. Phrasal verbs are used regularly by native speakers to add clarity and richness to the language.

e.g. "I **fell out** with my best friend after we argued about where we should go on holiday"
"I **fell in** love with my husband/wife after meeting him/her at university"

Activity 3: Listen to the following clip of Tom Petty's song 'don't back down' and number the images in the order that you hear them in the song. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUTXb-ga1fo



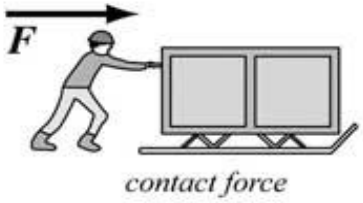
1)



2)



3)



4)



5)

Activity 5: Identify as many of the idioms and phrasal verbs in the song as you can. How many can you find?

Stand me up: We were supposed to have a date tonight, I can't believe she **stood me up**.

Won't back down: He is the worst person to have an argument with because he never **backs down**.

Dragging me down: His constantly negative attitude is really **dragging me down**.

Way out: She had been backed into a corner with her argument and could see a **way out**.

Pushing me around: Just because he's bigger than me he thinks he can **push me around**.

Activity 5: Phrasal verbs: Choose the correct preposition to put with phrasal verb to give it the correct sense.

Out	Down	Out	Away	Over
Up	Back	Up	Out	

1) He never backs _____ from an argument because **he always has to have the last word**.
2) He shies _____ from responsibilities because he is a coward.
3) He found it very difficult to put _____ with his constant criticism.
4) I fell _____ with my friend _____ the fact that she didn't come to my party.
5) I've got so much to do, but I'm sure I'll figure something _____.
6) I'm really sorry I said you looked like a baboon, I take it _____.
7) This is a really big decision, I'm going to take some to time to think it _____.
8) The children made _____after they had both apologised for fighting.
9) There are lot of issues to consider but I'm sure we'll work something _____.

Activity 4: Below are some idioms about being stubborn or tenacious. In partners or, with your teacher, match the picture to the missing words and then discuss possible situations which you might use them.



a) Stubborn as a _____.
b) Stick to your _____.
c) Have an _____ to grind with someone.
d) To have a _____to pick with someone.
e) Playing _____'s advocate.
f) Over my _____body.











Activity 5: Watch the following clip http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-mePGdt8nU (start at 1:04) and answer the following questions.

1) How do you know they are having an argument?
2) What are they arguing about?
3) Who do you think wins the argument? Why?

Activity 6 – Read the paragraph below and discuss in groups, or with your teacher, whether you think being stubborn is a good or bad thing? And why?

Stubborn people are very **headstrong**, once they have made up their minds about something they can rarely be persuaded to change. Stubborn people can sometimes be very **pig-headed**, which means that they will not listen to reason. This trait can often cause arguments between friends and family. However, a lot of successful people are also stubborn. They are successful because they are stubborn, because they were persistent and refused to give up until they reached their goal.

- Because…
- Even if…
- Either … Or…
- To begin…
- Even though…