

Name: _____

Directions: Determine the meaning of the bolded expression. Choose the best answer.

Idiom: A common expression understood figuratively, as the literal definition makes no sense.

1. After going to the zoo, the mall, and the movies, Cassie was sick of **bending over backwards** to entertain her nieces.
 - a. Cassie was doing very little to entertain her nieces.
 - b. Cassie was making small efforts to entertain her nieces.
 - c. Cassie was trying very hard to entertain her nieces.
 - d. Cassie was not trying at all to entertain her nieces.

2. Bobby would have been playing ball **until the cows came home** if it hadn't been for Suzie dragging him away to eat dinner.
 - a. Bobby was just about to stop playing ball.
 - b. Bobby didn't even want to play ball to begin with.
 - c. Bobby prefers nature to athletics.
 - d. Bobby would have continued playing ball for a long time.

3. Mr. Johnson was very particular about the arrangement of his classroom, so the thing he hated most was when his students caused a ruckus with their wild **horseplay**.
 - a. Mr. Johnson hated when his students pretended to be animals.
 - b. Mr. Johnson hated when his students played sports.
 - c. Mr. Johnson hated when his students wrestled around with each other.
 - d. Mr. Johnson hated when his students made animal noises.

4. Eric wanted to fix his cousin's computer, but he was already having problems setting up his Aunt's Wi-Fi network and he didn't want to **open a whole new can of worms**.
 - a. Eric was sick of spending his time helping his family.
 - b. Eric wanted to go fishing instead of working on computers.
 - c. Eric was having difficulties untangling the computer wires.
 - d. Eric was not ready to begin working on a complicated new problem.

5. Even though Candace already had a new job, she submitted her two week notice and conducted herself in a professional way at her old job because she didn't want to **burn bridges**.
 - a. Candace didn't want to ruin her positive relationship with her old employer.
 - b. Candace wasn't ready to start her new job.
 - c. Candace was really going to miss her old job.
 - d. Candace was waiting until her last day to rub it in everyone's face that she was leaving.

6. World renowned country western super group The Mountain Boys can sell out an arena **at the drop of a hat**.
 - a. The Mountain Boys may be able to sell out an arena, but it will take a long time.
 - b. The Mountain Boys can sell out an arena very quickly.
 - c. The Mountain Boys are always willing to perform at charity events.
 - d. The Mountain Boys enforce a dress code at all of their shows.

7. Vivian expected Craig to sob uncontrollably when she broke up with him; however, Craig **kept a stiff upper lip**.
 - a. Craig cried even more than Vivian had expected.
 - b. Craig cried about as much as Vivian had expected.
 - c. Craig cried a little less than Vivian had expected.
 - d. Craig did not cry.