

## Idioms Big and Small

*An activity of "River clean-up"*

The article "River clean-up" (page 10-11, *What's Up* October 2023) uses the idiom "tall order" to describe how difficult it is to clean up the Seine. Here, a word related to size — "tall" — is used to suggest the task's level of difficulty.

**TASK 1.** Here are some other idioms that use words related to size. Guess each one's meaning and write it below.

Idiom	Meaning
stand tall	
tall tale	
small fry	
be a big fish in a small pond	
have big shoes to fill	
have bigger fish to fry	
have a short fuse	
larger than life	

**TASK 2.** Next, check your answers using the online dictionary at <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/> How many did you get correct? For those you did not get correct, write down the correct meanings below your answers in red ink.

**TASK 3.** Test your understanding of these idioms! Fill in the most suitable idiom for each blank below.

- a. I asked Adnan to help me with this project, but he refused, saying he has \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. Don't provoke him, you know he has \_\_\_\_\_ when it comes to his work.
- c. Sam's \_\_\_\_\_ personality makes her the life of the party everywhere she goes.
- d. Ali felt he could \_\_\_\_\_ when the teacher praised him for doing a good job.
- e. It's too bad my form teacher last year, Mr Singh, has retired. I really liked him! I think our new form teacher has \_\_\_\_\_.

**TASK 4.** Construct your own sentences using any four of these idioms.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Writing tip:** Keep an eye out for idioms when you read books or articles! Write them down in a notebook so that you can remember them and use them in your compositions.