

## **DIFFICULTIES IN TRANSLATION (XIII): IDIOMS (II)**

**A. Translate the following sentences into Spanish trying to find a good match for the English idioms in them.**

1. He seems to have ants in his pants.
2. What's eating you?
3. I know I owe him two pounds, but he can whistle for it.
4. She is a dish.
5. He knows everything is lost but he will clutch at a straw.
6. "I don't work for Mr. Smith any longer, now I work for Mr. Brown." "That's out of the frying pan into the fire."
7. When we are alone he talks my head off.
8. The Chinese have long stopped breeding like rabbits.
9. The two candidates were much of a muchness.
10. This new wallet has come in the nick of time; the other was quite worn out.
11. Jean's office was always untidy - letters and files all over the shop.
12. You'll have squandered all your father's money before you finally come to your senses!
13. "Did you get anything out of the Insurance Company, then?" "Not a sausage."
14. He was driven from pillar to post in search of a job.

15. We tried to keep the party for my mother a secret, but my little sister let the cat out of the bag.

16. She's always buttering up her boss.

**B. Translate the following sentences into English trying to find a good match for the Spanish idioms in them.**

1. Es un aguafiestas.

2. Ha ido a echar una canita al aire.

3. Se te ve el plumero.

4. Es más pesado que una vaca en brazos.

5. Eso es echar más leña al fuego.

6. Está todavía pegado a las faldas de su madre.

7. Están en ese hotel de lujo viviendo a cuerpo de rey.

8. No tiene agallas para hacerlo.

9. Estoy cansado de sacarte las castañas del fuego.

10. Me lo he jugado todo a una carta.

11. Se le ha puesto la carne de gallina.

12. No es santo de mi devoción.

13. Lo haré en un abrir y cerrar de ojos.

14. Siempre hace las cosas a tontas y a locas.

### KEY

**A. Translate the following sentences into Spanish and try and find a good match for the English idioms in them.**

1. He seems to have ants in his pants.

Es un culo inquieto.

2. What's eating you?

¿Qué mosca te ha picado? / ¿Qué te reconcome?

3. I know I owe him two pounds, but he can whistle for it.

Sé que le debo dos libras, pero se puede quedar esperando.

4. S/he is a dish.

Es un bombón (mujer) / un guaperas (hombre).

5. He knows everything is lost but he will clutch at a straw.

Sabe que todo está perdido pero se aferrará a un clavo ardiendo.

6. "I don't work for Mr. Smith any longer, now I work for Mr. Brown." "That's out of the frying pan into the fire."

"Ya no trabajo para Mr. Smith, sino para Mr. Brown". "Eso es ir de Guatemala a Guatepeor".

7. When we are alone he talks my head off.

Cuando estamos solos me pone la cabeza loca / me pone la cabeza como un bombo.

8. The Chinese have long stopped breeding like rabbits.

Los chinos hace ya tiempo que dejaron de aparearse como los conejos.

9. The two candidates were much of a muchness.

Los dos candidatos eran más de lo mismo.

10. This new wallet has come in the nick of time; the other was quite worn out.

Este monedero nuevo ha llegado justo a tiempo; el otro ya estaba muy desgastado.

11. Jean's office was always untidy - letters and files all over the shop.

La oficina de Jean estaba siempre desordenada – cartas y archivos por todos sitios/partes.

12. You'll have squandered all your father's money before you finally come to your senses!

¡Habrás despilfarrado todo el dinero de tu padre antes de entrar en razón!

13. "Did you get anything out of the Insurance Company, then?" "Not a sausage."

"¿Has sacado algo de la compañía de seguros?" "Nada de nada".

14. He was driven from pillar to post in search of a job.

Movió cielo y tierra / buscó a diestro y siniestro buscando un trabajo.

15. We tried to keep the party for my mother a secret, but my little sister let the cat out of the bag.

Intentamos que mi madre no se enterara de la fiesta, pero mi hermana soltó la liebre / a mi hermana se le escapó.

16. She's always buttering up her boss.

Siempre está haciéndole la pelota a su jefe.

**B. Translate the following sentences into English and try and find a good match for the Spanish idioms in them.**

1. Es un aguafiestas.

He's a killjoy / spoilsport / wet blanket / party pooper.

2. Ha ido a echar una canita al aire.

He's gone to let his hair down.

3. Se te ve el plumero.

I can see what you're up to.

4. Es más pesado que una vaca en brazos.

He's as boring as watching paint dry / He's as dull as dishwater / He's a pain in the neck.

5. Eso es echar más leña al fuego.

That's adding more fuel to the fire.

6. Está todavía pegado a las faldas de su madre.

He's still tied to her mother's apron.

7. Están en ese hotel de lujo viviendo a cuerpo de rey.

They're (staying) in that luxurious hotel living like a king.

8. No tiene agallas para hacerlo.

He doesn't have the guts to do it.

9. Estoy cansado de sacarte las castañas del fuego.

I'm tired of saving your bacon / of getting you out of trouble / of getting you off the hook / of pulling your chestnuts out the fire / saving your arse.

10. Me lo he jugado todo a una carta.

I've risked everything on one venture / I've put all my eggs in one basket.

11. Se le ha puesto la carne de gallina.

He's got goosepimples / goosebumps.

**12.** No es santo de mi devoción.

It's not my cup of tea.

**13.** Lo haré en un abrir y cerrar de ojos.

I'll do it in the twinkling of an eye / in a tic / in a thick of the eye / in the blink of an eye.

**14.** Siempre hace las cosas a tontas y a locas.

She's always doing things without reason / rhythm.