

BBC Learning English

The Teacher

Head idioms



In this episode, **The Teacher** introduces you to three idiomatic phrases connected with heads.

1. **It's like banging your head against a brick wall**
 2. **He's got his head in the clouds**
 3. **An old head on young shoulders**
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Hello, I'm a very interesting and intelligent man. And today my head and I are going to teach you some English idioms.

I bet you've never been taught by my head before.

Um, well yes, I suppose actually you have been taught by my head before.

Anyway, now, as we all know, learning a foreign language is a very, very, very, difficult and frustrating experience.

Yes indeed. It can be a very, uh! Very, oh! ... Very, ow! ... Very, argh! ... Very, eh!
Difficult and frustrating experience.

It's like banging your head against a brick wall.

In English, if we try to do something that seems impossible or makes us frustrated, we can say "it's like banging your head against a brick wall."

It's like banging your head against a brick wall.

Of course, with my lessons learning English is easy!

Oh yes, when you've got such an interesting and intelligent teacher as me... it's... very... simple...

What do you mean I've got my head in the clouds?!

In English, if someone is not fully aware of a situation, we can say "he's got his head in the clouds".

He's got his head in the clouds.

Have you met my younger brother?

Now, I know what you're thinking - you're thinking "you silly man, that's not his *younger* brother. That's an old man".

But you're wrong. He's got an old head on young shoulders.

In English, if someone seems older than they are or if they talk and think like an older person, we can say "he's got an old head on young shoulders."

["*Ladies, ladies, please ...*"]

He's got an old head on young shoulders.

Unlike me, I've got a young head on old shoulders.