

## Reductions in Common Classroom Idioms

*With your partner, make a guess about what each underlined idiom means. Then, mark any reductions in the sentences. Practice reading them out loud, being sure to use reductions.*

1. This teacher never stops talking. I'm bored out of my mind.

Meaning:

2. I'm trying to think of a word. It's on the tip of my tongue.

Meaning:

3. This computer always turns off by itself. It has a mind of its own.

Meaning:

4. This idea may seem strange, but I want you to keep an open mind.

Meaning:

5. What was I saying? I lost my train of thought.

Meaning:

6. This problem is so confusing. I can't make heads or tails of it.

Meaning:

7. Should I take ESL 504 or 506? I can't make up my mind.

Meaning:

8. I can't think of an example off the top of my head.

Meaning:

9. I want to learn more about this. Can I pick your brain?

Meaning:

10. I know the problem is hard, but you can do it if you put your mind to it.

Meaning:

11. I'm racking my brain trying to think of her name.

Meaning:

12. Sorry I don't have my homework done. It completely slipped my mind.

Meaning:

13. Well, your experiment wasn't successful, but you get an A for effort.

Meaning:

14. I better talk quickly. We've got to cover a lot of ground today. (or: We've got a lot of ground to cover today.)

Meaning:

15. Who wants to take the quiz on Thursday? Let me see a show of hands.

Meaning: