The War of The Roses

You have six parts of a 12-part story. Your partner has the other six parts. Use the words below to complete your six parts. Your partner will do the same for theirs. Then work out the sequence of the story together.

The words you need to fill in the gaps are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>out (x3)</th>
<th>round</th>
<th>down (x2)</th>
<th>in (x3)</th>
<th>up (x2)</th>
<th>through</th>
<th>on</th>
<th>off</th>
<th>away</th>
<th>into</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bone</td>
<td>bush</td>
<td>dawn</td>
<td>paddle</td>
<td>pin</td>
<td>legs</td>
<td>heels</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**A**
Mr Swallow curled his upper lip and snarled, “I’m not married and I have no friends so I have no use for flowers. Look at the map, Mr Carter. You have three centimetres of my land. As I told you before, you have until Monday to sort it out. We have nothing else to discuss. Good morning.” And with that he slammed the door in my face. ‘Charming’, I thought. ‘How nice.’ So, what could I do? I was up a creek without a _1_ _______________ . There was nothing else for it. I had to _2_ _______________ and _3_ _______________ to his threats. I went home and called the builders and on Monday morning, at crack of _4_ _______________ , they started taking down the fence. As the builders worked, Mr Swallow walked up and down the edge of his garden, map in hand, shouting, “I’m watching you, I’m watching you!” pacing up and down frantically measuring everything that wasn’t moving. 

**B**
Mr O’Falltrades nodded. “Double time, new shovels, new spades and a new wheelbarrow...” he said. “Yes, I think I can live with that. Throw in some cream for the bump on my head and you’ve got a deal.” “Double time,” Mr Swallow said, “new shovels, new spades, a new wheelbarrow and some cream to put on the bump on your head. Er, right. OK. Fine. And when the doctor turns up. I’ll pay the bill. Anything, just as long as you don’t take me to court.” So a deal was struck and that was the end of it, the end of ‘The Wars of The Roses’.

**C**
The next morning, I went _6_ _______________ to see him. As I was walking up his front path the lace curtains in his sitting room twitched and I felt as if someone was _7_ _______________ me. I knocked on the door. No reply. I knocked again. No reply. “Mr Carter?” I called _8_ _______________ , “Can I speak to you for a moment?” No reply. Complete silence. You could have heard a _9_ _______________ drop. Then the front door opened very slowly, with a high-pitched creaking sound, and there was Mr Swallow in his blue dressing-gown and yellow slippers, with the map of the two gardens in his left hand. “What is it?” he snarled. “What do you want?” “Look,” I said. “This is ridiculous. Can I come in and ...” “No, you can’t!” Mr Carter replied. “You can’t come in. But we can talk here if you like.”

**D**
Last Thursday, a terrible storm blew _10_ _______________ the fence in my back garden. The fence was really old, it was on its last _11_ _______________ , so I wasn’t all that surprised that it fell down. But what really annoyed me
The War of The Roses

You have six parts of a 12-part story. Your partner has the other six parts. Use the words below to complete your six parts. Your partner will do the same for theirs. Then work out the sequence of the story together.

The words you need to fill in the gaps are:
- of • on • back • round • out (x3)
- up (x3) • over • off • at • down
- pregnant • cheese • knife • hair • fish
- eye • rosy • leg • rain

**Student B**

“Well,” Mr Swallow went on, “the builders have put your new fence up in the wrong place. Here, look at this map. The old fence was four metres away from my tool shed. But the new fence is only three metres and 97 centimetres from my tool shed. In other words, Mr Carter, you’ve stolen three centimetres of my land. I’m afraid the fence will have to come down. I want my land 1 ………………….” “Three centimetres?” I said. “You’re arguing over three centimetres?” “You bet I am!” Mr Swallow said, “and if you don’t sort it out by Monday morning you’ll be hearing from my solicitor.” And with that he picked 2 ………………… his map, sniffed and stormed 3 ………………… of the house.

**Student A**

was the fact that the fence fell on top of my rose bushes and knocked them flat. I had to throw them all 12 …………………. What a waste! Now, I love roses, and these bushes were my pride and joy, and for the next two or three days I went 13 …………………. all sorts of emotions – anger, frustration, sadness, the lot. I was really cut 14 ………………… about it. But after the initial shock had worn 15 …………………, I decided that I’d start all over again, with some new rose bushes and a new and much stronger fence.

**G**

Anyway, there he was, on my doorstep, talking at me rather than with me. “May I come in Mr Carter?” he said “I have a 20 …………………. to pick with you.” I was a bit taken aback by his rudeness but I invited him 21 …………………. and showed him 22 …………………. the sitting room. “Can I get you something to drink?” I said. “Tea, coffee, a soft drink perhaps?” “No, thank you,” Mr Swallow sniffed. “This is not a social call. Now, Mr Carter, I’ll come straight to the point. I won’t beat about the 23 …………………. I came home from work just now to discover that you’d stolen my land.” “What do you mean?” I said. “I don’t understand.”

**F**

When the first section of the fence had been moved three centimetres to the left, Mr Swallow took out his tape measure, tied it to the wall of his shed, stretched the tape across the lawn and then held it against the fence. “Four metres!” he shouted. “Four metres exactly. It’s mine again. All mine!” But at that exact moment, one of the builders, Jack O’Falltrades, was coming into the garden with a couple of shovels. He didn’t see the tape measure stretched tightly across the lawn, twenty centimetres above the grass, and suddenly he was falling, head over 16 …………………. , and the two shovels were spinning through the air like giant Catherine wheels. There was a thump (as Mr O’Falltrades hit the fence), a couple of thuds (as the shovels hit the shed), a brief silence (as the other gardeners tried to take 17 …………………. what had happened) and then a strange low cackling sound as Mr Swallow burst 18 …………………. laughing. But it wasn’t funny for Mr O’Falltrades because the impact had knocked him 19 …………………. He lay slumped against the fence, out cold.

**E**

She was the fact that the fence fell on top of my rose bushes and knocked them flat. I had to throw them all 12 …………………. What a waste! Now, I love roses, and these bushes were my pride and joy, and for the next two or three days I went 13 …………………. all sorts of emotions – anger, frustration, sadness, the lot. I was really cut 14 ………………… about it. But after the initial shock had worn 15 …………………, I decided that I’d start all over again, with some new rose bushes and a new and much stronger fence.

**H**

I went down to the garden centre to get some new saplings and I got the builders to put up a new fence to protect them from the wind. So far, so good. But, things didn’t quite turn 4 …………………. the way I’d planned. A few hours after the builders had gone home there was a loud banging at my front door. “OK, OK!” I shouted. “Keep your 5 …………………. on! I’m coming!” When I opened the door, Mr Swallow, my next door neighbour, was standing there, his face flushed with rage. I’ve never got 6 …………………. with Mr Swallow. He’s a strange man, a really cold 7 …………………. I don’t know what to make 8 …………………. him and let’s just say that we don’t see eye to 9 …………………. We’re as different as chalk and 10 ………………….
Mr Swallow was still laughing as I took out my mobile phone and called the hospital. “The doctor’s on her way,” I said as I switched off my phone. “Oh, and Mr Swallow, I told the doctor to send the bill to you. After all, it was your tape measure that Mr O’Falltrades tripped 11 …………………….” “But he was moving your fence, Mr Carter. I’m not to blame.” “Ah!” I said as I bent down to loosen Mr O’Falltrades’ tie. “But my fence was on your land. Look 12 …………………… the map. It’s a good three centimetres your side of the line. I expect you’ll be hearing from Mr. O’Falltrades’ solicitor in the morning.” Mr Swallow changed colour. “Hmmm …” he muttered. “Good point, Mr Carter. I don’t want to go to court ….” And with that, he ran to his shed, took out a bucket, filled it with water, ran back and threw the water over Mr O’Falltrades’ face. As Mr O’Falltrades came 13 …………………… he let out a low, moaning “Ahhh!”, shaking his head and spluttering.

So the two of us stood on Mr Swallow’s doorstep and had a strange and awkward conversation. There were lots of 14 …………………… pauses and you could have cut the atmosphere with a 15 …………………… . “How about a compromise?” I said after what seemed like hours. “Why don’t we leave the fence where it is? It would cost me an arm and a 16 …………………… to get the builders to move it again. And to make 17 …………………… for the fact that I’ve got three centimetres of your land, you can have as many roses as you like from my garden. Just think about it. Just think of all the money you could save. When you want to brighten up your house, or when you friends have birthdays, you won’t have to go to the florist’s and splash 18 …………………… on expensive roses, I’ll give them to you for free.”

“Of course,” I replied. “What would you like ... flowers for the hall, for the kitchen ...?” “Actually, flowers for a lady,” he said, blushing and looking 19 …………………… at his shoes. “You know the doctor, the lady who came to see Mr O’Falltrades, well, she wanted to write me out a bill and so I invited her into the house, thinking

she could use the kitchen table, and she saw my collection of model trains, (it’s my hobby, you see) and it turns out that, by some strange coincidence, it’s her hobby too, and we chatted and, well, I ended up asking her out and she’s coming round in an hour to pick me 20 …………………… and we’re going to a model exhibition in the Town Hall and ...” “So things are looking up, Mr Swallow?” I said as he blushed an ever deeper shade of red. “Yes, Mr Carter, things are really looking up. It’s strange, isn’t it, how things turn out. A week ago, it was all rather a mess, wasn’t it? But today ... today things are perfect, and I suppose you could almost say that everything in the garden’s 21 …………………… .”

“There you are,” Mr Swallow said, turning to the other builders. “Jack’s fine now. Look at him. He’s as right as 22 …………………… , never been better. In fact, that little nap probably did him the power of good. There he is, fit as a fiddle, as good as new, as ...” Mr Swallow broke 23 …………………… as the five builders formed a circle around him. They didn’t look all that pleased. “OK, boys,” Mr Swallow stammered. “Take it easy, no harm done, eh? Let’s just talk about this ...” “We’re listening,” one of the builders said. “What did you have in mind?” “Well, erm, why don’t we forget about the fence?” Mr Swallow began. “It might as well stay where it is ... after all, what’s three centimetres between friends? And let me pay you for today, lads, and ...” The builders moved closer. “On second thoughts, why don’t I pay you double time for today?” Mr Swallow went on, his voice a little higher than before. “Double time and some new shovels or spades or whatever you want.”
The War of The Roses
Phrasal verbs and idiom quiz

Match the phrasal verbs on the left (1-13) with their definitions on the right (a-m). Do the same with the idioms (14-26) and their definitions (n-z). When you’ve matched the numbers on the left with the letters on the right, use it as a code to work out the joke at the bottom of the page.

**Phrasal Verbs**

1. Mr Swallow stormed out of the room.
2. It cut me up when I lost my rose bushes in the storm.
3. Mr Swallow took up my offer of free flowers.
4. Mr O'Fallard tripped over the tape measure.
5. I went round to Mr Swallow's house.
6. We fell out over the fence.
7. I gave him free flowers to make up for the fact that my fence was on his land.
8. I went through all sorts of emotions when the fence fell on the roses.
9. It took a few moments for the builders to take in what had happened.
10. Mr O'Fallard came round when Mr Swallow threw a bucket of water over him.
11. There was no need to splash out on expensive flowers.
12. I was up a creek without a paddle so I gave in.
13. We sorted our problem out.

**Idioms**

14. He's a cold fish.
15. Keep your hair on!
16. We don't see eye to eye.
17. I won't beat about the bush.
18. a pregnant pause
19. You could have cut the atmosphere with a knife.
20. It cost me an arm and a leg.
21. He's as right as rain.
22. It was on its last legs.
23. You could have heard a pin drop.
24. I've got a bone to pick with you.
25. at the crack of dawn
26. I was up a creek without a paddle.

**The Joke**

A woman goes into a 20-11-14 shop. The shopkeeper smiles and says, “How can I help you?”

“I’d like to buy a 25-7-23-20 please,” the woman says.

“A 25-7-23-20?” says the shopkeeper. “We don’t sell 25-7-23-20-23, madam. I can do you a 12-7-9-23-14-11-15 or a 13-22-10-6-8-23-12 but I can’t sell you a 25-7-23-20, this is a 20-11-14 shop.”

“You’re lying to me,” the woman says. “Of course you can sell me a 25-7-23-20 You’ve got one in the 25-8-19-5-22-25.”

A 25-7-23-20