

Playing card idioms

Steve *keeps his cards close to his* _____, you never know what he's thinking.

Well, if you *play your* _____ *right*, you might get my job when I leave.

Let me *lay my cards on the* _____, I need more money or I will have to look for another job.

It really helps to *keep a* _____ *face* when you're negotiating for high stakes.

She *called her manager's* _____ by quitting her job and starting her own company.

Orange's product range doesn't look very exciting, unless they have *an ace up their* _____, they could face poor sales this Christmas.

Colorado was the first state to legalize marijuana with other states *following* _____ soon after.

Microsoft finally *showed their* _____ when they released details of their new Xbox console.

<i>hand bluff table suit chest sleeve poker cards</i>

Do you have any similar idioms in your own language?

Rearrange the sentence fragments

1. close cards his keeps chest? to his He
2. a right you your have might play You if chance cards
3. the my lay cards me Let on table
4. great face poker a keeping You're at
5. I'm call his going to bluff
6. an ace up you hope your have I sleeve
7. own creating followed by smartphone suit their Microsoft
8. time we showed It's our hand

Replace the underlined part of the sentence with a suitable idiom

1. When you are negotiating it's very important to not let the other party have all the information.
2. If we do everything correctly, we might have a chance to win this contract.
3. Before we start the meeting, I want to be honest about my situation.
4. She always has such a blank expression, I never know what she's thinking.
5. They chose to see if I was serious, so I quit as I told them I would.
6. They think they're in a strong position, but we have something they don't know about which will give us an advantage.
7. Usually when one company lowers prices, its competitors do the same thing.
8. We don't want to give away the information until we have to.

Discussion questions

Are you a good negotiator?

In what situations might you need to keep a poker face?

Can you think of a time when you called someone's bluff?