Expressions involving the nose and the ears.

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Words and Their Stories: The Answer Is as Clear as the Nose on Your Face

Now, the VOA Special English program, Words and Their Stories.

(MUSIC)

_____ person’s nose is important for _____breathing and _____smelling. _____ nose is also used in many popular expressions.

_____ people are able to lead other people by _____ nose. For example, if _____ wife leads her husband by _____ nose, she makes him do whatever she wants him to do.

_____ people are said to be hard-nosed. They will not change their opinions or positions on anything. If someone is hard-nosed, chances are he will never pay through _____ nose, or pay too _____ money, for _____ object or service.

It is always helpful when people keep their nose out of other people’s business. They do not interfere. The opposite of this is someone who noses around all _____ time. This kind of person is interested in other people’s private matters. He is considered nosey.

Someone who keeps his nose to _____ grindstone works very hard. This can help _____ worker keep his nose clean or stay out of _____trouble.

One unusual expression is that is no skin off my nose. This means that _____ situation does not affect or concern me. We also say that sometimes _____ person cuts off his nose to spite his face. That is, he makes _____ situation worse for himself by doing something foolish because he is angry.

More problems can develop if _____ person looks down his nose at someone or something. _____ person acts like something is unimportant or worthless. This person might also turn up his nose at something that he considers not good enough. This person thinks he is better than everyone else. He has his nose in _____ air.

In _____ school, _____ students thumb their nose at their teacher. They refuse to obey orders or do any work. Maybe these students do not know _____ correct answers. My mother always told me, if you study hard, _____ answers should be right under your nose or easily seen.
I think we have explained _____ nose expressions. What about ears? Well, I hope you are all ears or very interested in hearing more expressions. We might even put _____ bug in your ear or give you _____ idea about something. We also advise you to keep your ear to _____ ground. This means to be interested in what is happening around you and what people are thinking.

If you are _____ good person, you will lend _____ ear to your friends. You will listen to them when they have _____ problem they need to talk about. Our last expression is to play it by ear. This has two meanings. One is to play _____ song on _____ musical instrument by remembering _____ tune and not by reading _____ music. Play it by ear also means to decide what to do at _____ last minute instead of making _____ detailed plans.

(MUSIC)

This VOA Special English program, WORDS AND THEIR STORIES, was written by Jill Moss. I’m Faith Lapidus.