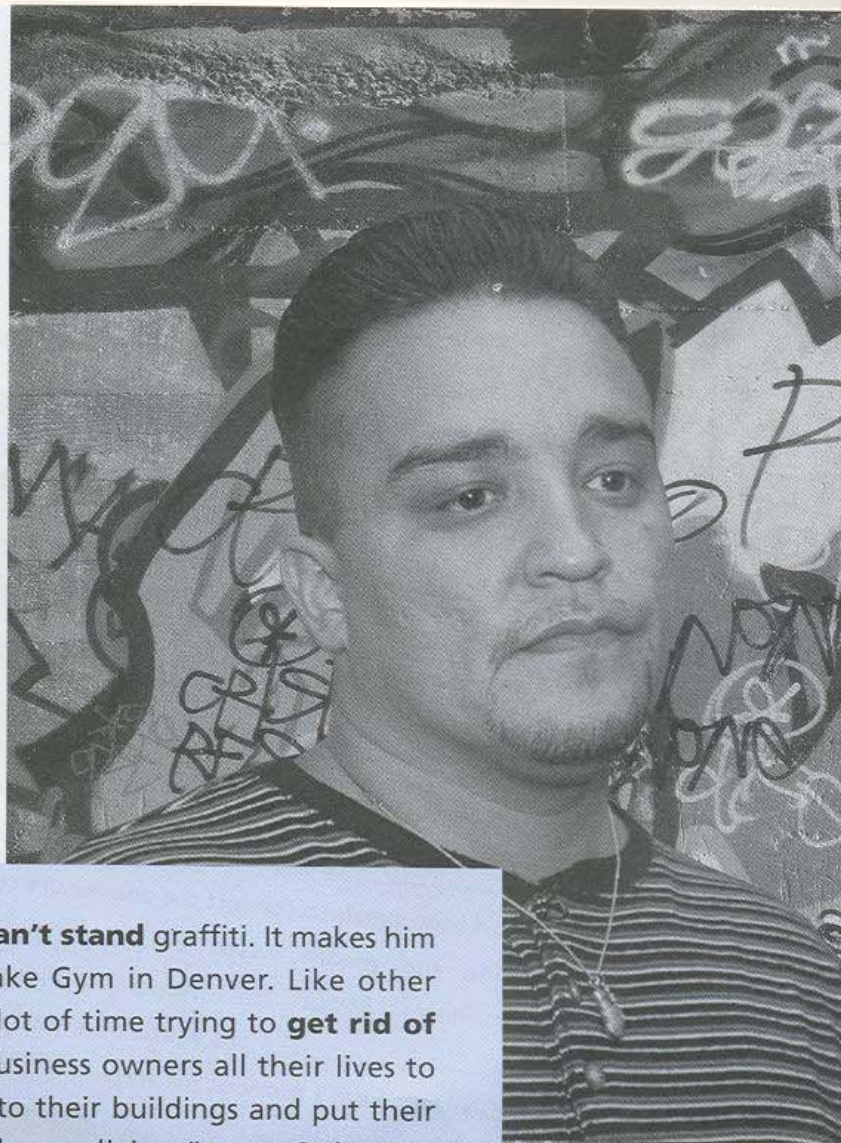


10 Graffiti Makes Him See Red

1. Quick Reading

Look at the pictures on page 63.
What is the story about?

Now read quickly to get the main idea.



Mike Quintana hates graffiti.

DENVER, CO, USA ¹Mike Quintana **can't stand** graffiti. It makes him **see red**. ²Quintana owns Sloan Lake Gym in Denver. Like other business owners there, he spends a lot of time trying to **get rid of** the graffiti on his walls. "It takes business owners all their lives to build something. Then punks come to their buildings and put their names **all over the place**. It's demoralizing," says Quintana. ³Quintana also tries to **do away with** graffiti in his neighborhood. A few times a week, he drives around **looking for** new graffiti. He paints over the graffiti on park benches, garbage cans, and walls.

⁴One recent evening, Quintana heard a noise outside his gym and **caught** three teens **red-handed**. They were spray painting graffiti on his building. ⁵He pulled one teen into the gym, and the other two followed. There was a fight. ⁶Somehow Quintana **got the upper hand** and called the police, who put the teens in handcuffs. Then one of the teens threatened to kill Quintana. ⁷**That was the last straw**. Quintana **hit the ceiling**. He grabbed a can of red paint and sprayed two of the boys in the face.

⁸Now Quintana is **paying the price for losing his cool**. He was arrested, convicted of assault, and sentenced to 40 hours of community service. "Two wrongs don't make a right," said the judge.

punks: young people who commit petty crimes

convicted of assault: found guilty of trying to do physical harm to someone

New idioms and expressions

see red	be very angry
can't stand something	dislike something very much
get rid of something	remove; throw something away
all over the place	everywhere
do away with something*	put an end to something; destroy something
look for someone or something*	try to find someone or something
catch someone red-handed	catch someone in the act of doing something wrong
get the upper hand	get the power or advantage
That's the last straw!	After so many problems, that's just too much to endure!
hit the ceiling	become very angry
pay the price (for something)	receive punishment (for something)
lose one's cool	get angry; lose one's temper

recycled idiom: spend time

*phrasal verb (see Lexicon and Appendix D)

2. Listen

Cover the story and look only at these pictures. Listen to the story two or three times.



3. Read the Story

Now read the story carefully. Pay special attention to the idioms so that you're ready for Exercise 4.

4. Listen and Complete

Close your book. Listen to the story again. When the tape or your teacher pauses, try to complete the idiom.

5. Match

Complete the idioms using the words in the box. Then write the number of the matching definition.

hand	red-handed	price	straw	rid of	stand	red
-------------	-------------------	--------------	--------------	---------------	--------------	------------

___	a.	see _____	1.	achieve the advantage
___	b.	get _____	2.	dislike something very much
___	c.	get the upper _____	3.	catch in the act of doing something wrong
___	d.	can't _____	4.	too much to endure
___	e.	the last _____	5.	remove; throw away
___	f.	pay the _____	6.	receive punishment for something
___	g.	catch _____	7.	be angry

6. Tell the Story

Look only at the pictures and the New Idioms box on page 63. Tell the story using as many idioms as you can.

- First, work with the whole class to retell the story.
- Then tell the story to a partner or small group.

7. Answer the Questions

About the story.....

- How does Quintana feel about graffiti?
- What does he do about the graffiti on the gym walls?
- What does he do about graffiti in the neighborhood?
- What happened after Quintana heard a noise outside his gym?
- What was the last straw for him?
- What did he do when he hit the ceiling?
- What price is Quintana paying for losing his cool?
- Do you think Quintana deserved his punishment? Why or why not?

About you.....

- How do you feel about graffiti? Is it vandalism or street art, in your opinion?
- Is graffiti all over the place in your neighborhood? If yes, should you and your neighbors do something about it? What?
- What makes you lose your cool?
- What can't you stand?
- If you could, what would you do away with in the world?

8. Take a Dictation

Listen to the tape or your teacher and write the dictation in your notebook.

9. Complete the Idioms



- a. When Jose heard the bad news, it was the last _____ . He lost his _____ .

- b. Mrs. Lorenzo cleaned her son's apartment and did _____ with years of dust and dirt. She got _____ all his old clothes, old food, and old papers.



- c. Tina painted pictures all over _____ in her house—on the floor, on the walls, even on the furniture. Her father caught her _____ and hit the _____ .

10. Look at Grammar

get the upper hand

get the upper hand on someone

get the upper hand by doing something

Pierre is always trying to get the upper hand.

Pierre is always trying to get the upper hand on me.

Then I try to get the upper hand by ignoring him.

pay the price

pay the price for something

pay the price for doing something

She committed a crime, and she'll have to pay the price.

I had to pay the price for my mistake.

I had to pay the price for making a big mistake.

get rid of something

do away with something

I got rid of my old car and bought a new one.

The company is trying to do away with energy waste.

Note: These two expressions are very close in meaning and are often used interchangeably: *She wants to get rid of government corruption; She wants to do away with government corruption.* However, *get rid of* can also mean *throw away*, for example, *I got rid of the garbage.*

Complete the sentences with help from the grammar box above. Make sure they are true for you.

- In my neighborhood, I'd like to do away _____.
- I'd like to get rid _____ in the world.
- When I was younger, I had to pay the price _____
_____.
- When I was growing up in my family, _____ often tried to get the upper hand _____.

11. Write a Dialogue

Work with a partner. Write a dialogue using at least four idioms from the unit.

Act it out for the class.

12. Complete the Dialogue

- a. Two co-workers are talking at their computers.
Fill in the blanks with idioms from the box.
Put the verbs in the correct form and tense.

- get rid of (v)
- the last straw
- look for (v)
- lose your cool (v)
- hit the ceiling (v)
- can't stand (v)



Oh, no. I don't believe this. This is really
(1) _____ !

What's wrong now?



I just lost all my data. I'll have to **start from scratch***. I
(2) _____ this computer.

Don't (3) _____ ! I'll help
you get it back.



I don't think you can. The data's gone.

Let me try! I'll (4) _____ it.



I should just (5) _____ this dinosaur. It's
time for a **brand new**** computer.

It's time for a new attitude. You need to learn patience. You
can't (6) _____ every time there's a
little problem.



* start from scratch: start from the beginning

** brand new: completely new

- b. Work with a partner. Role-play the dialogue together.