

# March to the beat of your own drum

Idiom of the month

a cura di Sarah Gudgeon

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## 1. Complete the sentences with a word of your choice.

**In life, it is important to...**

- make \_\_\_\_ choices that are right for you.
- take advice from people you \_\_\_\_
- respect \_\_\_\_ and others in all situations.
- not be \_\_\_\_ to be different.
- be authentic and not present a \_\_\_\_ version of yourself.

## 2a. Read

Mrs Peters is so cool. She spent a year in India and now she does yoga with us every morning.

I didn't know Mrs Peters could play the drums. I thought she played the guitar.

I know. The other teachers don't agree but she marches to the beat of her own drum.

She can't! I mean she doesn't care what other people think or do. She isn't interested in just being like everyone else.

**2b. Complete with the idiom of the month.**

People who \_\_\_\_\_ don't behave in the same way as everyone else. They are independent thinkers.

*If you march to the beat of your own drum, you don't just copy other people.*

**3. Class debate.**

'Social media makes it very difficult for teenagers to march to the beat of their own drum.'

**Team A: You agree with this statement.**

**Team B: You disagree with this statement.**

**4. Personal reflection. Write. Max 100 words.**

Do you march to the beat of your own drum or are you more of a conformist?

## Teacher's Notes

1. Sample answers:
  - a. 1. smart/good/intelligent;
  - b. 2. trust/admire/respect;
  - c. 3. yourself;
  - d. 4. afraid/scared;
  - e. 5. fake/pretend
2. 2.b People who march to the beat of their own drum don't behave in the same way as everyone else. They are independent thinkers.
3. Review language for offering opinions, agreeing, disagreeing and interrupting politely. Some points students may wish to consider:

**Team A** - online bullying can make people scared to show the true versions of themselves, photos stay online forever even though opinions and behaviour can change over time.

**Team B** – social media can help young people connect with others who share their views and interests; teenagers can feel part of a community online.
4. **Sample answer:** I try to march to the beat of my own drum but it isn't easy. There is a lot of peer pressure and sometimes I just agree with my friends because I don't want to be laughed at. I think it gets easier when you get older because then you know yourself better and you know what is important for you.