Idioms for situations

89.1 Complete the idioms in these sentences using the picture clues.

1. After a bad year, fortunately, things are now ........................................................... up.
2. It was a great success. Everything ran like ........................................................... .
3. The government intervened to solve the problem at the ........................................................... .
4. Good news! Our plan worked like ........................................................... !
5. We took six months to plan our website and now I’m pleased to say it’s up ........................................................... .

89.2 Decide whether these idioms describe positive (+) or negative (–) situations. Write + or – in the brackets after each one.

1. It threw me completely. ( )
2. Everything fell into place. ( )
3. It’s a complete shambles. ( )
4. It’s as clear as mud. ( )
5. It went according to plan. ( )
6. We got our wires crossed. ( )

89.3 Use idioms from exercise 89.2 to complete these sentences.

1. You asked if I understand. No, sorry, I’m afraid .........................................................................
2. Just when I thought we would never succeed, .........................................................................
3. Sorry about the mix-up last night. .........................................................................
4. It was all set up to make him admit his guilt. Luckily, .........................................................................
5. I wasn’t expecting her to say that. .........................................................................
6. That company is totally disorganised. .........................................................................

89.4 Complete these sentences with words from the box.

trees brush dream teacup under
trees brush dream teacup under
bad wood carpet storm muddy

1. Oh no! I’ve lost my credit card as well as my ticket! This is like a ............................. ............................. !
2. Let’s try and keep it clear and simple. Let’s not ............................. the waters.
3. It’s all a bit confusing and sometimes you can’t see the ............................. for the ............................. .
4. I think people will soon forget all these arguments. It’s just a ............................. in a ............................. .
5. Let’s discuss the problem openly and not just ............................. it ............................. the ............................. .

89.5 Complete these idiomatic expressions.

1. Oh no! Now the switch has broken! That’s all we ............................. !
2. He said he couldn’t pay me. That was the ............................. ............................. t............................. I wanted to hear.
3. I know it’s all quiet now, but it’s just the c............................. before the s............................. .
4. It would m............................. life e............................. if you would cooperate and stop being so difficult.
5. I have no idea where your coat disappeared to. It’s a m.............................y to me.
6. Could you explain that again? You’ve l...................... me there.
7. Phew! That was a c............................. call! I got my job application in just before the deadline.
8. Oh no! Jim’s gone off with the key and I don’t know how to contact him. What a p............................. !