



You had quite an obvious starting point in last week's puzzle since 7 of the clues had an asterisk at the end. The entries that corresponded to these clues were all one-word adjectives. (COLD, for example) Your task was to find their counterparts from common idiom phrases, hence the title "Beyond Comparison". For COLD, the idiom I had in mind was "Cold as ice", and "Ice" was indeed a clue itself, for the word SECURE in the grid. Following this pattern for all 6 other adjectives gave you 7 single word clues that paired with 7 grid entries of varying lengths. Taking the first letters of those entries in grid order spelled out PLEASED, and then you needed to complete the idiom for the meta answer - so "Pleased as punch", with **PUNCH** as your 5-letter word.