

Essential Idioms & phrasal verbs

Intermediate

By



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Intermediate

LESSON 14

to eat in/to eat out: to eat at home/to eat in a restaurant

- I feel too tired to go out for dinner. Let's eat in again tonight.
- When you eat out, what restaurant do you generally go to?

cut and dried: predictable, known beforehand; boring

- The results of the national election were rather cut and dried; the Republicans won easily.
- A job on a factory assembly line is certainly cut and dried.

to look after: to watch, to supervise, to protect (also: **to take care of, to keep an eye on**)

- Grandma will look after the baby while we go to the lecture.
- Who is going to take care of your house plants while you are away?
- I'd appreciate it if you'd keep an eye on my car while I'm in the store.

to feel like: to have the desire to, to want to consider

This idiom is usually followed by a gerund (the *-ing* form of a verb used as a noun).

- I don't feel like studying tonight. Let's go to a basketball game.
- I feel like taking a long walk. Would you like to go with me?

once and for all: finally, absolutely

- My daughter told her boyfriend once and for all that she wouldn't date him anymore.
- Once and for all, John has quit smoking cigarettes.

to hear from: to receive news or information from

To hear from is used for receiving a letter, telephone call, etc., from a person or organization.

- I don't hear from my brother very often since he moved to Chicago.
- Have you heard from the company about that new job?

to hear of: to know about, to be familiar with; to consider (The second definition is always used in the negative.)

- When I asked for directions to Mill Street, the police officer said that she had never heard of it.
- Byron strongly disagreed with my request by saying, «I won't hear of it!»

to make fun of: to laugh at, to joke about

- They are making fun of Carlo's new hair style. Don't you think that it's really strange?



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- Don't make fun of José's English. He's doing the best he can.

to come true: to become reality, to prove to be correct

- The weatherman's forecast for today's weather certainly came true.
- Everything that the economists predicted about the increased cost of living has come true.

as a matter of fact: really, actually (also: **in fact**)

- Hans thinks he knows English well but, *as a matter of fact*, he speaks very poorly.
- I didn't say that. *In fact* I said quite the opposite.

to have one's way: to arrange matters the way one wants (especially when someone else doesn't want the same way) (also: **to get one's way**)

- My brother always wants to *have his way*, but this time our parents said that we could do what I wanted.
- If Sheila doesn't *get her way*, she becomes very angry.

to look forward to: to expect or anticipate with pleasure

This idiom can be followed by a regular noun or a gerund.

- We're greatly looking forward to our vacation in Mexico.
- Margaret never looks forward to going to work.

EXERCISES

Choose the appropriate idiomatic expression to substitute for the italicized word or words in each sentence below.

1. I asked my neighbor *to watch* my dog while I was out of town.

- a. to come to (Lesson 13)
- b. to make fun of
- c. to look after

2. Do you *want to consider* going to a movie tonight?

- a. feel like
- b. stand to reason (Lesson 12)
- c. look forward to

3. I wonder when I'm finally going *to receive news from* Joe.

- a. to hear of
- b. to hear from
- c. to get in touch with (Lesson 9)

4. The teacher told her young student, "Please don't cheat again *from this time into the future*?"

- a. from now on (Lesson 11)
- b. once and for all



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c. as a matter of fact

5. Aren't you glad that we decided *to eat at a restaurant* tonight? This food is great!

a. to eat in

b. to take out (Lesson 3)

c. to eat out

6. The decision to sell the failing business was rather *predictable*.

a. come true

b. in fact

c. cut and dried

7. Barbara is a nice person, but unfortunately she always has *to arrange matters the way she wants*.

a. to have her way

b. to make up her mind (Lesson 5)

c. to come true

8. Are you *pleasantly anticipating* the end of the school semester?

a. hearing of

b. looking forward to

c. paying attention to (Lesson 8)

9. *Actually*, I really don't want to take a break right now I'd rather continue working.

a. Little by little (Lesson 2)

b. As a matter of fact

c. For good (Lesson 5)

10. Everything that my parents told me about becoming an adult *proved to be correct*.

a. came true

b. to hear of it

c. in fact

Answer these questions orally by making use of the idiomatic expressions studied in this lesson.

1. If you were a parent, what activity would you *not hear of* your small child doing?

2. Do you prefer to *eat in* or *eat out*? How often do you *eat out*?

3. Is there anything that you want to stop doing *once and for all*? What?

4. What event in the near future are you *looking forward to*?

5. When might you insist on *having your way* with your friends?

6. How do you feel when other people *make fun* of you?

7. When do you most *feel like* studying — in the morning or in the evening? Why?

8. All people have hopes and desires for the future. What hope or desire do you want most *to come true*?



LESSON 15

inside out: with the inside facing the outside

- Some one should tell little Bobby that his shirt is *inside out*.
- The high winds ruined the umbrella by blowing it *inside out*.

upside down: with the upper side turned toward the lower side

- The accident caused one car to turn *upside down*, its wheels spinning in the air.
- One of the students was only pretending to read her textbook; the teacher could see that the book was actually *upside down*.

to fill in: to write answers in (S); to inform, to tell (S)

For the second definition, the idiom can be followed by the preposition *on* and the information that someone is told.

- You should be careful to *fill in* the blanks on the registration form correctly.
- Barry was absent from the meeting, so I'd better *fill* him *in*.
- Has anyone *filled* the boss *in* on the latest public relations disaster?

to fill out: to complete a form (S)

This idiom is very similar to the first definition above. *To fill in* refers to completing various parts of a form, while *to fill out* refers to completing a form as one whole item.

- Every prospective employee must *fill out* an application by giving name, address, previous jobs, etc.
- The teenager had some trouble *filling* the forms *out* by himself, so his mother helped him.

to take advantage of: to use well, to profit from; to use another person's weaknesses to gain what one wants

- I *took advantage of* my neighbor's superior skill at tennis to improve my own ability at the game.
- Teddy is such a small, weak child that his friends *take advantage of* him all the time. They *take advantage of* him by demanding money and making him do things for them.

no matter: regardless of

This idiom is a shortened form of *it doesn't matter*. It is followed by a question word such as *how*, *where*, *when*, *who*, etc.

- *No matter* how much money he spends on his clothes, he never looks well dressed.
- *No matter* where that escaped prisoner tries to hide, the police will find him sooner or later.

to take up: to begin to do or study, to undertake (S); to occupy space, time, or energy (S)

- After today's exam, the class will be ready *to take up* the last chapter in the book.
- The piano *takes up* too much space in our living room. However, it would *take* too much time *up to* move it



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right now so we'd better wait until later.

to take up with: to consult someone about an important matter (S)

The important matter follows the verb *take*, while the person consulted follows *with*.

- Can I *take* the problem *up with* you right now? It's quite urgent.
- I can't help you with this matter. You'll have to *take it up with* the manager.

to take after: to resemble a parent or close relative (for physical appearance only, also: **to look like**)

- Which of your parents do you *take after* the most?
- Sam looks like his father, but he *takes after* his mother in personality.

in the long run: eventually, after a long period of time

This idiom is similar in meaning to *sooner or later* (Lesson 1). The difference is that *in the long run* refers to a more extended period of time.

- *In the long run*, the synthetic weave in this carpet will wear better than the woolen one. You won't have to replace it so soon.
- If you work hard at your marriage, you'll find out that, *in the long run*, your spouse can be your best friend in life.

be in touch (with): having contact

- James will be *in touch with* us soon to relay the details of the plan.

I certainly enjoyed seeing you again after all these years. Let's be sure to keep *in touch*.

out of touch with: not having contact; not having knowledge of

- Marge and I had been *out of touch* for years, but then suddenly she called me up the other day.
- Larry has been so busy that he seems *out of touch with* world events.

EXERCISES

Choose the appropriate idiomatic expression to substitute for the italicized word or words in each sentence below. Idioms from previous lessons are indicated by number.

1. It is a fact of life that older children use *the weaknesses* of their younger brothers and sisters.

- a. take up with
- b. out of touch with
- c. take advantage of

2. If you want the water to come out of the bottle, you have to turn it *so the top is where the bottom was with the upper side facing the lower side*.

- a. inside out
- b. in the long run
- c. upside down



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3. Bernice has a determination to do well in every aspect of her work; she never *stops trying* just because the work is difficult.
- gives up (Lesson 13)
 - takes up
 - takes after
4. *Regardless of* what he says, I don't believe any of the excuses he offers.
- As for (Lesson 12)
 - No matter
 - As a matter of fact (Lesson 14)
5. Janice just got back from vacation, let's *inform her* on what happened while she was gone.
- fill her in
 - fill her out
 - think her over (Lesson 4)
6. This assignment is so *boring and predictable* that I'll be finished in a very short time.
- out of the question (Lesson 8)
 - out of touch
 - cut and dried (Lesson 14)
7. After Larry finished taking art classes, he decided *to begin to study* journalism.
- to take up
 - to take advantage of
 - to look like
8. Tom and I have been *not having contact* for many years now; I can hardly believe that he just wrote me a letter.
- in touch
 - in the long run
 - out of touch
9. Whom do you think that Terry *resembles* most – her mother or her father?
- look over (Lesson 6)
 - takes after
 - fills out
10. Several neighbors called the police as soon as a big fight *became widespread* in the neighborhood.
- was carried away (Lesson 11)
 - took up with
 - broke out (Lesson 12)

Answer these questions orally by making use of the idiomatic expressions studied in this lesson.

- Which of your parents do you *take after* in appearance? In personality?
- What people in your life are you most *in touch with*?
- Who have you been *out of touch* with for many years?
- What object *takes up* the most space in your room?
- What are some good ways that you can *take advantage of* a friend? Some bad ways?



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6. What kind of life do you want for yourself *in the long run*?
7. If a person has serious mental or emotional problems, whom can this person *take* the problems *up with*?
8. For what reasons might you find yourself wearing a piece of clothing *inside out*?

LESSON 16

on one's toes: alert, cautious

This idiom is usually used with the verbs *stay* and *keep*.

- It's important for all the players on a soccer team to stay *on their toes*.
- We'd better keep *on our toes* while we're walking along the dark portions of this street.

to get along: to make progress; to manage to live in a certain state of health

- Juan is *getting along* very well in his English studies.
- How is Mr Richards *getting along* after his long illness?

hard of hearing: partially deaf, not able to hear well

- You'll have to speak a little louder. Mrs Evans is *hard of hearing*.
- Please don't shout. I'm not *hard of hearing*.
- Listening to loud music too much can make you *hard of hearing*.

to see eye to eye; on something with somebody: to agree, to concur

- I'm glad that we *see eye to eye* on the matter of the conference location.
- A husband and wife don't always *see eye to eye* with each other, but a good marriage can survive small disagreements.

to have in mind: to be considering, to be thinking (S)

- I don't want to see a movie now. I *have in mind* going to the park.
- It's up to you what we eat tonight. Do you *have anything in mind*?

to keep in mind: to remember, not to forget (S) (also: **to bear in mind**)

- Please *keep in mind* that you promised to call Stan around noon.
- I didn't know that Paula doesn't like vegetables. We should *bear that in mind* next time we invite her for dinner.

for once: this one time, for only one time

- *For once* I was able to win a game of golf against Steve, who is a much better player than I am.
- Dad, *for once* would you please let me drive the new car?



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to go off: to explode, to sound as an alarm; to leave suddenly without explanation

- The accident happened when a box of firecrackers *went off* accidentally.
- For what time did you set the alarm clock to *go off* tomorrow morning?
- Vince *went off* without saying good-bye to anybody, I hope he wasn't angry.

to grow out of: to outgrow, to become too old for, to be a result of

- He still bites his nails now and then, but soon he'll *grow out* of the habit.
- The need for the salary committee *grew out of* worker dissatisfaction with the pay scale.

to make the best of: to do the best that one can in a poor situation

- If we can't find a larger apartment soon, we'll just have to *make the best of* it right here.
- Even though the Martinez family is having financial problems, they *make the best of* everything by enjoying the simple pleasures of life.

to cut off: to shorten by cutting the ends (S); to disconnect or stop suddenly (S)

- The rope was two feet longer than we needed, so we *cut off* the extra length.
- The operator *cut* our long-distance phone conversation *off* after two minutes.

to cut out: to remove by cutting (S); to stop doing something (S) (for the second definition, also: **to knock it off**)

For the second definition, the idiom is usually separated by the pronoun *it*.

- The child likes to *cut out* pictures from the newspaper and to paste them in a notebook.
- He kept bothering her, so finally she told him to *cut it out*. However, he wouldn't *knock it off* until her larger brother appeared.

EXERCISES

Choose the appropriate idiomatic expression to substitute for the italicized word or words in each sentence below. Idioms from previous lessons are indicated by number.

1. My brother and I are having a lot of arguments these days. We can hardly *agree* on anything.

- a. go off
- b. see eye to eye
- c. have in mind

2. How is old Mrs. Dunham *managing to live* after her hip replacement surgery?

- a. getting along
- b. making the best
- c. getting through (Lesson 11)

3. Teddy's foot size is now so big that he's already *become too old for* these baseball shoes.

- a. on his toes for



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b. cut off

c. grown out of

4. *This one time* I'd like to win a million dollars in the state lottery, but I'm sure I won't.

a. So far (Lesson 4)

b. For once

c. All along (Lesson 2)

5. Wilma awoke suddenly when her alarm clock *sounded* in the morning.

a. went on (Lesson 6)

b. went off

c. went out (Lesson 8)

6. I can't answer your questions about this problem; go see the supervisor and *consult him about it*.

a. keep him in mind

b. take it up with him (Lesson 15)

c. make the best of him

7. At the end of the break, the teacher had *to suddenly stop* the students' conversations and resume class.

a. to cut out

b. to go off

c. to cut off

8. Even though there are a lot of quiet moments in baseball, the players on the field should always stay *alert*.

a. out of touch with them (Lesson 15)

b. bearing them in mind

c. on their toes

9. Sarah's negative attitude about life *is a result of* an unhappy childhood.

a. makes the best of

b. grows out of

c. gets along

10. I don't know what you think, but I *am considering* a roller skating party for Billy's birthday.

a. have in mind

b. never mind (Lesson 2)

c. keep in mind

Answer these questions orally by making use of the idiomatic expressions studied in this lesson.

1. Why should you stay *on your toes* while driving a car?

2. How are you *getting along* in your English studies?

3. What do you do when you don't *see eye to eye with* a friend? Do you usually stay calm or get angry during an argument?

4. Is there anything in life that you would like to do just *for once*?

5. At what time in the morning does your alarm clock usually *go off*?

6. Name one or more habits that you had as a child that later you *grew out of*.



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7. Why might someone say "Cut it out!" to you?

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LESSON 17

to blow out: to explode, to go flat (for tires); to extinguish by blowing (S)

- On our trip to Colorado, one of the car tires *blew out* when it hit a large hole in the road.
- Little Joey wasn't able *to blow* all the candles *out*, so his big sister helped him.

to become of: to happen to (a missing object or person)

This idiom is always used in a clause beginning with *what*.

- What has *become of* my pencil? I had it ten minutes ago, but now I can't find it.
- I wondered what *became of* you. I looked around the shopping center for two hours, but I couldn't find you at all.

to shut up: to close for a period of time (S); to be quiet, to stop talking

The second definition of this idiom is impolite in formal situations.

- During the hurricane, all the store owners *shut* their shops *up*.
- Bob's sister told him to *shut up* and not say anything more about it.
- The student got into big trouble for telling his teacher to *shut up*.

have got: to have, to possess

- Curtis *has got* a bad cold. He's sneezing and coughing a lot.
- How much money *have* you *got* with you right now?

have got to: must (also: have to)

- She *has got to* go to Chicago today to sign the contract papers.
- I *have to* be back home by two o'clock or my wife will feel ill at ease.

to keep up with: to maintain the same speed or rate as

- Frieda works so fast that no one in the office can keep up with her.
- You'll have to walk more slowly. I can't keep up with you.

on the other hand: however, in contrast

- Democracies provide people many freedoms and privileges. *On the other hand*, democracies suffer many serious problems such as crime and unemployment.
- My sister takes after my father in appearance. *On the other hand*, I take after my mother.

to turn down: to reduce in brightness or volume (S); to reject, to refuse (S)

- Please *turn down* the radio for me. It's too loud while I'm studying.



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- Laverne wanted to join the military but the recruiting officer *turned* her application *down* because Laverne is hard of hearing in one ear.

fifty-fifty: divided into two equal parts

- Let's go *fifty-fifty* on the cost of a new rug for our apartment.
- The political candidate has a *fifty-fifty* chance of winning the election.

to break in: gradually to prepare something for use that is new and stiff (S); to interrupt (for the second definition, also: **to cut in**)

- It is best to *break* a new car *in* by driving it slowly for the first few hundred miles.
- While Carrie and I were talking Bill *broke in* to tell me about a telephone call.
- Peter, it's very impolite to *cut in* like that while others are speaking.

a lost cause: a hopeless case, a person or situation having no hope of positive change

- It seems that Charles will never listen to our advice. I suppose it's *a lost cause*.
- The police searched for the missing girl for two weeks, but finally gave it up as *a lost cause*.
- Children who have committed several crimes as teenagers and show no sorrow about their actions are generally *lost causes*.

above all: mainly, especially

- *Above all*, don't mention the matter to Gerard; he's the last person we should tell.
- Sheila does well in all her school subjects, but *above all* in mathematics. Her math scores are always over 95 percent.

EXERCISES

Choose the appropriate idiomatic expression to substitute for the italicized word or words in each sentence below. Idioms from previous lessons are indicated by number.

1. The last racehorse wasn't able *to maintain the same speed as* the other horses in the race.
 - a. to keep up with
 - b. to cut in
 - c. to keep track of (Lesson 11)
2. There's only one piece of pie left. Would you like to share it *in two equal parts*?
 - a. above all
 - b. fifty-fifty
 - c. a lost cause
3. We haven't heard from Mike recently. I wonder how he's *progressing* since joining the army.
 - a. getting along (Lesson 16)
 - b. getting used to (Lesson 9)



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c. breaking in

4. Tell the children *to stop talking* now or they'll get punished.

a. to blow out

b. to break in

c. to shut up

5. What has *happened* to my wallet? I can't find it anywhere.

a. become of

b. have to

c. turned down

6. Jack didn't believe what his parents told him, but all of it has *proved to be correct*.

a. made a difference (Lesson 3)

b. a lost cause

c. come true (Lesson 14)

7. Ted greatly appreciates his wife's concern for him and, *especially*, her love.

a. above all

b. on the other hand

c. at least (Lesson 4)

8. Dr. Hampton *must* leave the office early because he has an urgent appointment at the hospital.

a. has got

b. has got to

c. would rather (Lesson 7)

9. We almost had a serious accident on the highway when the front tire of our car *exploded*.

a. blew up (Lesson 12)

b. blew out

c. tired out (Lesson 2)

10. Joyce never believed that the university would *reject* her application for graduate study.

a. turn down

b. break in

c. throw away (Lesson 8)

Answer these questions orally by making use of the idiomatic expressions studied in this lesson.

1. When is it acceptable to tell someone to *shut up*? Not acceptable?

2. How much money *have you got* in your wallet or purse right now?

3. What *have you got to* do to take care of your health?

4. Have you ever had difficulty *keeping up with* other students in school? Why or why not?

5. For what reasons might a person be *turned down* for a job?

6. Why is it important to *break in* a new vehicle?

7. For what reasons might you think of someone as being *a lost cause*?

8. *Above all*, what is the most important part of your life?



LESSON 18

to do without: survive or exist without something (also: **to go without**)

- With prices so high now, I'll have to *do without* a new suit this year.
- As a traveling salesperson, Monica can't *do without* a car.
- It's a shame that so many poor people in the world have to *go without* basic necessities of life such as nutritious food and suitable shelter.

according to: in the order of; on the authority of

- The students on the football team were ranked *according to* height, from shortest to tallest.
- *According to* my dictionary, you are using that word in your essay incorrectly.

to be bound to do something: to be certain to do something, to be sure to do something

This idiom is used when the occurrence of an event seems inevitable or unavoidable.

- *We are bound to be* late if you don't hurry up.
- With the economy improving now, their business *is bound to make* more money this year.

for sure: without doubt (also: **for certain**)

- In the dark, I couldn't tell *for sure* whether it was Polly or Sarah who drove by.
- I know *for certain* that Gene will move back to Washington next month.

to take for: to perceive or understand as (S)

This idiom is usually used when someone is mistakenly perceived. A noun or pronoun must separate the idiom.

- Because of his strong, muscular body, I *took him for* a professional athlete. As it turns out, he doesn't play any professional sports.
- What do you *take me for* – a fool? I don't believe what you're saying at all.

to try out: to test, to use during a trial period (S)

- You can *try out* the new car before you decide to buy it.
- I can let you *try* the computer *out* for a few days before you make a decision.

to tear down: to destroy by making flat, to demolish (S)

- The construction company had to *tear down* the old hotel in order to build a new office building.
- The owners had to *tear* the house *down* after it burned down in a fire.

to tear up: to rip into small pieces (S)

- Deidre *tore up* the letter angrily and threw all the pieces into the trash can.
- He told the lawyer to *tear* the old contract *up* and then to prepare a new one.



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go over: to be appreciated or accepted

This idiom is usually followed by the adverb *well*. (In Lesson 6 this idiom has the meaning to review, as in the second sentence of the second example below.)

- The teacher's organized lessons always *go over well* with her students.
- The comedian's jokes weren't *going over well*, the audience wasn't laughing much at all. I think that the comedian should *go over* his material more carefully before each act.

to run out of: to exhaust the supply of, not to have more of

- We *ran out of* gas right in the middle of the main street in town.
- It's dangerous *to run out of* water if you are in an isolated area.

at heart: basically, fundamentally

This idiom is used to describe the true character of a person.

- James sometimes seems quite unfriendly but *at heart* he's a good person.
- The Fares often don't see eye to eye, but *at heart* they both love each other very much.

be about to do sth: ready to, just going to

- We *were about to leave* the house when the phone rang.
- I'm sorry that I broke in. What *were you about to say*?

EXERCISES

Choose the appropriate idiomatic expression to substitute for the italicized word or words in each sentence below. Idioms from previous lessons are indicated by number.

1. We'll have to use the restrooms on the next floor because the ones on this floor are *not in working condition*.

- run out of
- torn down
- out of order (Lesson 6)

2. Jennifer seems unpleasant at times, but *basically* she's a kind person.

- at heart
- for sure
- according to

3. The salesperson agreed to let me *test* the computer for an hour or so in the store.

- try out
- tear up
- do without

4. Because of his uniform, he was *perceived* as a police officer, but actually he was just a security guard.

- taken for



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- b. bound to
c. looked out (Lesson 5)
5. *On the authority of* the courts, essential government workers cannot go on strike or refuse to perform their jobs.
a. About to
b. According to
c. As a matter of fact (Lesson 14)
6. Don't you hate to see the city *demolish* those old historic buildings, all in the name of progress?
a. put out (Lesson 6)
b. tear down
c. go without
7. I think that you'd better *check by wearing* those pants before you spend so much money on them.
a. go over
b. tear up
c. try on (Lesson 4)
8. I was *ready to go* to bed when someone knocked on my apartment door.
a. bound to
b. about to
c. feel like (Lesson 14)
9. The President's speech *was accepted* so well that all the members of Congress stood up and applauded.
a. went over
b. was bound to
c. found out (Lesson 2)
10. Tess is planning to go with us to Disneyland *without doubt*.
a. out of the question (Lesson 8)
b. at last (Lesson 2)
c. for sure

Answer these questions orally by making use of the idiomatic expressions studied in this lesson

1. Why are students in some schools placed in classes *according to* ability?
2. If parents want to raise their children well, what *are they bound to do*?
3. If you see a man leaving a house through a window at night, what might you *take him for*?
4. Why might you feel like *tearing up* a letter or some schoolwork?
5. Have you ever said or done something special that *went over* well? What was it?
6. What should you do if you *run out of* energy while you're studying in the evening?
7. Are you a serious person or a fun loving person *at heart*? Give examples.
8. What would you do if you *were about to watch* a favorite TV show at home and the telephone rang?



LESSON 19

to bite off: to accept as a responsibility or task

This idiom is often used when one accepts more responsibility than one can handle alone. It is usually used in the form *to bite off more than one can chew*.

- When I accepted the position of chairman, I didn't realize how much I was biting off.
- When James registered for 18 units in his last semester at college, he bit off more than he could chew.

to tell apart: to distinguish between (also: **to pick apart, to tell from**) (S)

- The two brothers look so much alike that few people can *tell* them *apart*.
- That copy machine is so good that I can't *pick* the photocopy and the original *apart*.
- Most new cars are very similar in appearance. It's almost impossible to *tell* one *from* another.

all in all: considering everything

- There were a few problems, but all in all it was a well-organized seminar.
- Leonard got a low grade in one subject, but all in all he's a good student.

to pass out: to distribute (also: **to hand out**) (S); to lose consciousness

The verbal idiom *to hand out* can be made into the noun **handout** to refer to items that are distributed in a class or meeting.

- Please help me *pass out* these test papers; there must be a hundred of them.
- Alright, students, here are the class *handouts* for this week.
- The weather was so hot in the soccer stadium that some of the fans in the stands *passed out*.

to go around: to be sufficient or adequate for everyone present, to circulate, to move from place to place

- We thought that we had bought enough food and drink for the party, but actually there wasn't enough to *go around*.
- There's a bad strain of influenza *going around* right now. Have you gotten your flu shots yet?
- Mike has been *going around* telling people that he was accepted to Harvard University. Do you believe him?

to be in (the/one's) way: to block or obstruct; not to be helpful, to cause inconvenience (for both, also: **to get in the/one's way**)

- Jocelyn couldn't drive through the busy intersection because a big truck *was in the way*.
- Our small child tried to help us paint the house, but actually he just *got in our way*.

to put on: to gain (pounds or weight) (S); to present, to perform (S)

- Bob has *put on* a lot of weight recently. He must have *put* at least fifteen pounds *on*.
- The Youth Actor's Guild *put on* a wonderful version of *Romeo and Juliet* at the Globe Theater.



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to put up: to construct, to erect (S); to lift, to raise upwards (S)

- The construction company is tearing down that old office building in order to *put up* a new one.
- Please *put your hand up* if you have never studied English grammar before.

to put up with: to tolerate to accept unwillingly

- The employee was fired because his boss could not *put up with* his mistakes any longer.
- While I'm studying, I can't *put up with* any noise or other distractions.

in vain: useless, without the desired result

- All the doctors' efforts to save the injured woman were *in vain*. She was declared dead three hours after being admitted to the hospital.
- We tried *in vain* to reach you last night. Is your phone out of order?

day in and day out: continuously, constantly (also: **day after day**; for longer periods of time, **year in and year out** and **year after year**)

- During the month of April, it rained *day in and day out*.
- *Day after day* I waited for a letter from him, but one never came.
- *Year in and year out*, the weather in San Diego is the best in the nation.

to catch up with: to work with the purpose of fulfilling a requirement or being equal to others

The idiom is often followed by the preposition *with* and a noun phrase. It is similar in meaning to *to keep up with* from Lesson 17.

- The student was absent from class so long that it took her a long time *to catch up*.
- If you are not equal to others, first you have *to catch up with* them before you can keep up with them.

EXERCISES

Choose the appropriate idiomatic expression to substitute for the italicized word or words in each sentence below. Idioms from previous lessons are indicated by number.

1. News *circulated* the office that the company president was being forced to resign.

- went over (Lesson 18)
- went around
- went on (Lesson 6)

2. I'm sorry that I have to *interrupt* while you're talking; there's an important phone call for you, Mr. Mason.

- break in (Lesson 17)
- be in the way
- put up with

3. Several students had not been able to keep up with the rest of the class, so they had a lot of



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difficulty *working to be equal to* the others.

- a. putting on
- b. catching up with
- c. picking apart

4. Marsha's efforts to open the door *were useless*; it was tightly shut.

- a. all in all
- b. in vain
- c. no matter (Lesson 15)

5. Jason didn't know anything about carpentry, so he only *caused inconvenience* when he tried to help Tom build a storage room.

- a. put up
- b. passed out
- c. got in the way

6. Get in touch with me when you *return* from your trip, okay?

- a. get back (Lesson 5)
- b. go around
- c. tell from

7. *Considering everything*, I'm lucky to have a steady job, even if it isn't very exciting.

- a. All in all
- b. At all (Lesson 4)
- c. Day in and day out

8. The Lawsons couldn't *tolerate* the noise of the busy highway next to their house any longer, so they decided to move.

- a. put up
- b. put up with
- c. put out (Lesson 6)

9. Is there beer and wine to *be sufficient* for everyone, or should we drive down to the store for more?

- a. to pass out
- b. to go around
- c. to pick apart

10. The magician *performed* an amazing act for the audience of young people.

- a. bit off
- b. called for (Lesson 13)
- c. put on

Answer these questions orally by making use of the idiomatic expressions studied in this lesson

1. Have you ever *bitten off more than you could chew*? Explain the situation.
2. Have you ever *passed out* or seen someone *pass out*? What happened?
3. What do people in an audience have to do if there are not enough seats to *go around*?
4. What should you tell someone who is *in your way* while you're working?
5. In class, when would you *put up* your hand? Is this easy or difficult for you to do? Why?



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6. What are some of the things in life that you have trouble *putting up with*?
7. How would you feel if you had to stay at home *day in and day out* taking care of the housework and, perhaps, children? Would you feel satisfied or would you feel unhappy? Explain your reasons.
8. Have you ever found yourself *catching up* with others? What was the situation?

LESSON 20

to hold still: not to move (S)

- Please *hold still* while I adjust your tie.
- If you don't *hold* that camera *still*, you'll get a blurred picture.

to know by sight: to recognize (S)

This idiom is used when the *person* has been seen previously but is not known personally. The *person* must be used to separate the idiom.

- I have never met our new neighbors; I simply *know* them *by sight*.
- The woman said that she would *know* the thief *by sight* if she ever saw him again.

to be the matter: to be unsatisfactory, to be improper, to be wrong

In a question, this idiom is used with *what* or *something*. In an answer, *something* or *nothing* is usually used.

- A: What *is the matter*, Betty? You look very upset.
- B: Yes, something *is the matter*. I've lost my purse!
- A: *Is something the matter*, Charles? You don't look well.
- B: No, nothing *is the matter*. I'm just a little under the weather.

to bring up: to rear, to raise from childhood (S); to mention, to raise an issue, to introduce a topic (S)

- Parents should *bring up* their children to be responsible members of society.
- Sarah wanted to *bring* the scheduling problem *up* at the club meeting, but finally she decided against doing so.
- One of the students *brought up* an interesting point related to the subject in our textbook.

to get lost: to become lost; to go away in order not to bother

The second definition provides a very informal, even rude, meaning that should be used only with close friends. It is sometimes used in a joking manner.

- While driving in Boston, we *got lost* and drove many miles in the wrong direction.
- Todd kept bothering me while I was studying, so I told him to *get lost*.
- Lisa joked that she wanted her sister to *get lost* forever.

to hold up: to delay, to make late (S); to remain high in quality



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- A big accident *held up* traffic on the highway for several hours.
- Deidre is amazed at how well her car has *held up* over the years.

to run away: to leave without permission; to escape

- The young couple *ran away* and got married because their parents wouldn't permit it.
- That cat is just like a criminal – it *runs away* from anyone who tries to come near!

to rule out: to refuse to consider, to prohibit (S)

- Ann *ruled out* applying to college in Texas because she would rather go to school in Canada.
- I'd like to watch a good movie on TV tonight, but a ton of homework *rules that out*.

by far: by a great margin, clearly

- Jacquie is *by far* the most intelligent student in our class.
- This is *by far* the hottest, most humid summer we've had in years.

to see off: to say good-bye upon departure by train, airplane, bus, etc. (also: **to send off**) (S)

A noun or pronoun must divide the idiom.

- We are going to the airport to *see Peter off* on his trip to Europe.
- When I left for Cincinnati on a business trip, no one came to the train station to *send me off*.

to see out: to accompany a person out of a house, building, etc. (S)

A noun or pronoun must again divide the idiom.

- The Johnsons were certain to *see their guests off* as each one left the party.
- Would you please *see me out* to the car? It's very dark outside.

no wonder: it's no surprise that, not surprisingly

This idiom derives from reducing *it is no wonder that...*

- *No wonder* the portable heater doesn't work. It's not plugged into the electrical outlet!
- Jack has been out of town for several weeks. *No wonder* we haven't seen him recently.

EXERCISES

Choose the appropriate idiomatic expression to substitute for the italicized word or words in each sentence below. Idioms from previous lessons are indicated by number.

1. This new typewriter isn't *remaining high in quality* as well as the typewriter that I had for over twenty years.
 - a. holding still
 - b. bringing up
 - c. holding up
2. When Tim's roommate asked to borrow Tim's car for the whole weekend, Tim responded jokingly by



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saying, "Go away!"

- a. Get lost
- b. Rule out
- c. Never mind (Lesson 2)

3. The Simpson children were *raised* on a farm, so they have an appreciation of nature that most children don't have.

- a. put up (Lesson 19)
- b. brought up
- c. known by sight

4. Would you like Alex *to accompany you outside* to your car?

- a. to see you off
- b. to see you out
- c. to see you about (Lesson 10)

5. This is the best meal I've ever had in this restaurant *by a great margin*.

- a. by far
- b. little by little (Lesson 2)
- c. by myself (Lesson 3)

6. The company president *refused to consider* the participation of the middle managers in future business negotiations.

- a. brought up
- b. ruled out
- c. was the matter

7. *It's no surprise that* the water is cold. No one turned on the stove!

- a. No matter (Lesson 15)
- b. Nothing is the matter
- c. No wonder

8. I'm sorry I'm late. I was *delayed* by heavy traffic.

- a. taken hold of (Lesson 11)
- b. held up
- c. held still

9. The new flight attendant hesitated *to raise* the issue of overtime pay with the union representative.

- a. to bring up
- b. to be the matter of
- c. to be in charge of (Lesson 9)

10. *Occasionally* Mary enjoys driving up to the mountains and camping by herself.

- a. Over and over again (Lesson 8)
- b. Every now and then (Lesson 10)
- c. Once in a blue moon (Lesson 13)

Answer these questions orally by making use of the idiomatic expressions studied in this lesson.

1. Why might you choose to introduce yourself to someone that you *know only by sight*?



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2. Are there any topics that you would never *bring up* with your parents? Can you mention any of them?
3. Have you ever *gotten* seriously *lost*? What happened?
4. Could you ever tell someone to *get lost*? Why or why not?
5. Which countries manufacture products that generally *hold up* well?
6. What kind of job would you definitely *rule out* for yourself? Why?
7. When was the last time that someone *saw you off*?
8. Why would you offer to *see someone out* of your house or apartment?

LESSON 21

to go up: to increase (also: **to drive up**); to be constructed, to be erected

The second definition is the same as the one for *to put up* in Lesson 19, except that *to go up* is not used with a noun object.

- Economists are predicting that consumer prices *are going up*. Inflation always has a tendency to *drive up* the cost of products.
- A new office *is going up* in the downtown area. A major construction company is *putting it up*.

to go up to: to approach (also: **to come up to, to walk up to, to run up to, to drive up to, etc.**)

The related forms have the same meaning, but the type of movement is different.

- After the lecture, several people in the audience *went up to* the speaker to congratulate her.
- The little girl *came up to* me and shook my hand as if she had known me for years.
- Bill's friend didn't want to admit that they had gotten lost, but finally he agreed to *drive up to* a gas station and inquire about the correct route.

to hand in: to submit or deliver something that is due (S)

- Every student has to *hand in* an original composition each week of the semester.
- All the salespeople *hand* their weekly reports *in* on Friday.

in case: in order to be prepared if

When the idiom occurs at the end of the sentence (the second example), then the meaning is *in order to be prepared if something happens*. The "something" might be an accident, a delay, etc.

- You'd better close the windows *in case* it rains.
- We should be sure to leave for the airport early, just *in case*.
- Cynthia, take one of your books *in case* you have some time to read on our trip.

to take apart: to disassemble, to separate the parts of something (S)

A noun or pronoun usually divides this idiom.

- It is much easier *to take* a watch *apart* than it is to assemble it.
- The engine had a serious problem, so the mechanic had to *take it apart* completely in order to fix it.



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to put together: to assemble (S)

A noun or pronoun usually divides this idiom. The preposition *back* is used when something has been disassembled and then is being reassembled, as in the second example.

- Todd followed the directions on the box but he couldn't manage to *put* the bicycle *together* properly.
- After the teenager took the broken video game apart and fixed it, he was unable to *put it back together* again.

to be better off: to be in a more favorable condition or situation

The opposite of this idiom is **to be worse off**.

- Jim would *be better off* staying at home because of his cold.
- You'd *be much better off* working in an office than in a factory.
- The economies of some nations *are worse off* than they were several decades ago.

to be well-off: to have enough money to enjoy a comfortable life, to be rich (also: **to be well-to-do**)

- They live in the best section of town in a large home; they *are very well-off*.
- By the time I reach the age of fifty-five, I hope to *be well-to-do* and to travel frequently.

To take by surprise: to surprise, to amaze, to astonish (S)

A noun or pronoun usually divides this idiom.

- The offer of a high-paying position with another company *took me by surprise*.
- The president's announcement that the university was in financial trouble didn't *take anyone by surprise*.

to keep in touch with: to maintain contact with (also: **to stay in touch with**)

This idiom should be compared with *to get in touch with* in Lesson 9.

- You can telephone me every few days, and in that way we can *keep in touch with* each other.
- He promised to *stay in touch with* us while he was abroad. However, we were very disappointed that he never did *get in touch with* us.

to name after: to give the same name as another (S)

- Helen's parents *named* Helen *after* her grandmother.
- My grandson is *named after* Calvin Coolidge, the 30th President of the United States.

to hold on: to grasp tightly or firmly; to wait, to be patient

The second definition is often used when someone is talking on the telephone.

- The little girl *held on* to her mother's hand and refused to let go as they walked through the large crowd of people.
- (on the telephone) Could you please *hold on* a moment while I get a pencil and paper?
- Come on, Mike, *hold on*. I can't get ready so quickly.



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EXERCISES

Choose the appropriate idiomatic expression to substitute for the italicized word or words in each sentence below. Idioms from previous lessons are indicated by number.

1. In some countries, *being rich* means just having a home for your family.

- a. being worse off
- b. being well-off
- c. being up to (Lesson 11)

2. Jake was *astonished* when he learned that he had been accepted to Yale University.

- a. taken by surprise
- b. taken apart
- c. better off

3. We'd better take umbrellas with us *to be prepared if* it rains.

- a. on the other hand (Lesson 17)
- b. in case
- c. in time to (Lesson 7)

4. Roy wasn't able *to submit* his assignment to the teacher because he had forgotten to do it.

- a. to put together
- b. to pass out (Lesson 19)
- c. to hand in

5. We've run out of milk so we'll *not be able to have* it at dinner-time.

- a. have on (Lesson 13)
- b. run up to
- c. do without (Lesson 18)

6. Dr. Madison has *assembled* an excellent team of administrators and instructors for the staff of the new community college.

- a. put together
- b. taken apart
- c. gone up

7. Timmy, I asked you *to be patient* a moment while I finish getting dressed.

- a. to take hold of (Lesson 11)
- b. to hold on
- c. to keep in touch with

8. I can't believe how prices are *increasing* more and more every year.

- a. going up to
- b. going up
- c. going off (Lesson 16)

9. Richard went to the library *to locate* information on the Civil War.

- a. to look up (Lesson 4)
- b. to look out (Lesson 5)
- c. to look after (Lesson 14)



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10. It makes my parents happy that I *maintain contact with* them while I am away from home attending college.

- get along with (Lesson 3)
- have to do with (Lesson 8)
- keep in touch with

Answer these questions orally by making use of the idiomatic expressions studied in this lesson.

- Have you ever *gone up to* a famous person and asked for an autograph? (An *autograph* is the signature of a famous person.)
- Do you always *hand in* assignments in class on time, or are you sometimes late? Do you ever forget to *hand them in*?
- As a child, did you enjoy *taking things apart*? What kinds of things did you *take apart*?
- After you took them apart, did you always *put them together* again? Were you always successful?
- Are you *better off* now than you were five years ago? How?
- Do you consider yourself *well-off*? If not, do you expect to be *well-off* in the future? How do you expect to accomplish it?
- When you are away from home, are you careful to *keep in touch with* your family or friends?
- Are you *named after* somebody? Who?

LESSON 22

to stop by: to visit or stop somewhere briefly in order to do something

- James had to *stop by* the registrar's office to submit a transcript request form.
- Let's *stop by* the supermarket and pick up a few grocery items.

to drop (someone) a line: to write a note to someone (S)

- As soon as I get to Florida, I'll *drop you a line* and tell you about my new job.
- If you have time, *drop me a line* now and then while you're traveling.

to come across: to meet or find unexpectedly (also: **to run across**); to be perceived or judged as (also: **to come off**)

- While Cheryl was cleaning the attic, she *came across* some very old coins. It took her by surprise to *run across* something like that.
- Jeff's boss *comes across* as a tough, unpleasant person, but actually Jeff says that he is a good employer. Some people *come off* quite differently than they really are.

to stand for: to represent, to signify; to tolerate

The second definition is usually used in a negative sense. The meaning is the same as *to put up with* in Lesson 19.



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- On the American flag, each star *stands for* one of the fifty states, and each stripe *stands for* one of the original thirteen colonies of the 1800s.
- The citizens wouldn't *stand for* the increase in crime in their city, so they hired more police officers and built another jail.

to stand a chance: to have the possibility of accomplishing something

This idiom is often used with an adjective such as *good* or *excellent*. It also occurs in the negative, sometimes with the adjective *much*.

- The New York baseball team *stands a good chance* of winning the World Series this year.
- Because John doesn't have any previous work experience, he doesn't *stand a chance* of getting that job.
- The woman injured in the serious train accident doesn't *stand much chance* of surviving.

to take pains: to work carefully and conscientiously

- She *takes pains* to do everything well; she's our best employee.
- He *took great pains* with his last assignment because he needed to get an excellent grade to pass the class.

to look on: to watch as a spectator, to observe

- Hundreds of people were *looking on* as the police and firefighters rescued the passengers in the wrecked train.
- I stayed with my son at his first soccer practice and *looked on* as the coach worked with the boys.

to look up to: to admire, to respect greatly

- Children will most certainly *look up to* their parents if the children are brought up well.
- Everyone *looks up to* the director of our department because he is a kind and generous person.

to look down on: to feel superior to, to think of someone as less important

- People who are in positions of power should be careful not to *look down on* those who work for them.
- Why does Alma *look down on* Mario; just because his family is so poor?

to take off: to leave the ground (for airplanes); to leave, often in a hurry

The noun form *takeoff* derives from this idiom.

- The plane *took off* over an hour late. The passengers had to buckle their seatbelts during *takeoff*.
- Do you have *to take off* already? You just arrived an hour ago!

to pull off: to succeed in doing something difficult (S); to exit to the side of a highway

- The group of investors *pulled off* a big deal by buying half the stock in that company. I wonder how they *pulled it off* before the company could prevent it.
- The motorist *pulled off* when the police officer turned on the red lights and the siren.



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to keep time to operate accurately (for watches and clocks)

This idiom is usually used with adjectives such as *good* and *perfect*.

- Although this is a cheap watch, it *keeps good time*.
- The old clock *keeps perfect time*, it's never fast or slow.

EXERCISES

Choose the appropriate idiomatic expression to substitute for the italicized word or words in each sentence below. Idioms from previous lessons are indicated by number.

1. In computer code, a binary number such as 10010001 *represents* a letter, number, or other character on

a computer keyboard.

- a. stands for
- b. looks on
- c. figures out (Lesson 7)

2. The handyman *worked carefully* to paint the house neatly so that it looked like a professional job.

- a. stood a chance to
- b. took off to
- c. took pains to

3. This stopwatch *doesn't operate accurately* at all; you ran a hundred meters in much faster than fifteen seconds.

- a. doesn't keep out (Lesson 11)
- b. doesn't pull off
- c. doesn't keep good time

4. Rhonda has *to briefly visit* the pharmacy in order to get her medication for stomach trouble.

- a. to stop by
- b. to pull off
- c. to come across

5. Did Frieda *write you* after she returned to Germany?

- a. look down on you
- b. drop you a line
- c. look up to you

6. How can you *tolerate* such a mess in your son's bedroom? You should make him wash all those dirty clothes and clean up his room!

- a. put away (Lesson 4)
- b. look down on
- c. stand for

7. The crowd of political supporters was *greatly affected* by the news of the election victory.

- a. taken off
- b. carried away (Lesson 11)



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c. looked on

8. While Jerry was walking down the sidewalk, he *unexpectedly found* a twenty-dollar bill lying by the side of the road.

a. came across

b. came to (Lesson 13)

c. took off

9. Leah managed *to succeed in winning* an important victory in a statewide track and field competition this year when no one expected her to do so.

a. to come off

b. to pull off

c. to take off

10. However, I'm afraid that Leah doesn't *have the possibility* of winning a medal in the Olympic Games next year.

a. stand a chance

b. stand for

c. stand to reason (Lesson 12)

Answer these questions orally by making use of the idiomatic expressions studied in this lesson.

1. If you had to buy a birthday card, what kind of store would you *stop by*?

2. Are you always certain to *drop* your friends *a line* when you travel? Why or why not?

3. What would you do if you *came across* a bag containing a large amount of money?

4. What do the initials U.S.A. *stand for*? Are there initials *that stand for* your country? What are they?

5. Do you prefer to be involved in playing a sport or just *looking on*? Why?

6. Whom do you *look up to* most in life? Why?

7. What kind of a person would you *look down on*? Should you avoid feeling this way, or is it sometimes all right?

8. When might you want to, or have to, *take off* from a party early? Have you ever done this?

LESSON 23

to make do with: to manage, to cope

This idiom is used when a person must accept a substitute that is not the most suitable.

• Pearl doesn't have a clean blouse so she has to *make do with* the one she wore yesterday.

• During difficult economic times, many people have to *make do with* less.

to give birth to: to bear a human being or animal



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- Jane's mother has just *given birth to* twin girls.
- The zoo's Siberian tiger just *gave birth to* a baby cub

close call: a situation involving a narrow escape from danger (also: **close shave**)

- Bob, that car nearly hit us! What a *close call*.
- We had a *close call* when a small fire in our kitchen almost spread to the rest of the house.

to get on one's nerves: to annoy or disturb (also: **to bug**)

- Laura loves to talk to anyone. Sometimes her chatter really *gets on my nerves*.
- Jack asked his neighbor to turn down the stereo because it was *bugging* him and he couldn't concentrate.

to put down: to suppress, to quell (S); to criticize unfairly (S)

- The police arrived just in time to *put down* the disturbance before it got very serious.
- Fred tries his best at playing tennis. You shouldn't *put him down* like that.

to go for: to be sold at a certain price; to seek or strive for

- This dress probably *goes for* about \$50, don't you think?
- Peter was *going for* first place in the swim meet, but he wasn't able to do better than third place.

to go in for: to have as an interest, such as a sport or hobby (also: **to go for, to be into, to get into**)

- Hal *goes in for* tennis while his wife *goes for* painting and sculpture.
- What sports *are you into*? I don't have any time to *get into* sports.

to stay up: to remain awake, not to go to bed

- I want to *stay up* tonight and watch a late movie on TV.
- He *stays up* every night until after one o'clock, preparing his homework.

to stay in: to remain at home, not to go out

An idiom with the opposite meaning is **to stay out**.

- On a rainy day, I like to *stay in* and read.
- Young people are able to *stay out* late at night and get very little sleep.

to take over: to assume control or responsibility for (S); to do or perform again (S)

The meaning of the second definition is almost the same as *do over* in Lesson 11. Also for the second definition, a noun or pronoun must divide the idiom.

- That large investment company specializes in *taking over* smaller businesses that are in financial trouble.
- Most students didn't do well on the important test, so the instructor let them *take it over*.
- Little Mikey didn't have much chance to hit the baseball during practice, so the coach let him *take his turn over*.



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to show up: to appear, to arrive; to be found or located (also for the second definition: **to turn up**)

- It really gets on my nerves that Ursula *shows up* late for every meeting.
- Willie hopes that the watch he lost last Sunday *shows up* soon.
- We've looked everywhere for that book, but it hasn't *turned up* yet.

to clean out: to empty, to tidy by removing (S); to steal, to rob (S); to buy or purchase all of something (S)

- It's time for you to *clean out* your closet so that you can store more things in there.
- A burglar entered my apartment while I was gone and *cleaned me out*. He took over \$200 in cash and jewelry.
- Thousands of shoppers *cleaned out* the store that had gone bankrupt and was selling all its remaining products at very reduced prices.

EXERCISES

Choose the appropriate idiomatic expression to substitute for the italicized word or words in each sentence below. Idioms from previous lessons are indicated by number.

- The instructor allowed the student *to do* the class *again* because he had received a letter grade of *D* the first time.
 - to do without (Lesson 18)
 - to make do
 - to take over
- Last night my husband and I *remained awake* until after midnight waiting for my daughter to return from a date.
 - stayed in
 - stayed up
 - showed up
- David doesn't *have a possibility* of winning enough money in Las Vegas to buy a new car. He's just wasting his time by gambling.
 - have a close call
 - stand a chance (Lesson 22)
 - be better off (Lesson 21)
- We should get our refrigerator repaired soon. The rattling noise really *disturbs me*.
 - turns me up
 - puts me down
 - gets on my nerves
- Mr. Fulson was late leaving his office because a last-minute telephone call *delayed him*.
 - took him over
 - held him up (Lesson 20)
 - went in for him
- Thousands of customers cleaned out the department store because everything *was being sold* for a



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very cheap price.

- a. was going for
- b. was going in for
- c. was coming to (Lesson 13)

7. The other students in Judy's class *criticize her unfairly* because she enjoys doing homework and helping the teacher.

- a. put her down
- b. go in for her
- c. take her apart (Lesson 21)

8. Are there enough drinks *to be sufficient for everyone*, or should I go to the kitchen to make more?

- a. to go in for
- b. to make do
- c. to go around (Lesson 19)

9. When Ralph *appears*, we'll discuss the matter of the missing funds.

- a. cleans out
- b. shows up
- c. stays in

10. I can't believe what a *narrow escape* it was when the car went off the road and passed within a few feet of us.

- a. lost cause (Lesson 17)
- b. first-rate (Lesson 10)
- c. close call

Answer these questions orally by making use of the idiomatic expressions studied in this lesson.

1. Describe a *close call* that you, or someone you know, has had.
2. When might babies or small children *get on your nerves*?
3. What sports or hobbies do you *go in for*?
4. How late do you usually *stay up*?
5. Why might you decide to *stay in* instead of going out?
6. Why would someone have to *take a class over*? Has this ever happened to you?

LESSON 24

to knock out: to make unconscious (S); to impress or attract greatly (S)

This idiom can be made into the noun form **knockout** for both definitions.

• The prizefighter *knocked out* his opponent with one punch in the first five seconds of the first round.

It was the fastest knockout in boxing history.

• Linda's beautiful appearance and slender figure really *knock me out*. Isn't she a real *knockout* tonight?



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to knock oneself out: to work very hard (sometimes too hard) to do something

A reflexive pronoun must divide the idiom.

- She really *knocked herself out* trying to pass that difficult class.
- Don't *knock yourself out* during practice. Save your strength for the competition later.

to carry out: to accomplish, to execute (S) (also: **to go through with**)

- It's easy to write down a plan for losing weight, but much harder to *carry it out*.
- Charles promised to *go through with* his plan to enroll in graduate school and get an advanced degree.

to run into: to meet someone unexpectedly; to crash or collide into (also: **to bump into**)

- It was a shock to *run into* an old friend from high school recently.
- The drunk driver was slightly injured when he *ran into* a telephone pole.

to set out: to start traveling toward a place (also: **to set off, to head out**); to arrange or display neatly (also: **to lay out**) (S)

- We *set out* for the top of the mountain at dawn. Unfortunately, as we *set off*, it started to snow heavily, so we decided to head out again later.
- The children tried to *set out* the dishes on the table, but their dad had to help to *lay* the dishes *out* properly.

to set out to do something: to intend to, to act purposefully to

- We *set out to paint* the house in one day, but quickly realized that it would be impossible to do so.
- Janet *set out to compete* for the large scholarship grant by writing a good essay.

to draw up: to create by drawing, such as a map (S); to prepare documents or legal papers (S)

- Max asked me to *draw up* a map to the party so that he wouldn't get lost.
- Our lawyer agreed to *draw* the contract *up* as soon as possible.

give and take: compromise, cooperation between people

- *Give and take* is an important element of a successful marriage.
- Most business negotiations involve *give and take* between the parties involved.

to drop out of: to stop attending; to withdraw from

This idiom can be made into the noun form **dropout**.

- Some students *drop out of* secondary school early in order to get jobs. However, such *dropouts* often regret their decision later in life.
- Two more baseball teams have *dropped out of* the youth league due to a lack of players.

to believe in: to accept as true, have faith in



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- Some people *believe in* being honest in all human affairs, while others accept the need to lie in order to get one's way.
- Throughout the history of man, some cultures have *believed in* one god while others have *believed in* the existence of many gods.

to cheer up: to make happier, to feel less sad (S)

- We all tried to *cheer up* the little boy when he started to cry.
- After the death of Deanne's husband, it was difficult to *cheer her up* at all.

to make sense: to be sensible or reasonable

- It *makes sense* to wait until a sunny day to visit the park together.
- That Jimmy ran away from home suddenly doesn't *make sense* to any of us.

EXERCISES

Choose the appropriate idiomatic expression to substitute for the italicized word or words in each sentence below. Idioms from previous lessons are indicated by number.

1. Alberto *has faith in* his own ability to succeed in his new business enterprise.
 - a. is in charge of (Lesson 9)
 - b. carries out
 - c. believes in
2. *Cooperation* is important in all relationships between people, especially those who must live and work together closely.
 - a. Making sense
 - b. Seeing eye to eye (Lesson 16)
 - c. Give and take
3. Cynthia *intended to* finish her term paper in one day, but actually it took her three days.
 - a. went through with
 - b. set out to
 - c. knocked herself out to
4. The bicyclist *collided with* a wall and was scraped up badly.
 - a. ran into
 - b. run out of (Lesson 18)
 - c. put up with (Lesson 19)
5. The student apologized to his teacher for *submitting* the essay late.
 - a. handing in (Lesson 21)
 - b. dropping out of
 - c. carrying out
6. In order to avoid the early morning rush hour traffic, we *started traveling* before dawn.
 - a. laid out
 - b. set out



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c. went out (Lesson 8)

7. My friends tried *to make me feel happier* when I learned that I couldn't graduate because I had to take one class over.

a. to make me sense

b. to cheer me up

c. to change my mind (Lesson 5)

8. It *isn't reasonable* to ruin one's health by drinking alcohol and smoking cigarettes.

a. doesn't make a difference (Lesson 3)

b. doesn't make up your mind (Lesson 5)

c. doesn't make sense

9. Peter *raised* an important issue regarding the next soccer tournament at the club meeting.

a. put up (Lesson 19)

b. brought up (Lesson 20)

c. drew up

10. Stacy *worked very hard* to prepare a nice meal for her family at their reunion.

a. set out

b. carried out

c. knocked herself out

Answer these questions orally by making use of the idiomatic expressions studied in this lesson.

1. Have you ever been *knocked out*? What happened?

2. Have you ever *knocked yourself out* to accomplish something? What was it?

3. When you set goals for yourself, do you usually *carry them out*?

4. Why might an athlete *drop out of* a sporting event? Has this ever happened to you?

5. If someone has just lost a job, what could you do or say to *cheer him or her up*?

6. For some people, it *makes sense* to spend most of the extra income they make. Would this be true for you? Why or why not?

LESSON 25

to burst out: to depart quickly (also: **to storm out**); to act suddenly

For the second definition, this idiom is usually followed by a gerund form such as *laughing, crying, singing*, etc.

· Faye and Debbie were so angry at each other that one of them *burst out* the front door of the house and the other *stormed out* the back door.

· It was so funny to see a little baby in the audience *burst out* crying when the choir group *burst out* singing at the start of the recital.

to get away: to get free, to escape



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- We always try to *get away* from the noise and heat of the city for a month or two each summer.
- No one knows how the suspected criminal *got away* from the police.

to get away with: to avoid punishment for

- Jonathan tries to *get away with* coming late to work almost every day; someday he'll suffer the consequences.
- Terence can't continue to put his friends down like that and expect to *get away with* it forever.

to serve (someone) right: to receive one's just punishment (S)

This idiom is usually used at the beginning of a sentence after the subject *it*. Compare the following examples with those in the previous idiom above.

- It *serves* Jonathan *right* to be fired from his job.
- It *serves* Terence *right* that none of his friends are willing to help him move to a new apartment.

to keep up: to prevent from sleeping (S); to continue maintaining (speed, level of work, condition, etc.) (S)

- Could you please turn down the TV volume? You're *keeping up* the children.
- If we can *keep up* this speed, we should arrive there in about two hours.
- James is so proud of his daughter for getting mostly A's in school. He's certain that she can *keep up* the good work.
- The Federal Reserve Bank hopes to *keep* the value of the dollar *up* at least through the rest of the year.

to keep up with: to have current knowledge of; to understand as an explanation

This idiom should be compared to the meaning of *to keep up with* in Lesson 17.

- Evan *keeps up with* world affairs by reading a news magazine each week.
- I understand a lot of the Spanish language, but I can't *keep up with* the fast conversation in this Mexican film.

to stand out: to be easily visible or noticeable (also: **to stick out**)

This idiom is used for someone or something that is different from all others.

- Her bright red hair makes her *stand out* from others in the group.
- Brandon Styles is a tall, distinguished gentleman who *sticks out* in any crowd.

to let on: to reveal or tell what you know, to hint

- We are going to the movies tonight and we don't want Doris to go. If you see her, make sure not to *let on*.
- They asked me not to *let on* to Ted that we're planning the birthday party; it's supposed to be a big surprise.

to go wrong: to fail, to result badly



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- Something *went wrong* with the engine, so we had to have the car towed to a garage.
- Shown should have been here over an hour ago; I'm certain that something *went wrong*.

to meet (someone) halfway: to compromise with someone

- Steve wanted \$4,500 for his car, and Gwen offered \$4,000. They *met* each other *halfway* and agreed on \$4,250.
- After a long process of give and take, the owners of the company agreed to *meet* the workers *halfway* by providing some additional health benefits but no wage increase.

to check up on: to examine with the purpose of determining condition (also: **to check on**)

This idiom has the related noun form **checkup**.

- The government always *checks up* on the background of employees who are hired for sensitive military projects.
- The doctor wants me to have a thorough medical *checkup* as part of a preventive medicine program.

to stick up: to point or place upwards (S); to rob (S)

- You should put some water on your hair. It's *sticking up* in the back.
- A masked thief *stuck up* a grocery store in the neighborhood last night.

EXERCISES

Choose the appropriate idiomatic expression to substitute for the italicized word or words in each sentence below. Idioms from previous lessons are indicated by number.

1. That professor lectures so quickly that I have trouble *understanding his explanations*.

- keeping him up
- checking up on him
- keeping up with him

2. We hope *to escape* this weekend for some camping in the mountains.

- to get away with
- to break out (Lesson 12)
- to get away

3. That man's purple pants and pink shirt really *are noticeable* from a long distance.

- stand out
- keep up
- stop by (Lesson 22)

4. The government was forced *to assume control* of a failing financial institution.

- to take over (Lesson 23)
- to burst out
- to go wrong

5. You should really *compromise with Sally* and agree to share the cost of the car repairs.

- serve Sally right



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- b. meet Sally halfway
c. check on Sally
6. How do you manage *to have current knowledge of* political affairs when you're so busy working?
a. to let on
b. to keep up with
c. to be in charge of (Lesson 9)
7. *Considering everything*, we did a very good job of building that storage room by ourselves.
a. All along (Lesson 2)
b. Letting on
c. All in all (Lesson 19)
8. The heat and humidity *prevented me from sleeping* late into the night.
a. kept me up
b. stuck me up
c. cut me off (Lesson 16)
9. No one in the audience reacted to the comedian's first joke except Tamara, who *acted suddenly by* laughing.
a. got away with
b. cut down on (Lesson 9)
c. burst out
10. Please be sure not *to reveal* that we already know about the change in stock ownership rules that are planned by the company board of directors.
a. to let on
b. to stick out
c. to storm out

Answer these questions orally by making use of the idiomatic expressions studied in this lesson.

1. Why might you *burst out* of a place such as a room, office, apartment, house, etc?
2. What do you like to do when you *get away* for a while?
3. As a child, what did you try to *get away with*? Did you usually succeed, or did your parents usually catch you?
4. What might *keep you up* in bed? Do you usually go to sleep easily or with difficulty?
5. In the room that you are in right now, what *stands out the most*?
6. Are you ever willing to *meet* someone *halfway* even after you have made up your mind about something?
Why or why not?
7. Why is it important for a doctor to *check up* on your health condition? Do you go to the doctor regularly for a *checkup*?



LESSON 26

to come about: to happen

- I didn't find any explanation in the newspaper about how the political coup *came about*.
- The flood *came about* as a result of the heavy winter rains.

to bring about: to cause to happen

This idiom is used to indicate *who* or *what* caused something to come about.

- John *brought about* the accident because of his carelessness.
- The heavy rains we have each spring *bring about* serious flooding.

to build up: to increase slowly, to make stronger gradually (S)

- They *built up* their savings account so that they could buy a new house.
- The professional athlete exercises regularly to *build her strength up*.

to die down: to decrease, to lessen in strength

- The hurricane became a less serious tropical storm when its winds *died down*.
- We let the fire in the fireplace *die down* and enjoyed watching the embers as they glowed in the dark.

to fade away: to diminish gradually in time or distance

- The memory of that unpleasant experience has slowly *faded away*.
- The music of the band gradually *faded away* as the parade passed down the street.

to die out: not to exist anymore; to be in the process of disappearing

- Scientists still are not sure exactly why the dinosaurs *died out*.
- That strange, new style of dancing is slowly *dying out*.

to make out: to read or see clearly (S); to prepare a legal document, such as a will, a check, etc. (S)

- The letter was so poorly handwritten that I couldn't *make out* many of the words.
- Harold, please *make* the check *out* to Acme Piano Company.

to live up to: to fulfill (a standard or promise)

- It was clear that the lazy student would never *live up to* his family's expectations.
- It surprised us that the car salesperson *lived up to* all the promises he made.

to stick to: to adhere to (a promise), to follow or obey (a set of rules, procedures, etc.)

- He made a promise to his wife to quit smoking and drinking, and so far he has *stuck to* it.
- All organizations expect their employees to *stick to* established work rules and procedures.
- If you try hard to *stick to* your principles, then you'll be able to live up to them.



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to stick it to somebody: to cheat, to take unfair advantage of (also: *to rip off, the ripoff*)

- Be careful in doing business with that salesperson. He'll *stick it to you* at the first opportunity.
- The car dealership certainly *ripped me off* when I bought this car. It has caused me trouble constantly.
- You paid over \$400 for that jacket? What a *ripoff*!

to stand up for: to insist on, to demand; to defend, to support

- If you don't *stand up* for your rights in court, the lawyers will try to stick it to you.
- Frank *stood up* for his friend, who was being put down by other teenagers nearby.

to cut corners: to economize, to save money

- Most students live on limited budgets and have to *cut corners* whenever possible.
- The Livingstons have nine children, so it is essential that they *cut corners* at all times.

EXERCISES

Choose the appropriate idiomatic expression to substitute for the italicized word or words in each sentence below. Idioms from previous lessons are indicated by number.

1. The other workers *defended* their co-worker who was accused of stealing from the factory warehouse.

- a. stuck to
- b. stood up for
- c. built up

2. It *is sensible* to check at several dealerships for the best price for a new car model.

- a. makes it clear (Lesson 13)
- b. makes out
- c. makes sense (Lesson 24)

3. The army *fulfilled* the expectations of its commanders by defeating the enemy forces.

- a. lived up to
- b. stuck it to
- c. counted on (Lesson 6)

4. Memories of my youth gradually *diminish* as I grow older.

- a. fade away
- b. build up
- c. come about

5. Some species of animals will *not exist anymore* unless human beings act to save them.

- a. die down
- b. die out
- c. tire out (Lesson 2)

6. After a long illness, Mr. Felson needed time *to slowly increase* his strength again.

- a. to get better (Lesson 7)



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b. to bring about

c. to build up

7. You can *profit from* the knowledge of an experienced artisan like Tony in improving your own skills.

a. take advantage of (Lesson 15)

b. make out

c. look into (Lesson 11)

8. When Mrs Tieg lost her job, the Tieg family had *to economize* in order to survive financially.

a. to rip off

b. to cut corners

c. to tear up (Lesson 18)

9. How did your marketing trip to Asia *result*?

a. come about

b. turn out (Lesson 13)

c. bring about

10. The elderly woman couldn't renew her driver's license because she couldn't *read clearly* the letters on the sign during the vision test.

a. come about

b. look after (Lesson 14)

c. make out

Answer these questions orally by making use of the idiomatic expressions studied in this lesson.

1. How did it *come about* that you are using this book to study idioms?

2. Why is it important to *build up* your knowledge of idiomatic expressions?

3. What could cause your love for someone to *die down*?

4. What is an interesting memory of your childhood that has not *faded away*?

5. Should people be concerned about animal and plant species that are *dying out*? Why or why not?

6. What is the difference between *sticking to* a promise and *living up to* it?

7. How do citizens *stand up for* their country?

LESSON 27

to take on: to employ, to hire (S), to accept responsibility for, to undertake

• That factory is *taking* a lot of new employees *on* for its new production line.

• Would you be willing to *take on* the task of organizing the next company picnic?

to take down: to remove from an elevated place (S), to write what is said, to note

• We should *take* the pictures *down* from the wall and clean off the dust.

• The secretary *took down* everything that was said at the meeting.



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to fall through: to fail to materialize, not to succeed

This idiom is usually used with the noun *plan* or *plans* as the subject.

- Our plan to travel to Europe last summer *fell through* when we were unable to save up enough money.
- Felix made plans to have a party for everyone in his office, but they *fell through* at the last moment.

to fall behind: to lag, to fail to keep up (also: **to get behind**)

- Eve *fell behind* in her studies and finally had to drop out of school.
- If you *get behind* in your car payments, the finance company may repossess it from you.

to give in: to surrender, to stop resisting

- Completely surrounded by our soldiers, the enemy finally *gave in*.
- Management *gave in* to the strikers' demands and agreed to a shortened work week.

to give off: to release, to produce, to release

- When water boils, it *gives off* steam.
- The flowers in this garden *give off* a strange odor.

to give out: to distribute, to become exhausted or depleted (also: **to run out**)

The first definition has the same meaning as the second definition of *to pass out* in Lesson 19.

- An usher stood at the door of the theater *giving out* programs.
- I couldn't finish the ten mile race because my energy *gave out*.
- Jeff plans to stay in Las Vegas and gamble until his money *runs out*.

to have it in for: to want revenge on, to feel hostile towards (also: **to hold a grudge against**)

- Martina expects to lose her job because her boss has *had it in for* her for a long time.
- The teacher has *held a grudge against* Al ever since the time that he insulted her in front of the class.

to have it out with: to quarrel with, to confront

- I am going to *have it out with* Jack about all the times that he has told us lies.
- Ben *had it out with* his roommate about coming back home so late and making a lot of noise.

to hold off: to delay, or to be delayed, in occurring (S)

This idiom has the same meaning as *to put off* in Lesson 5 when a noun or pronoun is used as an object, as in the second example.

- If the rain *holds off* for a few more days, they can finish planting the rest of the crop.
- The judge agreed to *hold off* making a decision until new evidence could be introduced into court.

to hold out: to endure to be sufficient, to survive by resisting, to persist in one's efforts

The first definition for *to hold out* has the opposite meaning of the second definition for *to give out* (seventh idiom, this lesson).



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- If our supply of food and water *holds out*, we plan to camp here for another week. However, whenever it *gives out*, we'll have to leave.
- That nation's troops cannot *hold out* much longer against the superior forces of the enemy.
- The valuable football player *held out* for more money before signing a new contract with his team.

to hold over: to extend to keep for a longer time (S)

- They are going to *hold over* that movie for another week because so many people are coming to see it.
- Let's *hold* discussion of this problem *over* until our next meeting.

EXERCISES

Choose the appropriate idiomatic expression to substitute for the italicized word or words in each sentence below. Idioms from previous lessons are indicated by number.

- The traveling circus was so popular in our city that it was *kept for a longer time*.
 - held out
 - held off
 - held over
- Please put the trash outside, it's *producing* a terrible smell in here.
 - giving off
 - giving out
 - giving in
- I'm really sorry that your plans to travel to New Zealand *failed to materialize*.
 - fell behind
 - fell through
 - did without (Lesson 18)
- Would Mary be willing to *undertake* a new project even though she's overloaded with work?
 - to take down
 - to take on
 - to take up with (Lesson 15)
- Please don't *reveal* that you have knowledge of that secret contractual agreement.
 - take down
 - give in
 - let on (Lesson 25)
- The campers lost on the high mountain were able to *survive* against the cold weather by building a fire and keeping together.
 - to hold still (Lesson 20)
 - to hold out
 - to put out (Lesson 6)
- I can't attend class tonight, so would you mind *writing notes* on what the instructor says?



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- a. running out
 - b. taking down
 - c. pointing out (Lesson 7)
8. The committee *delayed* in deciding when to have the next board election.
- a. held off
 - b. fell behind
 - c. called off (Lesson 5)
9. My boss hasn't spoken to me in a week. I wonder if he *feels hostile towards* me because of our conflicting views on the labor negotiations.
- a. has it in for
 - b. has it out with
 - c. holds out
10. The rescue team was successful in reaching the group of miners trapped deep in the earth before their small supply of air *became exhausted*.
- a. fell behind
 - b. burned out (Lesson 12)
 - c. gave out

Answer these questions orally by making use of the idiomatic expressions studied in this lesson.

1. When was the last time that an event or plan *fell through* for you?
2. Do you usually *fall behind* in your work, or do you usually keep up with it? Why?
3. When you *have it out with* a friend, do you usually stick to your opinion or do you often give in? Why?
4. What are the possible dangers of the pollution that factories *give off*?
5. When you exercise heavily, does your energy quickly *give out*? Why or why not?
6. Have you ever *had it in for* someone? How did you feel, or what did you do?
7. When you *have it out with* someone, do you usually show your emotions clearly, or do you stay calm and control them?
8. How long can a human being *hold out* without food? Without water?



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A: Match the Idioms in the left column with the definition in the right column. 45Page |

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
|1. once and for all | a. in order to be prepared if |
|2. lost cause | b. especially , mainly |
|3. all in all | c. hopeless situation |
|4. by far | d. eventually |
|5. give and take | e. clearly, by a great margin |
|6. In touch | f. for only one time |
|7. above all | g. compromise , cooperation |
|8. In the long run | h. basically, fundamentally |
|9. close call | i. finally, absolutely |
|10. in case | j. narrow escape from danger |
|11. For once | k. considering everything |
|12. at heart | l. having contact |

B) in the space provided , mark whether each sentences is true T or false F.

- if a friend doesn't want you to **make fun of** him , the friend might tell you to **shut up**.
-if you **run into** sb at the store, you are **sticking to** an appointment.
- If you agree to meet sb **fifty – fifty** , it becomes a matter of **give and take**.
-if you want to **keep in touch** with sb , you might decide **to stop by** their place for a while.
-if sb **cut corners** to save money , he probably **does without** things he would like to have.
-if you **fall behind** in your studies because you don't try **to keep up with** the other students , it serves you right.
-if sth **going wrong** with your car, then its **holding up well**.



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8.....if sb is very **well-off**, the person probably has **to cut corners**.

9.....if you **haven't heard about sb** in a long time, you might **drop the person a line**.

10.....if you are really **into a certain** sport,you might **set out to** be the best you can at it.

11.....if you don't want to **make do without** sth during an emergency, you **should keep it on hand**.

12.....if a repairman were trying to fix a complicated watch, he would **hold still** while **taking it apart**.

C) Fill in each blank with appropriate form of the idioms.

To call	To call for	Close call
To call it a day	To call off	

1. It was a when the tire blew out on the busy highway.
2. We..... early because we had been working since 6 o'clock in the morning.
3. This recipecream, but there isn't any in the refrigerator, I have to pick up some.
4. Behnamhis friend in Korea almost everyday. the phone bill is his biggest expense.

D) Fill in each blank with appropriate form of the idioms.

To make the best of	To make fun of	Make do
To make sense	To make out	To make good time
To make a difference	To make sure	To make clear

1. It doesn't to me where we eat out tonight. it's your decision.
2. Children love each other by joking and teasing.
3. It took Behnam only 2 hours to go from downtown LA to San Diego by car. He reallyon that trip.
4. Could you help me understand this lesson? it doesn't to me.



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5. The recipe calls for butter ,but I don't have any ,I'll justwith jam.
6. When you leave the house,.....to look the front door.
7. Behnam couldn't The letters on the sign the distance because it was getting too dark.
8. Did youit..... to Avidéh that she's not welcome at the dinner party? She'd better not to show up.
9. There is nothing we can do at this point to change the unfortunate situation, We'll just haveit and go on from here.

E) Fill in each blank with appropriate form of the idioms.

To put on	To put away	To put off
To put out	To put down	To put up with
To put together		

1. Behnam, before you can go outside to play, you have All the toys and cloths on the floor of your room.
2. There is too much noise in here for me to study ,I can't It any longer.
3. It's quite cold tonight, I think we should some warmer clothing before we go inside.
4. Please your cigarette in the ashtray immediately , no smoking is allowed in here.
5. I can't doing that important assignment any longer, it's due in just 3 days.
6. The military troops used force the mass demonstration against the corrupt government.
7. Behnam's father helpedhis new bicycle, which came in pieces in a box.

Good luck