

= Easy English =

ESSENTIAL ENGLISH IDIOMS

Elementary

LESSON 1

to get in/to get on: to enter or to board a vehicle

To get in is used for cars, *to get on* is used for all other forms of transportation.

- It's easiest to *get in* the car from the driver's side. The door on the other side doesn't work well.
- I always *get on* the bus to work at 34th Street.

to get out of/to get off: to leave or to descend from a vehicle

To get out of is used for cars, *to get off* is used for all other forms of transportation.

- Why don't we stop and *get out of the* car for a while?
- Helen *got off* the train at the 42nd Street terminal.

to put on: to place on oneself (usually said of clothes) (S)

- Mary *put on* her coat and left the room.
- *Put your hat on* before you leave the house.

to take off: to remove (usually said of clothes) (S)

- John *took off* his jacket as he entered the office.
- *Take your sweater off.* The room is very warm.

to call up: to telephone (also: **to give someone a call**) (S)

To call can be used instead of *to call up*, as in the first example below.

- I forgot to *call up* Mr. Jones yesterday I'd better *call* him now.
- *Call me up* tomorrow, Jane. We'll arrange a time to have lunch together.
- I promise to *give you a call* as soon as I arrive in New York.

to turn on: to start or cause to function (also: **to switch on**) (S)

- Please *turn on* the light; it's too dark in here.
- Do you know who *turned* the air conditioning *on*?

to turn off: to cause to stop functioning (also: **to switch off, to shut off**) (S)

Turn on and *turn off*, as well as their related forms, are used for things that flow, such as electricity, water, gas, etc.

- Please *turn off* the light when you leave the room.
- Are you really listening to the radio, or should I *turn it off*?

right away: very soon; immediately (also: **at once**)

- Dad says that dinner will be ready *right away*, so we'd better wash our hands and set the table.
- Tell Will to come to my office *right away*. I must see him immediately.
- Stop playing that loud music *at once!*

to pick up: to lift from the floor, table, etc., with one's fingers (S)

- Harry *picked up* the newspaper that was on the front doorstep.
- Could you *pick up* your toy *up* before someone falls over it?

sooner or later: eventually, after a period of time

- If you study English seriously, *sooner or later* you'll become fluent.
- I'm too tired to do my homework now; I'm sure I'll do it *sooner or later*.

to get up: to arise, to rise from a bed

For the last definition a noun phrase must separate the verb and particle.

- Carlo *gets up* at seven o'clock every morning.
- At what time should we *get* the children *up* tomorrow?

at first: in the beginning, originally

- *At first* English was difficult for him, but later he made great progress.
- I thought *at first* that it was Sheila calling, but then I realized that it was Betty.

EXERCISES

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

1. His alarm clock is always set for six o'clock. He *arises* at the same time every day.
a. turns off b. gets up c. puts on
2. She *telephoned* her friend to tell him about the meeting. They decided to drive there together.
a. turned on b. took off c. called up
3. It's 4 P.M. now, and this important letter must be mailed today. Can you take it to the post office *immediately*?
a. at first b. right away c. sooner or later
4. Be sure *to switch off* the light before you leave the house.
a. to turn off b. to take off c. to get off
5. Pat *placed* her new hat *on her head* while looking in the mirror.
a. picked up b. put on c. gets on
6. *Remove* your jacket and sit down for a few minutes.
a. Turn on b. Get on c. Take off
7. I want to stay unmarried for a while, but I hope to get married *eventually*.
a. sooner or later b. right away c. at first
8. *In the beginning* I thought that it was Bob who was in the car.
a. To get on b. At once c. At first
9. He *boarded* the bus at Broadway and 79th Street.
a. got off b. got on c. picked up
10. John *took* the pencil *with his fingers* and began to write a note.
a. turned on b. got off c. picked up

B. Fill in each blank with the appropriate form of an idiomatic expression from this unit.

Jean's alarm clock makes a loud ringing noise. She _____ the alarm clock immediately after it rings each morning. However, she doesn't rise from bed _____. She waits a few minutes before she _____.

Jean enjoys lying in bed for a while, but _____ she gets up. Then she _____ the bedroom light and goes to her closet. She _____ her pajamas and _____ her work clothes.

LESSON 2

to dress up: to wear formal clothes, to dress very nicely

- We should definitely *dress up* to go to the theater.
- You don't have to *dress up* for Mike's party.

at last: finally, after a long time

- We waited for hours and then the train arrived *at last*.
- Now that I am sixteen, *at last* I can drive my parents' car.

as usual: as is the general case, as is typical

- George is late for class *as usual*. This seems to happen every day.
- *As usual*, Dora received first prize in the swimming contest. It's the third consecutive year that she has won.

to find out: get information about, to determine (S)

This idiom is separable only when a pronoun is used, as in the second example.

- Will you please try to *find out* what time the airplane arrives?
- I'll call right now to *find it out*.

to look at: give one's attention to; to watch

- The teacher told us to *look at* the blackboard and not at our books.
- I like to walk along a country road at night and *look at* the stars.

to look for: to try to find, to search for

An adverb phrase such as *all over* can be put between the verb and preposition, as in the second example. However, the idiom cannot be separated by a noun or pronoun.

- He's spent over an hour *looking for* the pen that he lost.
- So there you are! We've *looked all over for* you.

all right: acceptable, fine; yes, okay

This idiom can also be spelled *alright* in informal usage.

- He said that it would be *all right* to wait in her office until she returned.
- Do you want me to turn off the TV? *Alright*, if you insist.

all along: all the time, from the beginning (without change)

- She knew *all along* that we'd never agree with his plan.
- You're smiling! Did you know *all along* that I'd give you a birthday present?

little by little: gradually, slowly (also: **step by step**)

- Karen's health seems to be improving *little by little*.
- If you study regularly each day, *step by step* your vocabulary will increase.

to tire out: to make very weary due to difficult conditions or hard effort (also: **to wear out**) (S)

- The hot weather *tired out* the runners in the marathon.
- Does studying for final exams *wear you out*? It makes me feel *worn out*!

to call on: to ask for a response from; to visit (also: **to drop in on**)

- Jose didn't know the answer when the teacher *called on* him.
- Last night several friends *called on* us at our home.
- Why don't we *drop in on* Sally a little later?

never mind: don't be concerned about it; ignore what was just said

- When he spilled his drink on my coat, I said, "*Never mind*. It needs to be cleaned anyway."
- So you weren't listening to me again. *Never mind*; it wasn't important.

EXERCISES**A. 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. Nan is *trying to find* the purse that she lost yesterday.
a. finding out b. looking at c. looking for
2. *As is typical*, Doug is late for the meeting.
a. At last b. All along c. As usual
3. Were you able *to determine* what his occupation is?
a. to find out b. to pick up (Lesson 1) c. to call on
4. I am *very weary* after all that physical exercise today.
a. turned off (Lesson 1) b. tired out c. never mind
5. John's mother knew that he wasn't telling the truth *from the beginning*.
a. all along b. all right c. little by little
6. Some old friends of mine *visited* us last night.
a. called on b. called up (Lesson 1) c. wore out
7. *Eventually*, Mario will be able to speak English better than he does now.
a. Never mind b. Sooner or later (Lesson 1) c. At last
8. Is it *acceptable* for Mary to borrow our car for a few hours?
a. right away (Lesson 1) b. all right c. step by step
9. Would you please *give your attention to* me while I'm talking?
a. dress up b. look at c. wear out
10. They waited for forty-five minutes until *finally* the waiter brought their food.
a. at last b. little by little c. at first (Lesson 1)

B. Fill in each blank with the appropriate form of an idiomatic expression from this unit only.

- Bob:** Jim, should we _____ for the party tonight?
- Jim:** No, informal clothes are fine I'm _____ my shoes. Have you seen them?
- Bob:** No. Did you check that closet by the front door?
- Jim:** Of course, I did! Gosh, my legs hurt. I'm really _____ from playing so much soccer today.
- Bob:** What did you say?
- Jim:** Oh, _____. It wasn't important.
- Bob:** Sorry, I'm _____ the TV news. It's about the robbery.
- Jim:** Have the police _____ who stole the million dollars?
- Bob:** No, they haven't.
- Jim:** _____ I've found my shoes! They were in that closet by the door _____!
- Bob:** I told you so!

LESSON 3

to pick out: to choose, to select (S)

- Ann *picked out* a good book to give to her brother as a graduation gift.
- Johnny, if you want me to buy you a toy, then *pick one out* now.

to take one's (my, his, your, etc.) time: to do without rush, not to hurry

This idiom is often used in the imperative form. (See the first example.)

- There's no need to hurry doing those exercises. *Take your time*.
- William never works rapidly. He always *takes his time* in everything that he does.

to talk over: to discuss or consider a situation with others (S)

- We *talked over* Carlo's plan to install an air conditioner in the room, but we couldn't reach a decision.
- Before I accepted the new job offer, I *talked* the matter *over* with my wife.

to lie down: to place oneself in a flat position, to recline

- If you are tired, why don't you *lie down* for an hour or so?
- The doctor says that Grace must *lie down* and rest for a short time every afternoon.

to stand up: to rise from a sitting or lying position (also: **to get up**)

- When the president entered the room, everyone *stood up*.
- Suzy, stop rolling around on the floor; *get up* now.

to sit down: to be seated (also: **to take a seat**)

- We *sat down* on the park bench and watched the children play.
- There aren't any more chairs, but you can *take a seat* on the floor.

all (day, week, month, year) long: the entire day, week, month, year

- I've been working on my income tax forms *all day long*. I've hardly had time to eat.
- It's been raining *all week long*. We haven't seen the sun since last Monday.

by oneself: alone, without assistance

- Francis translated that French novel *by himself*. No one helped him.
- Paula likes to walk through the woods *by herself*, but her brother prefers to walk with a companion.

on purpose: for a reason, deliberately

This idiom is usually used when someone does something wrong or unfair.

- Do you think that she didn't come to the meeting *on purpose*?
- It was no accident that he broke my glasses. He did it *on purpose*.

to get along with someone (something): to associate or work well with; to succeed or manage in doing (also: **to get on with someone or something**)

- Terry isn't *getting along with* her new roommate; they argue constantly.
- How are you *getting on with* your studies?

to make a difference (to someone): to be of importance (to), to affect

This idiom is often used with adjectives to show the degree of importance.

- It *makes a big difference* to me whether he likes the food I serve.
- Does it *make any difference* to you where we go for dinner?
- No, it doesn't *make any difference*.
- It *makes no difference* to Lisa either.

to take out: to remove, to extract (S); to go on a date with (S) (also: **to go out with**)

- Students, *take out* your books and open them to page twelve.
- Did you *take* Sue *out* last night?
- No, she couldn't *go out with* me.

EXERCISES**A. 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. I think that you should *remove* the last two sentences in the paragraph.
a. take out b. pick out c. talk over
2. If you *don't hurry* in completing your schoolwork, you'll do a better job.
a. get off (Lesson 1) b. lie down c. take your time
3. How are you *succeeding in* your new job?
a. getting on with b. making a difference to c. picking out
4. I don't like to go to the movies *alone*.
a. as usual (Lesson 2) b. by myself c. on purpose
5. Do you have a moment *to try to find* my keys with me?
a. to talk over b. to look for (Lesson 2) c. to get up
6. The child said that she didn't break the window *deliberately*.
a. on purpose b. all day long c. making a difference
7. Did you *go on a date with* your new girlfriend again today?
a. get along with b. stand up c. go out with
8. It's cold outside; you'd better *place a sweater on yourself*.
a. sit down b. put on (Lesson 1) c. take out
9. Fortunately, Marie is *associating well with* her new co-workers.
a. calling on (Lesson 2) b. talking over c. getting along with
10. Don't sit on the dirty ground like that; *rise* right now!
a. get up b. lie down c. sit down

B. Fill in each blank with the appropriate form of an idiomatic expression from this unit only.

Jean: Hi, Pete. Did you come _____?

Pete: Yes, Sarah wasn't able to come. She's at the dentist's office.

Jean: Oh? Why is that?

Pete: The dentist has to _____ one of her teeth. She has been complaining of pain _____ week _____.

Jean: That's too bad. Well, I'm glad you're early.

Pete: Why? I didn't come early _____.

Jean: I know, but now we have time to _____ that important matter about the new employee.

Pete: You mean the employee who's not _____ her co-workers?

Jean: Exactly. But please, take off your coat first and _____ on the couch.

Pete: Thanks.

LESSON 4

to take part in: to be involved in, to participate in (also: **to be in on**)

- Martin was sick and could not *take part in* the meeting yesterday.
- I didn't want to *be in on* their argument, so I remained silent.

at all: to any degree (also: **in the least**)

This idiom is used with the negative to add emphasis to a statement.

- Larry isn't *at all* shy about expressing his opinions.
- When I asked Donna whether she was tired, she said, "Not *in the least*. I'm full of energy."

to look up: to locate information in a directory, dictionary, book, etc. (S)

- Ellen suggested that we *look up* Lee's telephone number in the directory.
- Students should try to understand the meaning of a new word from context before *looking* the word *up* in the dictionary.

to wait on someone: to serve in a store or restaurant

- A very pleasant young clerk *waited on* me in that shop.
- The restaurant waitress asked us, "Has anyone *waited on* you yet?"

at least: a minimum of, no fewer (or less) than

- I spend *at least* two hours every night on my studies.
- Mike claims that he drinks *at least* a quart of water every day.

so far: until now, until the present time (also: **up to now, as of yet**)

This idiom is usually used with the present perfect tense.

- *So far*, this year has been excellent for business. I hope that the good luck continues.
- How many idioms have we studied in this book *up to now*?
- *As of yet*, we have not had an answer from him.

to take a walk, stroll, hike, etc.: to go for a walk, stroll, hike, etc

A *stroll* involves slow, easy walking; a *hike* involves serious, strenuous walking.

- Last evening we *took a walk* around the park.
- It's a fine day. Would you like to *take a stroll* along Mason Boulevard?
- Let's *take a hike* up Cowles Mountain this afternoon.

to take a trip (to): to go on a journey, to travel

- I'm so busy at work that I have no time to *take a trip*.
- During the summer holidays, the Thompsons *took a trip to* Europe.

to try on: to wear clothes to check the style or fit before buying (S)

- He *tried on* several suits before he picked out a blue one.
- Why don't you *try* these shoes *on* next?

to think over: to consider carefully before deciding (S)

- I'd like to *think over* your offer first. Then can we talk it over tomorrow?
- You don't have to give me your decision now. *Think* it *over* for a while.

to take place: to occur, to happen according to plan

- The regular meetings of the committee *take place* in Constitution Hall.
- I thought that the celebration was *taking place* at John's house.

to put away: to remove from sight, to put in the proper place (S)

- Please *put away* your papers before you open the test booklet.
- John *put* the notepad *away* in his desk when he was finished with it.

EXERCISES**A. 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. You'll have *to locate* his number in the telephone book.
a. to think over b. to wait on c. to look up
2. Let's *go on a serious walk* in the mountains this weekend.
a. take a hike b. take a trip c. take a stroll
3. You ought to spend *a minimum of* an hour outside in the fresh air.
a. in the least b. as usual (Lesson 2) c. at least
4. Would you like me to help you *choose* a new dress for the dance?
a. pick out (Lesson 3) b. try on c. put away
5. I've always wanted *to journey* to Alaska during the summer.
a. to take a walk b. to take a trip c. to take a stroll
6. It took a long time for the store clerk *to serve* us.
a. to call on (Lesson 2) b. to take part in c. to wait on
7. I don't enjoy this hot, humid weather *to any degree*.
a. at all b. up to now c. at last (Lesson 2)
8. Our guest will arrive soon; please *remove* your dirty clothes from *sight*.
a. try on b. put away c. get off (Lesson 1)
9. I'd better *switch on* the light so that we can see better in here.
a. be in on b. turn on (Lesson 1) c. try on
10. James didn't want to *be involved in* the preparations for the conference.
a. to take part in b. to take place c. to try on

B. Fill in each blank with the appropriate form of an idiomatic expression from this unit only.

Mara: Where's the store clerk?

Ted: I don't know. It's taking him too long to _____ us.

Mara: I don't like the service in this store _____. I feel like leaving right now.

Ted: Oh, no, let's not do that. How many dresses have you tried on _____?

Mara: Oh, I've tried on about eight dresses.

Ted: Well, after all that time and effort, you should buy _____ one, don't you think?

Mara: No, never mind. I'm so upset that I need to _____ outside in the fresh air.

Ted: Mara, I think that you're making the wrong decision. You should _____ it _____ first. This is really a nice dress at a great price.

Mara: Well ... I guess a few more minutes of waiting won't make a difference.

LESSON 5

to look out: to be careful or cautious (also: **to watch out**)

Both of these idioms can occur with the preposition *for*.

- "*Look out!*" Jeffrey cried as his friend almost stepped in a big hole in the ground.
- *Look out for* reckless drivers whenever you cross the street.
- Small children should always *watch out for* strangers offering candy.

to shake hands: to exchange greetings by clasping hands

- When people meet for the first time, they usually *shake hands*.
- The student warmly *shook hands* with his old professor.

to get back: to return (S)

- Mr. Harris *got back* from his business trip to Chicago this morning.
- Could you *get* the children *back* home by five o'clock?

to catch cold: to become sick with a cold of the nose or throat

- If you go out in this rain, you will surely *catch cold*.
- How did she ever *catch cold* in such warm weather?

to get over: to recover from an illness; to accept a loss or sorrow

- It took me over a month *to get over* my cold, but I'm finally well now.
- It seems that Mr. Mason will never *get over* the death of his wife.

to make up one's (my, his, your, etc.) mind: to reach a decision, to decide finally

- Sally is considering several colleges to attend, but she hasn't *made up her mind* yet.
- When are you going to *make up your mind* about your vacation plans?

to change one's (my, his, your, etc.) mind: to alter one's decision or opinion

- We have *changed our minds* and are going to Canada instead of California this summer.
- Matthew has *changed his mind* several times about buying a new car.

for the time being: temporarily (also: **for now**)

- *For the time being*, Janet is working as a waitress, but she really hopes to become an actress soon.
- We're living in an apartment *for now*, but soon we'll be looking for a house to buy.

for good: permanently, forever

- Ruth has returned to Canada *for good*. She won't ever live in the United States again.
- Are you finished with school *for good*, or will you continue your studies some day?

to call off: to cancel (S)

- The referee *called off* the soccer game because of the darkness.
- The president *called* the meeting *off* because she had to leave town.

to put off: to postpone (S)

- Many students *put off* doing their assignments until the last minute.
- Let's *put* the party *off* until next weekend, okay?

in a hurry: hurried, rushed (also: **in a rush**)

- Alex seems *in a hurry*; he must be late for his train again.
- She's always *in a rush* in the morning to get the kids to school.

EXERCISES**A. 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. Will you *return* in time for dinner or will you be home late tonight?
a. put off b. get back c. take place (Lesson 4)
2. It took me a long time *to recover from* the sadness of losing my girlfriend.
a. to get over b. to look out c. to change my mind
3. Do you think it's too early *to telephone* Cindy this morning?
a. to call off b. to call on (Lesson 2) c. to call up (Lesson 1)
4. James dislikes his smoking habit so much that he wants to quit *forever*.
a. for the time being b. for good c. in a hurry
5. At the last moment, Judy *altered her decision* about getting married so quickly.
a. changed her mind b. made up her mind c. never mind (Lesson 2)
6. Judy wanted *to postpone* the wedding for another two or three months.
a. to call off b. to put off c. to turn off (Lesson 1)
7. I'd like you *to remove* those toys *from sight* before they get broken.
a. to put away b. to take out (Lesson 3) c. to look out
8. If you don't wear a sweater in this cold weather, you'll *become sick*.
a. get over b. catch cold c. tire out (Lesson 2)
9. I still have a lot of work to do, but I feel like stopping *temporarily*.
a. in a hurry b. to shake hands c. for now
10. If you don't *be careful*, you'll cut your hands on that sharp knife.
a. look up (Lesson 4) b. watch out c. make up your mind

B. Fill in each blank with the appropriate form of an idiomatic expression from this unit only.

Todd: Mark! I was wondering when you would _____ home!

Mark: Hi, Todd. I'm sorry, but I had a late meeting today.

Todd: Usually you leave a note in the morning when you'll be late.

Mark: I know, but I had to leave _____ to catch the bus to work I almost missed it.

Todd: Say, what do you think? Should I go to a movie tonight with Sheila and Dick, or shouldn't I? I need to _____ soon.

Mark: What do you mean? You haven't _____ your cold yet, have you?

Todd: No, I haven't, but I feel much better.

Mark: I think that you feel better _____ only because you stayed home all day.

Todd: I guess you're right. Do you think that I should _____ going with them until another time?

Mark: That would be my advice.

LESSON 6

under the weather: not feeling well, sick

- John stayed home from work because he was feeling *under the weather*.
- When you catch cold, you feel *under the weather*.

to hang up: to place clothes on a hook or hanger (S), to replace the receiver on the phone at the end of a conversation (S)

- Would you like me to *hang up* your coat for you in the closet?
- The operator told me to *hang the phone up* and call the number again.

to count on: to trust someone in time of need (also: **to depend on**)

- I can *count on* my parents to help me in an emergency.
- Don't *depend on* Frank to lend you any money; he doesn't have any.

to make friends (with): to become friendly with others

- Patricia is a shy girl and doesn't *make friends* easily.
- During the cruise Ronald *made friends with* almost everyone on the ship.

out of order: not in working condition

- The elevator was *out of order*, so we had to walk to the tenth floor of the building.
- We couldn't use the soft drink machine because it was *out of order*.

to get to: to be able to do something special; to arrive at a place, such as home, work, etc.

For the second definition, do not use the preposition *to* with the words *home* or *there*.

- The children *got to* stay up late and watch a good movie for the family.
- I missed the bus and couldn't *get to* the office until ten o'clock.
- When are you planning to *get home* tonight?

few and far between: not frequent, unusual, rare

- The times that our children get to stay up late are *few and far between*.
- Airplane travel is very safe because accidents are *few and far between*.

to look over: to examine, to inspect closely (also: **to go over, to read over, to check over**) (S)

Go over is different from the other forms because it is not separable.

- I want to *look* my homework *over* again before I give it to the teacher.
- The politician *went over* his speech before the important presentation.
- You should never sign any legal paper without *checking* it *over* first.

to have (time) off: to have free time, not to have to work (also: **to take time off** (S))

The related form (S) *to take time off* is used when someone makes a decision to have free time, sometimes when others might not agree with the decision.

- Every morning the company workers *have time off* for a coffee break.
- Several workers *took the afternoon off* to go to a baseball game.

to go on: to happen; to resume, to continue (also: **to keep on**)

- Many people gathered near the accident to see what was *going on*.
- I didn't mean to interrupt you. Please *go on*.
- The speaker *kept on* talking even though most of the audience had left.

to put out: to extinguish, to cause to stop functioning (S)

To put out has the same meaning as *to turn off* (Lesson 1) for a light fixture.

- No smoking is allowed in here. Please *put out* your cigarette.
- The fire fighters worked hard to *put* the brush fire *out*.
- Please *put out* the light before you leave. Okay, I'll *put* it *out*.

all of a sudden: suddenly, without warning (also: **all at once**)

- *All of a sudden* Ed appeared at the door. We weren't expecting him to drop by.
- *All at once* Millie got up and left the house without any explanation.

EXERCISES**A. 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 businessman *inspected* the contract *carefully* before signing it.
a. looked over b. looked out (Lesson 5) c. counted on
2. What's *happening*, John? The smoke alarm is ringing but there's no fire!
a. putting out b. going on c. hanging up
3. The dark clouds rolled in quickly and it began to rain *without warning*.
a. all along (Lesson 2) b. out of order c. all of a sudden
4. When do you think that we'll *arrive at* the hotel this evening?
a. get on (Lesson 1) b. go on c. get to
5. I'm busy this week, but I hope to *have time free* next week.
a. to take my time (Lesson 3) b. to have time off c. to check over
6. *Gradually* I'm learning how to play tennis, thanks to my kind instructor.
a. Little by little (Lesson 2) b. All at once c. Few and far between
7. It's nice to know that I can *trust* you to help me when I need it.
a. count on b. check over c. make friends
8. The phone is making noise because you forgot to *replace* the receiver.
a. to go over b. to take place (Lesson 4) c. to hang up
9. He's so careful when he plays sports that injuries are *unusual* for him.
a. under the weather b. few and far between c. out of order
10. The students were happy because they *were able to* leave class early.
a. took time off to b. went on c. got to

B. Fill in each blank with the appropriate form of an idiomatic expression from this unit only.

Tina: What's wrong, Matt? You look _____.

Matt: I know. I don't feel well.

Tina: You looked fine an hour ago. It must have happened _____.

Matt: It did. I was talking to Mike on the phone, and after I _____ the receiver, it hit me.

Tina: Wow. Do you think that you can still _____ my paper for me later? You're good at finding my mistakes.

Matt: Of course, Tina. You can _____ me to do that for you. First, though, I'd like to lie down.

Tina: Okay. Would you like me to _____ the light?

Matt: Thanks. I'll be fine in a while.

LESSON 7

to point out: to show, to indicate, to bring to one's attention (S)

- What important buildings did the tour guide *point out* to you?
- The teacher *pointed out* the mistakes in my composition.
- A friend *pointed* the famous actor *out* to me.

to be up: to expire, to be finished

This idiom is used only with the word *time* as the subject.

- "The time *is up*," the teacher said at the end of the test period.
- We have to leave the tennis court because our hour *is up*; some other people want to use it now.

to be over: to be finished, to end (also: **to be through**)

This idiom is used for activities and events.

- After the dance *was over*, we all went to a restaurant.
- The meeting *was through* ten minutes earlier than everyone expected.

on time: exactly at the correct time, punctually

- I thought that Margaret would arrive late, but she was right *on time*.
- Did you get to work *on time* this morning, or did rush hour traffic delay you?

in time to (do something): before the time necessary to do something

- We entered the theater just *in time to see* the beginning of the movie.
- The truck was not able to stop *in time to prevent* an accident.

to get better (worse, etc.): to become better, worse, etc.

- Heather has been sick for a month, but now she is *getting better*.
- This medicine isn't helping me. Instead of *getting better*, I'm *getting worse*.

to get sick (well, tired, busy, wet, etc.): to become sick, well, tired, busy, wet, etc.

This idiom consists of a combination of *get* and various adjectives.

- Gerald *got sick* last week and has been in bed since that time.
- Every afternoon I *get very hungry*, so I eat a snack.

had better (do something): should, ought to, be advisable to

This idiom is most often used in contracted form (*I'd better*).

- I think *you'd better speak* to Mr. White right away about this matter.
- The doctor told the patient that *he'd better go* home and rest.

would rather (do something): prefer to (also: **would just as soon (do something) as (do something else)**)

- *Would you rather have* the appointment this Friday or next Monday?
- I *would just as soon go* for a walk *as watch* TV right now.

to call it a day/night: to stop working for the rest of the day/ night

- Herb tried to repair his car engine all morning before he *called it a day* and went fishing.
- We've been working hard on this project all evening; let's *call it a night*.

to figure out: to solve, to find a solution (S); to understand (S)

- How long did it take you *to figure out* the answer to the math problem?
- I was never able *to figure it out*.

to think of: to have a (good or bad) opinion of

This idiom is often used in the negative or with adjectives such as *much* and *highly*.

- I don't *think much of* him as a baseball player; he's a slow runner and a poor hitter.
- James *thinks highly of* his new boss, who is a kind and helpful person.

EXERCISES**A. 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 *were able to* visit the zoo when the animals were very active.
a. would rather b. had better c. got to (Lesson 6)
2. All of this work in the garden has tired me out; let's *stop working*.
a. be over b. call it a day c. be up
3. I can't *understand* Professor Jones at all; he's a very good teacher, but sometimes he talks foolishly.
a. figure out b. make up my mind about (Lesson 5) c. point out
4. I *prefer to* eat in tonight than to eat out; what do you think?
a. would rather b. had better c. so far (Lesson 4)
5. The police officer put a parking ticket on the car because the time on the meter *had expired*.
a. was over b. was not on time c. was up
6. I don't *have a good opinion of* our new neighbors; they're not very friendly.
a. make friends with (Lesson 6) b. get better with c. think much of
7. This problem is too difficult for me *to solve* by myself.
a. to point out b. to be over c. to figure out
8. We were late to the party, but we got there *before the time to* eat dinner.
a. to wait on b. in time to c. on time
9. Jan couldn't wait for the meeting *to end* so that she could go home.
a. to call off (Lesson 5) b. to be through c. to get worse
10. It was supposed to be a surprise, but Larry knew about the birthday party *from the beginning*.
a. all along (Lesson 2) b. on time c. to call it a night

B. Fill in each blank with the appropriate form of an idiomatic expression from this unit only.

- Sue:** Kay, if we're going to get to a movie _____ find good seats, we _____ hurry to decide what to see.
- Kay:** But we can't agree on the two possibilities!
- Sue:** I know. I want to see the old Humphrey Bogart film, but you _____ see the movie with the famous actor Guy Matson in it.
- Kay:** I can't _____ your taste in men, Sue. All the women that I know just love Guy Matson!
- Sue:** Kay, let me _____ again that I'm not a typical American woman. My mother is German, you know.
- Kay:** You like to remind me of that, don't you! Anyway, I don't _____ much _____ old movies, so forget about Humphrey Bogart.
- Sue:** Okay, okay! Let's go down to the car and make up our minds while driving.
- Kay:** Good idea!

LESSON 8

to be about to do something: to be at the moment of doing something, to be ready

This idiom is often used with the adverb *just*.

- I *was just about to* leave when you telephoned.
- Oh, hi, John. We're *just about to* eat dinner.

to turn around: to move or face in the opposite direction (S); to completely change the condition of (S)

- The man *turned* his car *around* and drove back the way he came.
- The company has been very successful since the new business manager was able to *turn it around*.

to take turns (doing something): to alternate, to change people while doing something

- During the trip, Darlene and I *took turns driving* so that neither of us would tire out.
- I have to make sure that my two sons *take turns playing* the video game.

to pay attention (to): to look at and listen to someone while they are speaking, to concentrate

- Please *pay attention to* me while I'm speaking to you!
- You'll have to *pay more attention* in class if you want to get a good grade.

to brush up on something: to review something in order to refresh one's memory

- Before I traveled to Mexico, I *brushed up on* my Spanish; I haven't practiced it since high school.
- In order to take that advanced mathematics class, Sidney will have to *brush up on* his algebra.

over and over (again): repeatedly (also: **time after time, time and again**)

- The actress studied her lines in the movie *over and over* until she knew them well.
- Children have difficulty remembering rules, so it's often necessary to repeat them *over and over again*.
- *Time and again* I have to remind Bobby to put on his seatbelt in the car.

to wear out: to use something until it has no value or worth anymore, to make useless through wear (S)

- When I *wear out* these shoes, I'll have to buy some that last longer.
- What do you do with your clothes after you *wear them out*?

to throw away: to discard, to dispose of (S)

- I generally *throw away* my clothes when I wear them out.
- Don't *throw* the magazines *away*; I haven't read them yet.

to fall in love: to begin to love

This idiom is used with the expression *at first sight* to indicate a sudden interest in love.

- Ben and Sal *fell in love* in high school, and got married after graduation.
- Have you ever *fallen in love at first sight*?

to go out: to stop functioning; to stop burning; to leave home or work (also: **to step out**)

- The lights *went out* all over the city because of an electrical problem.
- The campers didn't have to put out the fire because it *went out* by itself.
- Gary isn't here right now; he *went out* to the store for a moment.
- I have to *step out of* the office briefly to pick up a newspaper.

out of the question: impossible, not feasible

- Stephen told Deborah that it was *out of the question* for her to borrow his new car.
- Don't expect me to do that again. It's absolutely *out of the question*.

to have to do with: to have some connection with or relationship to

- Ralph insisted that he had *nothing to do with* breaking the window.
- What does your suggestion *have to do with* our problem?

EXERCISES**A. 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. Don't *discard* those old cardboard boxes; Jim can use them for packing his things when he moves to a new apartment.
a. put away (Lesson 4) b. throw away c. wear out
2. If you had *concentrated on* what I said, I wouldn't have to repeat myself.
a. paid attention to b. had to do with c. turned around
3. I plan to stay in school *temporarily* and take more coursework.
a. out of the question b. over and over again c. for the time being (Lesson 5)
4. How do our children *make* their pants *useless* in such a short time?
a. take turns b. dress up (Lesson 2) c. wear out
5. Before George takes a college-level biology class, he should *review* his biology from high school.
a. brush up on b. look over (Lesson 6) c. be about to
6. I liked that movie so much that I could watch it *repeatedly*.
a. out of the question b. taking turns c. over and over again
7. Betty can't *understand* why she's having trouble with the engine of her car.
a. turn around b. figure out (Lesson 7) c. step out
8. This message from Tom *has no connection with* plans _____ for the party tonight.
a. is out of the question b. doesn't fall in love with c. has nothing to do with
9. Sally *was ready to* take a shower when the phone rang, so she answered it
a. was about to b. took turns to c. had better (Lesson 7)
10. I'm tired of working; let's *leave home* for a while and shop for groceries.
a. turn around b. go out c. call it a day (Lesson 7)

B. Fill in each blank with the appropriate form of an idiomatic expression from this unit only.

- Lee:** Jan, you've _____ these shoes completely. Why do you keep them?
- Jan:** Don't ask me again, Lee! I've told you _____ — they are my favorite pair.
- Lee:** I know, I know. Every time we _____ somewhere, you wear them.
- Jan:** It's terrible, isn't it? I know that I should _____ such bad-looking shoes, but they're so comfortable, I can't!
- Lee:** What if I said that I would buy a new pair for you — would you discard them then?
- Jan:** That's completely _____! This situation doesn't _____ money; it's connected to my feeling for the shoes.
- Lee:** Feeling for the shoes! Is it possible that you have _____ with them?
- Jan:** Yes, I guess I love them more than I love you!

LESSON 9

to wake up: to arise from sleep, to awaken (S)

Compare *wake up* and *get up* (Lesson 1) as used in the first example.

- Marge *woke up* this morning very early, but she did not *get up* until about ten o'clock.
- My alarm clock *wakes me up* at the same time every day.

to be in charge (of something): to manage, to have responsibility for

- Jane *is in charge of* the office while Mrs. Haig is on a business trip.
- Who *is in charge of* arrangements for the dance next week?

as soon as: just after, when

- *As soon as* it started to snow, the children ran outside with big smiles on their faces.
- I'm busy now, but I'll meet you *as soon as* I've finished this work.

to get in touch with: to communicate with, to contact

- You can *get in touch with* him by calling the Burma Hotel.
- I've been trying all morning *to get in touch with* Miss Peters, but her phone is always busy.

to have a good time: to enjoy oneself

- We all *had a good time* at the class reunion last night.
- Did you *have a good time* at the park? I really enjoyed it

in no time: very quickly, rapidly

This idiom can be used with the idiom *at all* to add emphasis to the certainty of the statement.

- Mac said that he'd be ready to leave *in no time*.
- We thought that the meeting would take two hours, but it *was over in no time at all*.

to cut down on: to reduce, to lessen (also: **to cut back on**)

- In order to lose weight, you have *to cut down on* your intake of sugar.
- The doctor told me *to cut back on* exercise until my back injury heals.

quite a few: many

- *Quite a few* students were absent yesterday, in fact, more than half of them were not there.
- We did not expect many people to attend the affair, but *quite a few of* our friends actually came.

used to: formerly did, had the habit of

This idiom is used to indicate a past situation, action, or habit that does not exist in the present. The idiom is always followed by a simple verb form.

- I *used to* live in New York, but I moved to California two years ago.
- Kim *used to* smoke cigarettes, but she stopped the habit last month.

to be used: to be accustomed to

This idiom refers to a situation, action, or habit that continues in the present. The idiom is always followed by a noun or gerund phrase.

- He *is used to* this climate now, so the changes in temperature do not affect him much.
- I *am used to* studying in the library, so it's difficult for me to study at home now.

to get used (to something): to become used to, to become adjusted to

This idiom describes the process of change that allows some one to be used to a situation, action, or habit.

- It took Yoshiko a long time *to get used to* the food that her American host family served her.
- Mark can't seem *to get used to* wearing contact lenses, recently he's been wearing his glasses a lot.

back and forth: in a backward and forward motion

- The restless lion kept pacing *back and forth* along the front of its cage.
- Grandmother finds it relaxing to sit in her rocking chair and move *back and forth*.

EXERCISES**A. 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. When we finally decided to eat out, we got ready *rapidly*.
a. in no time b. on time (Lesson 7) c. as soon as
2. Joe has never been able *to become adjusted to* getting up early in the morning.
a. used to b. to be used to c. to get used to
3. I have a lot of trouble breathing well when I run, so I guess that I should *reduce* smoking.
a. be in charge of b. throw away (Lesson 8) c. cut down on
4. While I was reading in bed last night, the phone in the kitchen rang, so I had *to arise* to answer it
a. to wake up b. to get up (Lesson 1) c. to be used to
5. *Many* people at the beach were wearing jackets because the wind was cool.
a. Quite a few b. As soon as c. Few and far between (Lesson 6)
6. Would you *contact* the Jacksons and tell them that we've put off the garage sale?
a. get in touch with b. be in charge of c. have a good time
7. *When* my parents were ready to leave, we went out to dinner.
a. At first (Lesson 1) b. As soon as c. All of a sudden (Lesson 6)
8. Jack *made* the engine of his car *useless* by forgetting to add oil to it regularly.
a. got worse (Lesson 7) b. used to c. wore out (Lesson 8)
9. The boat was moving *in backward and forward motion* because of the large waves on the ocean.
a. at least (Lesson 4) b. back and forth c. on purpose (Lesson 3)
10. Vera *had the habit to* bite her nails until they were very short, but now she's stopped doing that.
a. has been used to b. used to c. cut back on

B. Fill in each blank with the appropriate form of an idiomatic expression from this unit only.

- Abe:** Zeke! It's already 8 A. M. It's time for you to _____.
- Zeke:** What do you mean? It's the weekend, and I _____ sleeping until at least 10 A.M. on Saturdays!
- Abe:** Don't you remember? We're organizing a beach picnic for our sports club today.
- Zeke:** Oh, I forgot about that. Just give me fifteen more minutes. I can be ready _____.
- Abe:** Look, there's a lot to take to the beach and to set up, like the volleyball net. We need to do it together.
- Zeke:** Can't you _____ the other students and tell them that the picnic will start later?
- Abe:** Zeke, I can't call everybody. _____ people are planning to come.
- Zeke:** Boy, why did you agree that we would _____ the picnic? It's too much responsibility.
- Abe:** I didn't agree. You did!

LESSON 10

to make sure: to be sure, to ascertain (also: **to make certain (of)**)

- Please *make sure* that you turn off the radio before you go out.
- Could you *make certain of* the time? I don't want to miss that TV show.

now and then: occasionally, sometimes (also: **now and again, at times, from time to time, off and on, once in a while**)

Both *now and then* and *once in a while* can be preceded by the adjective *every*. Another idiom with the same meaning and form is *every so often*.

- I don't see him very often, but (*every*) *now and then* we arrange to have lunch together.
- Gary gets a cold (*every*) *once in a while* even though he takes good care of himself.
- *Every so often* my brother and I get together for a camping trip.
- I like to sleep late in the morning *from time to time*.

to get rid of: to eliminate, to remove; to discard, to throw away

- Jerry tried hard to *get rid of* the stain on his shirt, but he never succeeded.
- The stain was so bad that Jerry finally had to *get rid of* his shirt.

every other (one): every second (one), alternate (ones)

- I play tennis with my father *every other Saturday*, so I usually play twice a month.
- There were twenty problems in the exercise, but the teacher told us only to do *every other one*. Actually, doing ten problems was difficult enough.

to go with: to match, to compare well in color or design; to date, to accompany (also: **to go out with**)

For the first definition, adverbs such as *well* and *poorly* are often used.

- That striped shirt *goes well with* the gray pants, but the pants go poorly with those leather shoes.
- Eda *went with* Richard for about six months, but now she *is going out with* a new boyfriend.

first-rate: excellent, superb

- The food served in that four-star restaurant is truly *first-rate*.
- The Beverly Hills Hotel provides *first-rate* service to its guests.

to come from: to originate from

This idiom is commonly used in discussion of one's hometown, state, or country.

- What country in South America does she *come from*? She *comes from* Peru.
- I just learned that he really *comes from* Florida, not Texas.
- Where did this package *come from*? The mail carrier brought it.

to make good time: to travel a sufficient distance at a reasonable speed

The adjective *excellent* can also be used.

- On our last trip, it rained the entire time, so we didn't *make good time*.
- We *made excellent time* on our trip to Florida; it only took eighteen hours.

to mix up: to stir or shake well (S); to confuse, to bewilder (S)

For the second definition, the passive forms *to be mixed up* or *to get mixed up* are often used.

- You should *mix up* the ingredients well before you put them in the pan.
- The teacher's poor explanation really *mixed* the students *up*.
- The students think it's their fault that they *are mixed up* so often.

to see about: to give attention or time to (also: **to attend to, to see to**)

- Who is going to *see about* getting us a larger room for the meeting?
- I'll *see to* arranging music for the wedding if you *attend to* the entertainment.

to make out: to do, to succeed, to progress

- Charlie didn't *make out* very well on his final examinations. He may have to repeat one or more classes.
- How did Rachelle *make out* on her acting audition in Hollywood yesterday?

by heart: by memorizing

- He knows many passages from Shakespeare *by heart*.
- Do you know all the idioms you have studied in this book *by heart*?

EXERCISES**A. 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. Jack has been too busy with his work *to date* anyone recently.
a. to see about b. to make out c. to go out with
2. The manager wanted her assistant *to ascertain* when the products would be delivered.
a. to make good time b. to get rid of c. to make sure
3. You should *stir* the milk and eggs before you add the butter.
a. cut down on (Lesson 9) b. mix up c. come from
4. I was so nervous about giving the speech that I learned every word *by memorizing*.
a. by myself (Lesson 3) b. by heart c. now and then
5. The weather is so bad today that we should definitely *postpone* the picnic.
a. put off (Lesson 5) b. call off (Lesson 5) c. see about
6. George never seems to study. How is he *progressing* in his coursework?
a. making out b. coming from c. looking over (Lesson 6)
7. The test instructions were so poorly written that the students *were confused* about what to do.
a. were attended to b. paid attention (Lesson 8) c. were mixed up
8. This yellow tie doesn't *match* your blue jacket at all.
a. go with b. get rid of c. come from
9. John enjoys going hiking with his friends. They take a hike together *every second* weekend.
a. every now and then b. every other c. all weekend long (Lesson 3)
10. This tablecloth is too old to use anymore; would you mind if we *discard* it?
a. get rid of b. come from c. see to

B. Fill in each blank with the appropriate form of an idiomatic expression from this unit only.

Jean: Hi, Helen. I really like your blouse. It _____ your eyes.

Helen: Thanks, Jean, but haven't you seen it before? I've had it for years, and I was planning to _____ it!

Jean: Oh, no, it still looks fine. Tell me, how are you _____ with your final class presentation? Are you still writing it?

Helen: I'm all finished. Tomorrow I'm going to practice until I know it _____.

Jean: Why don't you practice in front of me right now?

Helen: Maybe later. Right now I'd like to _____ having dinner. I'm really hungry.

Jean: Do you want to cook here, or eat out?

Helen: Let's eat out. I just heard about a new Italian restaurant that is supposed to be _____.

Jean: Sounds great. But it's almost 9 P.M.. When does it close?

Helen: I think that Jim said 9:30. It's easy to _____ on city streets at night, so I'm sure we can get there in time.

Jean: Let's go!

LESSON 11

to keep out: not to enter, not allow to enter (S)

- There was a large sign outside the door that said, "Danger! *Keep out!*"
- I've told you to *keep* the dog *out* of the house.

to keep away (from): to stay at a distance (from) (S); to avoid use of (also: **stay away from**)

- Please be sure to *keep* the children *away from* the street!
- The signs on the burned-out house said, "*Keep Away! Danger Zone.*"
- It's important for your health to *stay away from* dangerous drugs.

to find fault with: to criticize, to complain about something

- It is very easy to *find fault with* the work of others, but more difficult to accept criticism of one's own work.
- Mrs. Johnson is always *finding fault with* her children, but they really try to please their mother.

to be up to: to be responsible for deciding; to be doing as a regular activity

The second definition is most often used in a question as a form of greeting.

- I don't care whether we go to the reception or not. It *is up to* you.
- Hi, George. I haven't seen you in a while. What have you *been up to*?

ill at ease: uncomfortable or worried in a situation

- Speaking in front of a large audience makes many people feel *ill at ease*.
- My wife and I were *ill at ease* because our daughter was late coming home from a date.

to do over: to revise, to do again (S)

A noun or pronoun must separate the two parts of this idiom.

- You'd better *do* the letter *over* because it is written so poorly.
- Jose made so many mistakes in his homework that the teacher made him *do* it *over*.

to look into: to investigate, to examine carefully (also: **to check into**)

- The police are *looking into* the matter of the stolen computers.
- The congressional committee will *check into* the financial dealings of the government contractor.

to take hold of: to grasp, to grip with the hands

- You should *take hold of* the railing as you go down those steep stairs.
- The blind man *took hold of* my arm as I led him across the street.

to get through doing something, to get through with something: to finish, to complete

This idiom is followed either by the *-ing* form of a verb (a gerund) or by the preposition *with*.

- I didn't *get through studying* last night until almost eleven o'clock.
- At what time does your wife *get through with work* every day?

from now on: from this time into the future

- Mr. Lee's doctor told him to cut down on eating fatty foods *from now on*, or else he might suffer heart disease.
- I'm sorry that I dropped by at a bad time. *From now on* I'll call you first.

to keep track of: to keep or maintain a record of; to remember the location of

- Steve *keeps track of* all the long-distance telephone calls related to his business that he makes from his house.
- With seven small children, how do the Wilsons *keep track of* all of them?

to be carried away (by, with): to be greatly affected by a strong feeling (S)

This idiom can also be used with *get* instead of *be*.

- Paula and Leanne *were carried away by* the sad movie that they saw together.
- James *got carried away with* anger when his roommate crashed his new car into a telephone pole.

EXERCISES**A. 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's difficult for old people *to remember the location of* personal possessions such as keys.
a. to keep track of b. to keep away from c. to take hold of
2. I haven't seen Jackie in a long time. I wonder what she *has been doing*.
a. has gotten through b. has to do with (Lesson 8) c. has been up to
3. Jeff agreed *to give attention to* organizing the beach barbecue this weekend.
a. to look into b. to see about (Lesson 10) c. to do over
4. The unfriendly man told the neighborhood boys, "I don't want any of you coming in my yard. *Don't enter!*"
a. Keep out! b. Be carried away! c. Put out! (Lesson 6)
5. Janice felt *uncomfortable* at the party because she didn't know anyone there; they were all complete strangers to her.
a. mixed up (Lesson 10) b. ill at ease c. out of the question (Lesson 8)
6. To open the door, you have *to grasp* it firmly and pull hard.
a. to take hold of b. to get through c. to find fault with
7. *Until now* I haven't broken any bones in my body. Knock on wood!
a. At last (Lesson 2) b. From now on c. So far (Lesson 4)
8. Lita made so many mistakes in her essay that the teacher told her *to revise it*.
a. to find fault with it b. to do it over c. to check into it
9. I *was greatly affected by emotion* when my friends surprised me with a big birthday celebration.
a. was carried away b. was up to me c. had a good time (Lesson 9)
10. Mr. Smith asked the police *to investigate* the theft of his car radio last week.
a. to look for (Lesson 2) b. to look over (Lesson 6) c. to look into

B. Fill in each blank with the appropriate form of an idiomatic expression from this unit only.

- Max:** Jeff, are you still busy?
Jeff: Of course I am! Didn't you see the sign on my door. It says, "_____!"
Max: Come on, Jeff. Give me five minutes of your time, okay?
Jeff: Okay, what is it?
Max: I just wanted to know when you're going to _____ with your work.
Jeff: I need at least another five hours. The professor found so many mistakes in my research paper that I have to _____ it _____.
Max: Oh, I didn't realize that.
Jeff: I know one thing — I'm going to start all my work much earlier and do it more carefully _____.
Max: That's a good idea. Say, would you like a beer to relax?
Jeff: Are you kidding? I have to _____ alcohol if I'm going to finish this work.
Max: Well, it's _____ you. I can write more easily after a beer or two. Say, would you like me to read what you've done so far?
Jeff: No way. I know what will happen — you'll just _____ it.
Max: Okay, then. I'll just go away and leave you alone.
Jeff: Thanks, Max. Sorry I'm acting so _____, but I need to get this done by tomorrow. There isn't much time left.
Max: I understand. Just don't _____ and be angry at your friends!

LESSON 12

up to date: modern, current, timely

Hyphens (-) separate the parts of this idiom when it precedes a noun form, as in the third example. The verb *to update* derives from this idiom.

- The president insisted that the company bring its aging equipment *up to date*.
- This catalog is not *up to date*. It was published several years ago.
- The news program gave an *up-to-date* account of the nuclear accident. The newscaster said that he would *update* the news report every half hour.

out of date: not modern, not current, not timely; no longer available in published form

Again, hyphens separate the parts of this idiom when it precedes a noun form as in the second example. The passive verb *to be outdated* derives from this idiom.

- Many people buy new cars when their old cars become *out of date*.
- I don't know why Gene likes to wear *out-of-date* clothing. His clothes are so *outdated* that even his girlfriend hesitates to be seen with him.
- This book can't be ordered any more because it is *out of date*.

to blow up: to inflate, to fill with air (S); to explode, to destroy (or be destroyed) by explosion (S)

- Daddy, could you please *blow up* this balloon for me?
- When the airplane crashed into the ground, it *blew up* immediately.
- The military had to *blow* the missile *up* in midair when it started to go the wrong way.

to catch fire: to begin to burn

- Don't stand too close to the gas stove. Your clothes may *catch fire*.
- No one seems to know how the old building *caught fire*.

to burn down: to burn slowly, but completely (usually said of candles); to destroy completely by fire (S)

- There was a large amount of wax on the table where the candles had *burned down*.
- The fire spread so quickly that the firefighters could not prevent the whole block of buildings from *burning down*.

to burn up: to destroy completely by fire (S); to make angry or very annoyed (S) (also - **to tick off**)

To burn up and *to burn down* (previous idiom) share the same definition but also have different definitions.

- She didn't want anyone to see the letter, so she *burned it up* and threw the ashes away.
- It really *burns me up* that he borrowed my car without asking me first.
- Mike got *ticked off* that his friends never offered to help him move to his new apartment. He had to do everything himself.

to burn out: to stop functioning because of overuse; to make tired from too much work (S)

- This light bulb has *burned out*. Could you get another one?
- Studying all day for my final exams has really *burned me out*.

to make good: to succeed

- He is a hard worker, and I'm sure that he will *make good* in that new job.
- Alma has always *made good* in everything that she has done.

stands to reason: to be clear and logical

This idiom is almost always used with the pronoun subject *it* and is followed by a *that* clause.

- *It stands to reason that* a person without experience cannot do the work as well as an experienced one.
- *It stands to reason that* he isn't going to pass the course if he never studies.

to break out: to become widespread suddenly

- An epidemic of measles *broke out* in Chicago this past week.
- If a nuclear war ever *breaks out*, it is unlikely that many people will survive.
- The news says that a large fire has *broken out* in a huge chemical plant.

as for: regarding, concerning (also: **as to**)

- *As for* the money, we will simply have to borrow some more from the bank.
- There is no doubt *as to* her intelligence, she's the smartest one in the class.

to feel sorry for: to pity, to feel compassion for (also: **to take pity on**)

- Don't you *feel sorry for* someone who has to work the night shift?
- I helped drive Pierre around when he broke his foot because I *took pity on* him.

EXERCISES**A. 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. I had to use a lot of paper and matches before I was able to get the wood in the fireplace *to begin to burn*.
a. to burn down b. to catch fire c. to burn up
2. If you stay up late every night, it *seems logical* that you'll get sick.
a. stands to reason b. makes good c. feels sorry for
3. The coach *inflated* several of the players' soccer balls that were too soft.
a. broke out b. made out (Lesson 10) c. blew up
4. *From the beginning* I knew that I wanted to go to medical school and to become a doctor.
a. All along (Lesson 2) b. As for c. At least (Lesson 4)
5. This set of reference books is so old that the library should buy one that is more *current*.
a. out of date b. first rate (Lesson 10) c. up to date
6. I *pity* Marilyn because everything of value in her house was stolen by thieves.
a. tick off b. count on (Lesson 6) c. feel sorry for
7. If you continue without taking a break this difficult work will *make you tired*.
a. burn you out b. burn you up c. burn you down
8. Those two sisters look so much alike that I often get *confused* about their names.
a. mixed up (Lesson 10) b. broken out c. out of date
9. *Regarding* me, I don't care where we go today. It's up to you.
a. To be about to (Lesson 8) b. As for c. To think of (Lesson 7)
10. It *makes me annoyed* that Jocelyn didn't call to cancel our appointment.
a. burns me up b. breaks me out c. burns me down

B. Fill in each blank with the appropriate form of an idiomatic expression from this unit only.

- Matt:** Have you heard the news? A big fire _____ in the downtown area early this morning. A whole block was affected.
- Lisa:** Really? How many buildings have _____?
- Matt:** More than ten, I believe. Haven't you seen the smoke in the air?
- Lisa:** Yes, I wondered what that was. Doesn't the fire department have the fire under control by now?
- Matt:** No, it doesn't. Their equipment is so _____ that it isn't effective in fighting the fire.
- Lisa:** Boy, I bet that the people who lost their stores are really _____ about that. I would be very angry if it was my business.
- Matt:** _____ me, I _____ all the workers who have lost their jobs because of the fire.
- Lisa:** It _____ that the city government is going to have to buy _____ equipment now.
- Matt:** Let's hope so.

LESSON 13

to break down: to stop functioning

Compare this idiom with *to burn out* in Lesson 12. *To burn out* means that electrical equipment becomes hot from overuse and stops functioning. *To break down* means that something stops functioning mechanically, whether from overuse or not.

- I just bought my new car yesterday and already it has *broken down*.
- The elevator *broke down*, so we walked all the way up to the top floor.

to turn out: to become or result; to appear, to attend (also: **to come out**)

The noun form **turnout** derives from the second definition of the idiom.

- Most parents wonder how their children will *turn out* as adults.
- Hundreds of people *came out* for the demonstration against new taxes.
- What was the *turnout* for the public hearing on the education reforms?

once in a blue moon: rarely, infrequently

- Snow falls on the city of San Diego, California, *once in a blue moon*.
- *Once in a blue moon* my wife and I eat at a very expensive restaurant.

to give up: to stop trying; to stop a bad habit (S); to surrender (S)

- I'm sure that you can accomplish this task. Don't *give up* yet!
- If you *give up* smoking now, you can certainly live a longer life.
- The soldiers *gave themselves up* in the face of stronger enemy forces.

to cross out: to cancel by marking with a horizontal line (S)

- The teacher *crossed out* several incorrect words in Tanya's composition.
- I *crossed* the last line *out* of my letter because it had the wrong tone to it.

to take for granted: not to appreciate fully (S); to assume to be true without giving much thought (S)

A noun or pronoun often follows the verb *take*.

- John *took* his wife *for granted* until once when he was very sick and needed her constant attention for a week.
- He spoke English so well that I *took it for granted* he was an American.
- He *took for granted* that I wasn't American because I spoke English so poorly!

to take something into account: to consider a fact while evaluating a situation (S)

Again, a noun or pronoun often follows the verb *take*.

- The judge *took* the prisoner's young age *into account* before sentencing him to three months in jail.
- Educators should *take into account* the cultural backgrounds of students when planning a school curriculum.

to make clear: to clarify, to explain (S)

- Please *make clear* that he should never act so impolitely again.
- The supervisor *made it clear* to the workers that they had to increase their productivity.

clear-cut: clearly stated, definite, apparent

- The president's message was *clear-cut*: the company had to reduce personnel immediately.
- Professor Larsen is well known for his interesting and *clear-cut* presentations.

to have on: to be wearing (S)

- How do you like the hat which Grace *has on* today?
- When Sally came into the room, I *had* nothing *on* except my shorts.

to come to: to regain consciousness; to equal, to amount to

- At first they thought that the man was dead, but soon he *came to*.
- The bill for groceries at the supermarket *came to* fifty dollars.

to call for: to require; to request, to urge

- This cake recipe *calls for* some baking soda, but we don't have any.
- The members of Congress *called for* new laws to regulate the banking industry.

EXERCISES**A. 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 majority of the investors at the shareholders' meeting *urged* the resignation of the chairman of the board.
a. called for b. took for granted c. called on (Lesson 2)
2. How many people *appeared* for the baseball game yesterday?
a. turned out b. came to c. turned around (Lesson 8)
3. My reason for voting "no" is very *apparent*: I disagree completely with the position of other committee members on this matter.
a. once in a blue moon b. clear-cut c. made clear
4. There was a big traffic jam on the freeway when a truck *stopped functioning* in one of the middle lanes.
a. burned down (Lesson 12) b. gave up c. broke down
5. Mrs. Thomas was very surprised when she received the bill for her hospital stay. It *equaled* almost ten thousand dollars.
a. crossed out b. came from (Lesson 10) c. came to
6. Aaron *had the habit to* drink a lot of beer until he decided to lose weight.
a. is used to (Lesson 9) b. gave up c. used to (Lesson 9)
7. That's a very nice dress that you *are wearing*. Where did you buy it?
a. have on b. take into account c. take for granted
8. As it *resulted*, I didn't have to worry about the game; we won it easily.
a. turned out b. made clear c. was over (Lesson 7)
9. The gang of criminals *surrendered* to the police after eight hours of hiding in the warehouse.
a. crossed out b. gave up c. looked out (Lesson 5)
10. Joe's mother *considered the fact* that Joe was trying to help his brother when the accident took place.
a. took for granted b. made clear c. took into account

B. Fill in each blank with the appropriate form of an idiomatic expression from this unit only.

Mrs. Lee: Hello. How are you?

Cashier: Fine, ma'am. Only buying a few groceries today, I see.

Mrs. Lee: Yes. As it _____, I only have a few dollars with me.

Cashier: That blouse you _____ really goes nicely with your skirt.

Mrs. Lee: Thank you. I just bought it this morning.

Cashier: Oh, no!

Mrs. Lee: What's the matter?

Cashier: I can't continue using the cash register. It just _____.

Mrs. Lee: That's terrible. Does this happen very often?

Cashier: Not at all. In fact, it happens only _____. Unfortunately, this kind of situation usually _____ for the manager's assistance, but he's not here right now.

Mrs. Lee: Just when you _____ that something like this won't happen, it does!

Cashier: I guess I have to figure out your bill with paper and pencil. Let's see — the total for your purchases _____ \$13.35.

Mrs. Lee: Did you _____ my discount coupons?

Cashier: No, I forgot. Thanks for reminding me.

REVIEW-LESSONS 1 TO 13

A. Match the idiom in the left column with the definition in the right column. The first one is done for you.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <u>d.</u> 1. under the weather | a. for a reason, deliberately |
| ___ 2. for good | b. impossible, not feasible |
| ___ 3. on purpose | c. from the beginning |
| ___ 4. so far | d. not feeling well, sick |
| ___ 5. first-rate | e. punctually |
| ___ 6. right away | f. excellent, superb |
| ___ 7. every other | 9. until now |
| ___ 8. out of the question | h. uncomfortable, worried |
| ___ 9. all along | i. very soon, immediately |
| ___ 10. on time | j. modem, current |
| ___ 11. ill at ease | k. alternate |
| ___ 12. up to date | l. permanently, forever |

B. In the space provided, mark whether each sentence is true (T) or false (F).

- If you *take your time* getting ready for work in the morning you do it *in a hurry*. ___
- If you have *worn out* your clothes, you would use them to *dress up*. ___
- If you have difficulty *getting along with people*, you probably also have trouble *making friends*. ___
- If the doctor advises you *to cut down* on work at the office, you should *take some time off*. ___
- If you *call it a day*, you are just *waking up* in the morning. ___
- If you *tire out* quite often then *sooner or later* you may *catch cold*. ___
- If you know some information *by heart*, you still have to *figure it out*. ___
- If you *find fault with* a person *over and over again*, that person may choose not *to pay attention* to your criticism. ___
- If you *make up your mind* about a problem, you still have to *think it over*. ___
- If you *take a trip* to a foreign country, you may want to *brush up on* the language first. ___
- If your visits to a doctor are *few and far between*, you *get used to* receiving medical assistance. ___
- If important decisions always *are up to you*, then you *take turns* making them. ___

C. Fill in each blank with the appropriate form of the idioms using *look* listed below.

to look at to look for to look up to look out to look over to look into

- Jeff's mother expects him _____ her directly while she is speaking to him.
- The police detective was very eager _____ the cause of the accident.
- Harriet went to the library _____ some facts for her research paper.
- Before the important exam, I _____ my lecture notes for the class.
- Jason can't seem to locate his car keys. Could you help us _____ them?
- _____! There's a car coming towards us quickly.

D. Fill in each blank with the appropriate form of the idioms using *take* listed below.

to take one's time to take off to take out to take part in to take a walk
to take a trip to take place to take turns to take hold of

1. Do you have any idea when the symphony concert is scheduled _____?
2. To drive safely, you should _____ the steering wheel with both hands.
3. Carlo always _____ on the telephone. She really enjoys calling up her friends and going on and on talking about work.
4. Bill finally _____ the new girl in school. They went to the park together and had a picnic.
5. Many young actors and actresses wanted _____ the theater production of *Hamlet*. Unfortunately, only a few were chosen.
6. It's such a nice evening. Would you like _____ around the block with me?
7. My brother and I _____ doing household chores. One day he washes the dishes, and the next day I do them.
8. Please _____ your shirt and put it in the laundry basket. It's too dirty to wear anymore.
9. This spring the Dobsons are planning _____ to Oregon and Washington state.

E. Fill in each blank with the appropriate form of the idioms using *get* listed below.

to get in/to get on to get up to get to to get out of/to get off to get back
to get over to get along with to get rid of to get in touch with

1. It's not time to throw away these shoes yet. I'll tell you when you can _____ them.
2. Max needs to talk to Alice right away. Do you know how _____ him?
3. At first Mark was very upset about losing his girlfriend, but already he is starting _____ it.
4. Before we were able _____ the bus to downtown, we had to let the passengers on the bus.
5. Please _____ and _____ the car on the driver's side. The door on the passenger side is broken.
6. Felix is such a nice guy that it's easy _____ him.
7. Sarah usually _____ at about six o'clock in the morning, _____ work by eight o'clock, and _____ home by around six o'clock in the evening.

The symbol (S) indicates that an idiom is *separable* — that a noun or noun phrase may be placed between the verb and the special preposition (called a *particle*). In these cases examples of both separable and inseparable forms are given.