SPEAK ENGLISH
LIKE AN AMERICAN

YOU ALREADY SPEAK ENGLISH...
NOW SPEAK IT EVEN BETTER!

DELUXE BOOK & CD SET

AMY GILLETT

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If you already speak some English and now would like to speak more like a native, you've found the right book. One of the keys to speaking like a native is the ability to use and understand casual expressions, or idioms. American English is full of idioms. You won't learn these expressions in a standard textbook. But you will hear them all the time in everyday conversations. You'll also meet them in books, newspapers, magazines, and TV shows. This book will help you understand and use idioms better. It contains over 300 of today's most common idioms.

Idioms add color to the language. Master idioms and your speech will be less awkward, less foreign. You'll also understand more of what you read and hear. Often a student of English tries to translate idioms word-for-word, or literally. If you do this, you can end up asking, "What could this possibly mean?" This is why idioms are difficult: they work as groups of words, not as individual words. If you translate each word on its own, you'll miss the meaning and in many cases end up with nonsense.

As an example, let's take one of the idioms presented in this book: "out of this world." This expression is often used to describe delicious food. If you have a party and you serve a delicious chicken dish, your American friend might tell you, "This chicken is out of this world!" Start translating the expression word-for-word and you'll have to ask yourself: "What world is it in?" and "Why is she even commenting on the chicken being in a world, any world?"

Here's another example. Let's say you're on a tennis team. Your team has won every single game for the past six months. You could tell your friend this without using an idiom: "Our team is lucky because we keep winning game after game." You can also express this with an idiom: "Our team is on a winning streak." Sounds better, doesn't it?

When using idioms, remember that their word order and structure are often not flexible. In other words, you will need to get the word order exactly right. Here's an example of what I mean. Recently, I helped a student with his English homework. He then told me, "You've got a golden heart." He was trying to speak idiomatic English, but the correct expression is: "You've got a heart of gold."

This book includes a CD of all of the dialogues. The CD will help you with pronunciation and will also help you remember the idioms. Play it at home, at work, in the car, while traveling...before you know it, you'll be speaking English like an American!

Try to "develop an ear" for idioms on your own. Don't worry, I'm not suggesting you try to grow a third ear! "Develop an ear" is an idiom — it means to learn to listen for something. If you don't know what an expression means, ask a native speaker of English. Here's what you can say to your helper: Excuse me, I ran across this expression and I'm not sure what it means. Can you please help me out?

Add idioms to your speech and writing just as you add vocabulary. You may find it helpful to write all of the expressions in this book down on notecards and review them whenever you have a free moment.

Good luck adding idioms to your everyday speech. It's fun, and you'll enjoy speaking English much more. Like an American!
The author would like to thank the Johnson family for graciously agreeing to appear in this book.

The Johnson Family

Bob (father)  Ted (son)  Nicole (daughter)

Susan (mother)
LESSON 1

BOB'S DAY AT WORK

Bob works as a manager in a furniture store. Peter, his boss, is not happy about sales. Bob's new advertising campaign hasn't helped. Peter decides to fire him.

Peter: Bob, I hate to break the news, but our sales were down again last month.

Bob: Down again, Peter?

Peter: Yeah. These days, everybody's shopping at our competition, Honest Abe's Furniture Store.

Bob: But everything in there costs an arm and a leg!

Peter: That's true. They do charge top dollar.

Bob: And their salespeople are very strange. They really give me the creeps!

Peter: Well, they must be doing something right over there. Meanwhile, we're about to go belly-up.

Bob: I'm sorry to hear that. I thought my new advertising campaign would save the day.

Peter: Let's face it: your advertising campaign was a real flop.

Bob: Well then I'll go back to the drawing board.

Peter: It's too late for that. You're fired!

Bob: What? You're giving me the ax?

Peter: Yes. I've already found a new manager. She's as sharp as a tack.

Bob: Can't we even talk this over? After all, I've been working here for 10 years!

Peter: There's no point in arguing, Bob. I've already made up my mind.

Bob: Oh well, at least I won't have to put up with your nonsense anymore! Good-bye to you and good-bye to this dead-end job.

Peter: Please leave before I lose my temper!

IDIOMS - LESSON 1

about to - ready to; on the verge of
EXAMPLE 1: It's a good thing Bob left the furniture store when he did. Peter was so angry, he was about to throw a dining room chair at him.
EXAMPLE 2: I'm glad you're finally home. I was just about to have dinner without you.

after all - despite everything; when everything has been considered; the fact is
EXAMPLE 1: You'd better invite Ed to your party. After all, he's a good friend.
EXAMPLE 2: It doesn't matter what your boss thinks of you. After all, you're going to quit your job anyway.

at least - anyway; the good thing is that...
EXAMPLE 1: We've run out of coffee, but at least we still have tea.
EXAMPLE 2: Tracy can't afford to buy a car, but at least she has a good bicycle.
NOTE: The second definition of this phrase is "no less than": There were at least 300 people waiting in line to buy concert tickets.
(to) break the news - to make something known
EXAMPLE 1: Samantha and Michael are getting married, but they haven't yet broken the news to their parents.
EXAMPLE 2: You’d better break the news to your father carefully. After all, you don’t want him to have a heart attack!

(to) cost an arm and a leg - to be very expensive
EXAMPLE 1: A college education in America costs an arm and a leg.
EXAMPLE 2: All of the furniture at Honest Abe’s costs an arm and a leg!

dead-end job - a job that won’t lead to anything else
EXAMPLE 1: Diane realized that working as a cashier was a dead-end job.
EXAMPLE 2: Jim worked many dead-end jobs before finally deciding to start his own business.

(let’s) face it - accept a difficult reality
EXAMPLE 1: Let’s face it, if Ted spent more time studying, he wouldn’t be failing so many of his classes!
EXAMPLE 2: Let’s face it, if you don’t have a college degree, it can be difficult to find a high-paying job.

(to) give one the creeps - to create a feeling of disgust or horror
EXAMPLE 1: Ted’s friend Matt has seven earrings in each ear and an ”I Love Mom” tattoo on his arm. He really gives Nicole the creeps.
EXAMPLE 2: There was a strange man following me around the grocery store. He was giving me the creeps!

(to) go back to the drawing board - to start a task over because the last try failed; to start again from the beginning
EXAMPLE 1: Frank’s new business failed, so he had to go back to the drawing board.
EXAMPLE 2: The president didn’t agree with our new ideas for the company, so we had to go back to the drawing board.

(to) go belly-up - to go bankrupt
EXAMPLE 1: Many people lost their jobs when Enron went belly-up.
EXAMPLE 2: My company lost $3 million last year. We might go belly-up.

(to) give someone the ax - to fire someone
EXAMPLE 1: Mary used to talk to her friends on the phone all day at work, until one day her boss finally gave her the ax.
EXAMPLE 2: Poor Paul! He was given the ax two days before Christmas.

(to) lose one’s temper - to become very angry
EXAMPLE 1: Bob always loses his temper when his kids start talking on the telephone during dinner.
EXAMPLE 2: When Ted handed in his essay two weeks late, his teacher really lost her temper.

(to) make up one’s mind - to reach a decision; to decide
EXAMPLE 1: Stephanie couldn’t make up her mind whether to attend Harvard or Stanford. Finally, she chose Stanford.
EXAMPLE 2: Do you want an omelette or fried eggs? You’ll need to make up your mind quickly because the waitress is coming.

no point in - no reason to; it’s not worth (doing something)
EXAMPLE 1: There’s no point in worrying about things you can’t change.
EXAMPLE 2: There’s no point in going on a picnic if it’s going to rain.

(real) flop or flop - a failure
EXAMPLE 1: The Broadway play closed after just 4 days - it was a real flop!
EXAMPLE 2: The company was in trouble after its new product flopped.

(to) save the day - to prevent a disaster or misfortune
EXAMPLE 1: The Christmas tree was on fire, but Ted threw water on it and saved the day.
EXAMPLE 2: We forgot to buy champagne for our New Year’s party, but Sonia brought some and really saved the day!

(as) sharp as a tack - very intelligent
EXAMPLE 1: Jay scored 100% on his science test. He’s as sharp as a tack.
EXAMPLE 2: Anna got a scholarship to Yale. She’s as sharp as a tack.

(to) talk over - to discuss
EXAMPLE 1: Dave and I spent hours talking over the details of the plan.
EXAMPLE 2: Before you make any big decisions, give me a call and we’ll talk things over.

top dollar - the highest end of a price range; a lot of money
EXAMPLE 1: Nicole paid top dollar for a shirt at Banana Republic.
EXAMPLE 2: Wait until those jeans go on sale. Why pay top dollar?
PRACTICE THE IDIOMS

Fill in the blank with the missing word:

1) I can't believe you bought a couch at Honest Abe's. Everything in that store costs an arm and a_____.
   a) foot  b) leg  c) hand

2) After Bob found out that his advertising campaign failed, he wanted to go back to the drawing_____.
   a) board  b) table  c) room

3) When somebody isn't listening to you, there's no _____ in trying to argue with them.
   a) edge  b) tip  c) point

4) Jose is really smart. He's as sharp as a_____.
   a) tack  b) nail  c) screw

5) The salespeople at Honest Abe's always look angry and never speak to anybody. No wonder they_____Bob the creeps.
   a) take  b) give  c) allow

6) Bob got fired. He isn't looking forward to______the news to his family.
   a) breaking  b) cracking  c) saying

7) Bob thought his new advertisements would bring in lots of customers and save the_____.
   a) morning  b) night  c) day

8) Fortunately, Bob no longer has to put_____with his stupid boss at the furniture store.
   a) over  b) in  c) up

ANSWERS TO LESSON 1, p. 160
LESSON 2

BOB RETURNS HOME WITH BAD NEWS

Bob tells his wife Susan that he lost his job. Susan suggests that he start his own business.

Susan: What's the matter, dear?

Bob: Susan, I got canned today at work.

Susan: But Bob, you were Peter's right-hand man!

Bob: Yes, and he stabbed me in the back.

Susan: Keep your chin up. Maybe he'll change his mind and take you back.

Bob: When pigs fly! Once he makes up his mind, he never changes it. Besides, I told him off.

Susan: Look on the bright side: you won't have to set eyes on Peter ever again.

Bob: Thank goodness for that!

Susan: Hang in there. I'm sure you won't be out of work for long.

Bob: In the meantime, we'll have to live from hand to mouth.

Susan: Don't get too stressed out, Bob. We'll make ends meet.

Bob: I can always get a job at McDonald's as a last resort.

Susan: I don't think they're hiring right now.

Bob: If worse comes to worst, we can sell our home and move into a tent.

Susan: Let's think big! Maybe you can start your own business.

Bob: Easier said than done!

IDIOMS - LESSON 2

(to) change one's mind - to change one's opinion or decision
EXAMPLE 1: Brandon wasn't going to take a vacation this year, but then he changed his mind and went to Bora Bora for two weeks.
EXAMPLE 2: Why aren't you applying to medical school this year? Did you change your mind about becoming a doctor?

easier said than done - more difficult than you think
EXAMPLE 1: You want to climb Mount Everest? Easier said than done!
EXAMPLE 2: Moving into a new home is easier said than done.

(to) get canned [slang] - to lose one's job; to get fired
EXAMPLE 1: After Chris got canned, it took him a year to find a new job.
EXAMPLE 2: Lisa is a lousy secretary. She deserves to get canned!
SYNONYMS: to get sacked; to be given the ax

(to) hang in there - to persevere; to not give up
EXAMPLE 1: I know you're four games behind, but you can still win the tennis match. Just hang in there!
EXAMPLE 2: Hang in there, Don! Your invention will soon be a success.

if worse comes to worst - in the worst case; if absolutely necessary
EXAMPLE 1: Ted's car isn't running well. If worse comes to worst, he can take the bus to school.
EXAMPLE 2: I know you're running out of money. If worse comes to worst, you can always sell some of your jewelry.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expression</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Example 1</th>
<th>Example 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(to) keep one’s chin up</td>
<td>to stay positive</td>
<td>Even when he was unemployed and homeless, Bill managed to keep his chin up.</td>
<td>Keep your chin up! You’ll find your lost dog soon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>last resort</td>
<td>if there are no other alternatives left; the last solution for getting out of a difficulty</td>
<td>David was locked out of his house. He knew that as a last resort, he could always break a window.</td>
<td>I don’t like taking medicine. I’ll only take it as a last resort.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(to) live from hand to mouth</td>
<td>to barely have enough money to survive</td>
<td>Jenny was earning $5 an hour working at the store. She was really living from hand to mouth.</td>
<td>George lives from hand to mouth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(to) look on the bright side</td>
<td>to be optimistic; to think about the positive part or aspect of a situation</td>
<td>Leo was upset that his soccer game was canceled. His mother said, “Look on the bright side, now you can stay home and watch TV.”</td>
<td>You lost your job? Look on the bright side, now you’ll have more free time!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(to) make ends meet</td>
<td>to manage one’s money so as to have enough to live on; to be okay financially</td>
<td>Kimberly wasn’t able to make ends meet so she had to ask her parents to pay her rent.</td>
<td>If you can’t make ends meet, you’ll need to start spending less.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(to) make up one’s mind</td>
<td>see Lesson 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out of work</td>
<td>unemployed; not working</td>
<td>Gary was out of work for a year before finding a new job.</td>
<td>Bob is out of work. Do you know anybody who might want to hire him?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>right-hand man</td>
<td>the most helpful assistant or employee</td>
<td>Juan’s right-hand man helps him make all of his decisions.</td>
<td>When Jack Thompson retired as president of his company, his right-hand man took over.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(to) set eyes on</td>
<td>to look at; to see for the first time</td>
<td>Ted was in love from the moment he set eyes on Amber.</td>
<td>Susan knew from the moment she set eyes on Ted’s friend Lucas that he would be trouble.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(to) stab someone in the back</td>
<td>to betray someone</td>
<td>Jill and Heather were friends, until Heather stabbed Jill in the back by stealing her boyfriend.</td>
<td>You’re firing me after all I’ve done for this company? You’re really stabbing me in the back!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(to be) stressed out</td>
<td>under severe strain; very anxious</td>
<td>Al is so stressed out about his job that he can’t sleep at night.</td>
<td>You’ve been so stressed out lately. You really need to take a long vacation!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(to) tell off</td>
<td>to scold; to tell someone in strong words what one really thinks</td>
<td>When Ted showed up for chemistry class a half an hour late, his teacher really told him off.</td>
<td>Patty is going to tell off the plumber because the pipes he said he fixed are still leaking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>thank goodness</td>
<td>I’m grateful; I’m relieved</td>
<td>Thank goodness you’re home! I was so worried about you.”</td>
<td>Thank goodness you didn’t go to California on Monday. It rained there every day this week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(to) think big</td>
<td>to set high goals</td>
<td>Why run for Governor of New York? Think big: run for President of the United States!</td>
<td>Ken and Sandra hope to sell their house for $3 million dollars. They always think big.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What’s the matter?</td>
<td>What’s the problem?</td>
<td>What’s the matter, Bob? You don’t look very happy.</td>
<td>Oscar looks very pale. What’s the matter with him?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When pigs fly! [slang]</td>
<td>never</td>
<td>Will Ted teach Nicole how to play the guitar? When pigs fly!</td>
<td>Sure, I’ll give you my new laptop. When pigs fly!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYNONYMS: when hell freezes over; never in a million years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PRACTICE THEIDIOMS

Fill in the blank with the missing word:

1) What's the______? You look upset.
   a) situation   b) issue   c) matter

2) I know I can trust you. You would never stab me in the
   a) leg   b) back   c) arm

3) If Bob and Susan run out of money, they can always borrow
   money from Susan's sister as a_______ resort.
   a) final   b) first   c) last

4) You look really stressed______. Why don't you sit down,
   relax, and have a cup of tea?
   a) about   b) in   c) out

5) Bob, everything will be fine. You just need to keep your chin
   ______and remember that tomorrow is another day.
   a) up   b) down   c) above

6) I just can't make up my______ whether to order chicken or fish.
   a) head   b) brain   c) mind

7) Nicole accidentally stepped on Ted's guitar. Ted got really
   angry and told her______.
   a) off   b) out   c) away

8) Your husband left you for his psychologist? Hang______ there!
   I'm sure he'll realize she's crazy and then come back to you.
   a) up   b) in   c) out

ANSWERS TO LESSON 2, p. 160

Ted's chemistry class is way over his head.
TED'S DAY AT SCHOOL

Ted tells his parents he did poorly on his chemistry test. They tell him he needs to get serious and study more.

Susan: How was your day at school today, Ted?

Ted: Bad. I had a chemistry test, and I blew it!

Susan: Maybe if you didn't cut class so often, you'd do better.

Bob: That's right, son. Stop slacking off and start hitting the books!

Ted: But I can't stand chemistry class. Besides, it's a lost cause. That class is way over my head.

Susan: You need to buckle down.

Ted: When I'm a famous musician, people won't give a hoot about my knowledge of atoms and molecules.

Bob: That's beside the point.

Susan: We know you have your heart set on going to New York University.

Bob: And you don't stand a chance of getting in there with such poor grades!

Susan: How was your day at school today, Ted?

Ted: Bad. I had a chemistry test, and I blew it!

Susan: Maybe if you didn't cut class so often, you'd do better.

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Ted: When I'm a famous musician, people won't give a hoot about my knowledge of atoms and molecules.

Bob: That's beside the point.

Susan: We know you have your heart set on going to New York University.

Bob: And you don't stand a chance of getting in there with such poor grades!
lost cause - something hopeless
EXAMPLE 1: Cindy spent five years studying Russian. Finally, she realized it was a lost cause. She would never learn it. 
EXAMPLE 2: Jack needs to stop drinking so much coffee, but he's so addicted to caffeine that it's a lost cause.

(to) not give a hoot - to not care about
EXAMPLE 1: Tom likes to walk around town in his pajamas — he doesn't give a hoot what people think. 
EXAMPLE 2: Stephanie doesn't give a hoot if she's the only one wearing a green dress to the high school prom. 
SYNONYMS: to not give a damn; to not give a darn

over one's head - beyond one's understanding
EXAMPLE 1: The professor was speaking over our heads. None of us could understand him. 
EXAMPLE 2: The article on cloning was written for scientists. It was over my head.

(to) slack off - to waste time
EXAMPLE 1: Amanda doesn't get much done at the office. She's too busy slacking off. 
EXAMPLE 2: I'd better stop slacking off. My essay is due in two hours. 
NOTE: People who slack off all the time are called "slackers."

(to) stand a chance - to have the possibility of success
EXAMPLE 1: Although the American figure skaters were good, they didn't stand a chance of winning a gold medal at the Olympics. 
EXAMPLE 2: Wilton High School has the best soccer team in the state. I'm afraid we don't stand a chance against them.

Practicing the idioms

Choose the most appropriate reply to the following statements:

1) Bob: "Susan, I can't get my old job back. It's a lost cause." 
   Susan's reply:
   a) "Lost? Maybe I can help you find it."
   b) "Yes, I know it's not a good cause."
   c) "I understand. You'll find something else."

2) Susan: "How could Peter fire you? Were you slacking off?"
   Bob's reply:
   a) "No. I was working very hard!"
   b) "No. I talked on the phone to friends all day."
   c) "Yes. I was working very hard!"

3) Ted: "It's getting late. I'd better start hitting the books."
   Bob's reply:
   a) "Yes, that's a good idea. Spend some time studying."
   b) "Hit the books? Why don't you read them instead?"
   c) "Why don't you study instead?"

4) Peter: "I don't give a hoot how long you've been working here."
   Bob's reply:
   a) "I wouldn't give you a hoot either."
   b) "I guess our years together aren't important to you."
   c) "Yes, it was a long time."

5) Bob: "Susan, the truth is that I couldn't stand Peter."
   Susan's reply:
   a) "I know. Peter really liked you too."
   b) "I liked him too. He was a nice guy."
   c) "I didn't like him either. He was a jerk."

6) Susan: "Nicole, do you ever cut class?"
   Nicole's reply:
   a) "No. I've never missed a single class."
   b) "Yes. I had to leave my math class early yesterday."
   c) "No. Sometimes I go to the mall during class time."

7) Bob: "This book on computers is way over my head."
   Susan's reply:
   a) "Over your head? It should be in front of your face!"
   b) "Why don't you start with an easier book?"
   c) "Here, try this book. It's more difficult."

8) Nicole: "I've got my heart set on going to the school picnic."
   Susan's reply:
   a) "Okay. You should definitely go."
   b) "Really? Why don't you want to go?"
   c) "I understand. Picnics can be boring."

Answers to Lesson 3, p. 160
Nicole's Day at School

Nicole tells her mother Susan about her successful presentation at school. Her brother Ted overhears and interrupts the conversation.

Susan: How was your day at school today, Nicole?

Nicole: It was great, Mom. I gave a presentation on Hillary Clinton in government class. Afterwards, my teacher paid me a compliment.

Susan: What did she say?

Nicole: She said my presentation was head and shoulders above the others.

Susan: Way to go!

Nicole: She also said I should go into politics, just like Hillary.

Ted: You're so gung ho about school. It drives me crazy.

Nicole: Ted, don't butt in! You're just jealous.

Ted: Right. You hit the nail on the head. I'm green with envy.

Nicole: Would you just shut up? You're on thin ice with me right now.

Ted: Oh no! Look at me. I'm shaking in my shoes!

**Idioms - Lesson 4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Idiom</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(to) <strong>butt in</strong> [slang]</td>
<td>to interrupt; to interfere</td>
<td>EXAMPLE 1: Nancy is always butt ing in to other people's business. EXAMPLE 2: Sara is really rude. She always butts in to other people's conversations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(to) <strong>drive one crazy</strong></td>
<td>to annoy someone very much</td>
<td>EXAMPLE 1: Don't ask Mrs. Smith how old she is. It drives her crazy. EXAMPLE 2: Please stop chewing gum so loudly. It's driving me crazy!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(to) <strong>go into</strong></td>
<td>to enter a profession</td>
<td>EXAMPLE 1: Lisa enjoys arguing with people, so she decided to go into law. EXAMPLE 2: Do you like solving people's problems? If so, you should consider going into psychology. NOTE: “Go into” has several other meanings, including: 1. Enter. Go into the house and get a pen. 2. Enter another emotional state. Sally went into hysterics. 3. Discuss details. I don't have time now to go into the whole story.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(to) <strong>green with envy</strong></td>
<td>desiring another's advantages or things</td>
<td>EXAMPLE 1: When Daniel got promoted to vice president of the bank, his colleagues were green with envy. EXAMPLE 2: You won the lottery? I'm green with envy!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(to) <strong>gung ho</strong></td>
<td>very enthusiastic; very excited (about something)</td>
<td>EXAMPLE 1: Heather is really gung ho about her new job. EXAMPLE 2: Sharon really loves college. She's very gung ho. NOTE: If the expression &quot;gung ho&quot; doesn't sound like English to you, there's a reason. It comes from a Mandarin Chinese phrase meaning &quot;working together.&quot; A US Marine Corps commander in China adopted this expression as the motto for his battalion during World War 2 and from there it sailed over to the United States and came into common use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>head and shoulders above</strong></td>
<td>far superior to</td>
<td>EXAMPLE 1: The Boston Symphony Orchestra is head and shoulders above any other orchestra in the area. EXAMPLE 2: I can't believe you only won second prize in the competition. You were head and shoulders above the first-prize winner!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**PRACTICE THE IDIOMS**

**Fill in the blank with the missing word:**

1) Nicole is in a good mood because her teacher_____her a compliment.
   a) told  b) paid  c) provided

2) Nicole's teacher told her she was_____and shoulders above her classmates.
   a) elbow  b) neck  c) head

3) When my friend Chad told me he'd just won the lottery, I was____with envy.
   a) blue  b) green  c) red

4) When you do something well, your boss might tell you, "Way_____!
   a) to come  b) to go  c) to act

5) When the robbers entered my house, I was in the kitchen shaking in my_____.
   a) slippers  b) pajamas  c) shoes

6) If somebody is bothering you, you can tell them they're driving you______.
   a) crazy  b) angry  c) unhappy

7) If you like power, you might consider going_____politics.
   a) above  b) towards  c) into

8) "You've been yelling and screaming for the past two hours. Could you just shut_____already?"
   a) up  b) in  c) off

**Way to go! - Good work!**

EXAMPLE 1: You won $2,000 in the poetry writing contest? Way to go!
EXAMPLE 2: That was an interesting article you wrote. Way to go!
Choose the best substitute for the phrase or sentence in bold:

1) When her friend Anna got into Yale, Nicole was green with envy.
   a) sick
   b) happy for her
   c) very jealous

2) Bob and Susan are really gung ho about the TV show Survivor. They watch it every Thursday night.
   a) enthusiastic
   b) concerned
   c) angry

3) Shut up! I can’t take any more of your screaming.
   a) Talk louder!
   b) Be quiet!
   c) Get out!

4) You got a scholarship to attend Harvard? Way to go!
   a) Too bad!
   b) Good work!
   c) Oh well!

5) Please don’t butt in! We weren’t talking to you.
   a) look at us
   b) disagree with us
   c) interrupt our conversation

6) These cookies aren’t very good. I think you hit the nail on the head when you said I should add more sugar next time.
   a) were wrong
   b) were right
   c) were confused

ANSWERS TO LESSON 4, p. 160
TED GOES OUT FOR THE EVENING

Ted leaves to go visit his girlfriend Amber. Ted's mother Susan says she doesn't really like Amber. She wishes him a good time anyway.

Ted: See you later, Mom!

Susan: Where are you going, Ted?

Ted: I told Amber I'd drop by.

Susan: What are you two going to do?

Ted: Maybe go to the movies or to a party. Our plans are still up in the air.

Susan: Why don't you invite her over here?

Ted: I don't want to hang around here. Dad is really down in the dumps.

Susan: Is Amber the girl with the nose ring and the purple hair?

Ted: Yeah. I'm crazy about her!

Susan: Don't take this the wrong way, but she's not exactly my cup of tea.

Ted: Take it easy, Mom. We're not about to get married. We just enjoy hanging out together.

Susan: I guess there's no accounting for taste. Have a good time.

Ted: Don't worry. We'll have a blast!

Susan: (under her breath) That's what I'm afraid of!

IDAOMS - LESSON 5

about to - see Lesson 1

(to be) crazy about - to like very much

EXAMPLE 1: Amy is so crazy about golf, she'd like to play every day.
EXAMPLE 2: I'm sure Katie will agree to go out on a date with Sam. She's crazy about him!

cup of tea - the type of person or thing that one generally likes

EXAMPLE 1: Hockey isn't Alan's cup of tea. He prefers soccer.
EXAMPLE 2: I know Joy is nice, but she's simply not my cup of tea.

NOTE: This expression is almost always used in the negative. She's not my cup of tea.

(to be) down in the dumps - to feel sad; to be depressed

EXAMPLE 1: It's not surprising that Lisa is down in the dumps. Paws, the cat she had for 20 years, just died.
EXAMPLE 2: It's easy to feel down in the dumps when it's raining outside.

(to) drop by - to pay a short, often unannounced visit

EXAMPLE 1: If we have time before the movie, let's drop by Bill's house.
EXAMPLE 2: "Hi, I was in the neighborhood so I thought I'd drop by!"

(to) hang around - to spend time idly; to linger

EXAMPLE 1: We had to hang around the airport for an extra six hours because our flight was delayed.
EXAMPLE 2: Nina's boyfriend Boris is coming over soon. She hopes her parents aren't planning on hanging around the house.

(to) hang out - to spend time (often doing nothing)

EXAMPLE 1: Ted spent all of last summer hanging out by his friend's pool.
EXAMPLE 2: Kathy and her friends like to hang out at the mall.

NOTE: "Hang out with" means to keep company with someone.
**Example 1:** Last summer, Nicole **had a blast** backpacking through Europe with some friends.

**Example 2:** Heather spent her spring break in Fort Lauderdale with millions of other college students. She **had a blast**!

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**Example 1:** Marcy and Jose **had a good time** salsa dancing at Babalu, a nightclub in Manhattan.

**Example 2:** Nora and Jake **had a good time** on their honeymoon in Maui.

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**Example 1:** You lost your keys? **Take it easy,** I’m sure you’ll find them.

**Example 2:** Stop yelling and **take it easy.** I’m sure there’s a good explanation for why Joe borrowed your car without asking first.

---

**Example 1:** Don’t **take this the wrong way,** but I liked your hair better before you got it cut.

**Example 2:** Jessica is offended. I guess she **took it the wrong way** when I told her she should exercise more.

**Note:** This expression is often used in the negative form: “**Don’t take this the wrong way,** but...”

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**Example 1:** Ted likes to put sugar on his spaghetti. I guess **there’s no accounting for taste.**

**Example 2:** Tiffany has a tattoo of a squirrel on her leg. **There’s no accounting for taste.**

---

**Example 1:** "Amber is strange," muttered Nicole **under her breath,** as Ted was leaving the room.

**Example 2:** Mike agreed to take out the garbage, saying **under his breath,** "I always do the dirty work around here."

---

**Example 1:** It might rain later, so our plans for the picnic are **up in the air.**

**Example 2:** Our trip to Russia is **up in the air.** We aren’t sure we’ll get our visas in time.
Review for Lessons 1-5

Fill in the blank with the missing word:

1) After copying from his friend's paper during the test, Ted was on______ice with his chemistry teacher.
   a) thick   b) thin   c) dangerous

2) Ted's teacher hit the______on the head. Ted should spend less time playing guitar and more time studying.
   a) tack   b) nail   c) screw

3) I'm not really crazy about my friend's husband. He talks too much, and he never listens to what anybody else is saying. He's just not my cup of______.
   a) coffee   b) cocoa   c) tea

4) If Ted has his____set on going to New York University, he's going to have to buckle down and start studying more.
   a) life   b) brain   c) heart

5) It's not surprising that Nicole gets such good grades. She's as______as a tack.
   a) smart   b) sharp   c) clever

6) When Peter______his temper, it's very scary. He throws furniture everywhere.
   a) loses   b) finds   c) opens

7) After Jane started hitting the______, her grades started improving immediately.
   a) work   b) books   c) teachers

8) Nicole said something ___ her breath, but I couldn't hear it. When I asked her to repeat it, she refused.
   a) on   b) about   c) under

9) Will Ted ever be the best student in his class? Sure, when______!
   a) sheep   b) goats   c) pigs

10) A positive attitude leads to success. When things get difficult, it's important to keep your______up.
    a) chin   b) neck   c) head

11) Bob was all stressed______because the traffic was making him late for a doctor's appointment.
    a) over   b) out   c) up

12) Frank knew that the judge had already decided he was guilty. There was no point______arguing with him.
    a) in   b) around   c) about

13) Some people think Nicole and Susan are sisters. That really_____Nicole crazy!
    a) does   b) causes   c) drives

14) Ted has been slacking_____since the first day of high school, so it's not surprising that he's doing so poorly.
    a) around   b) off   c) about

15) During the Depression in the 1930's, many families in America were living from hand to______.
    a) arm   b) mouth   c) hand
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across
2. "What's the____?" Sue asked Bob. "You look very unhappy."
3. Sue doesn't want Bob to be sad. She wants him to keep his____ up.
4. Bob's boss doesn't want Bob back. He's already made up his____.
6. After failing his chemistry class once, Ted is taking it again. "Don't ____ it this time!" said his father.
7. Bob doesn't like the people at Honest Abe's Furniture Store. They give him the____.
8. Ted's father wants him to study more. He tells Ted to hit the____.
9. You got an "A" in every subject? That's very impressive! You must be as sharp as a____.

Down
1. Bob was____. Now he needs to find a new job.
3. Nicole's teacher was pleased with her and paid her a____.
5. Ted's fancy new CD player cost an arm and a____.
7. Ted is doing poorly in chemistry because he____ class so often.
8. I wouldn't trust Lisa. She has a long history of stabbing her friends in the____.

ANSWERS TO REVIEW, p. 161
LESSON 6

SUSAN STAYS HOME AND BAKES COOKIES

Susan decides to cheer up her husband. Bob loves her homemade cookies. Nicole suggests she start a cookie business.

Susan: Bob, I baked cookies for you.

Bob: That was so nice of you, dear. You've got a heart of gold!

Susan: Go ahead and pig out!

Bob: These are delicious!

Susan: I thought they might cheer you up. You've been in a bad mood lately.

Bob: I guess I have been a little on edge. But these cookies are just what the doctor ordered!

Nicole: Do I smell cookies?

Susan: Yes, Nicole. Help yourself.

Nicole: Yum-yum.* These are out of this world. You could go into business selling these!

Bob: You could call them Susan's Scrumptious Cookies.

You'd make a bundle.

Susan: Good thinking!

Nicole: Don't forget to give me credit for the idea after you're rich and famous!

Susan: You know I always give credit where credit is due!

* Yum-yum: this is said when something is delicious. You can also say "mmm, mmm" or "mmm-mmm, good."

IDIOMS - LESSON 6

(to) cheer someone up - to make someone happy

EXAMPLE 1: Susan called her friend in the hospital to cheer her up.
EXAMPLE 2: My father has been depressed for weeks now. I don't know what to do to cheer him up.
NOTE: You can tell somebody to "Cheer up!" if they are feeling sad.

(to) give (someone) credit - to acknowledge someone's contribution; to recognize a positive trait in someone

EXAMPLE 1: The scientist gave his assistant credit for the discovery.
EXAMPLE 2: I can't believe you asked your boss for a raise when your company is doing so poorly. I must give you credit for your courage!

(to) give credit where credit is due - to give thanks or acknowledgement to the person who deserves it

EXAMPLE: I will be sure to thank you when I give my speech. I always give credit where credit is due.

(to) go into business - to start a business

EXAMPLE 1: Jeff decided to go into business selling baseball cards.
EXAMPLE 2: Eva went into business selling her homemade muffins.

good thinking - good idea; smart planning

EXAMPLE 1: I'm glad you brought an umbrella — that was good thinking!
EXAMPLE 2: You reserved our movie tickets over the Internet? Good thinking!

(to) have a heart of gold - to be very kind and giving

EXAMPLE 1: Alexander has a heart of gold and always thinks of others before himself.
EXAMPLE 2: You adopted five children from a Romanian orphanage? You've got a heart of gold!
Help yourself - serve yourself
EXAMPLE 1: "Help yourselves to cookies and coffee," said Maria before the meeting started.
EXAMPLE 2: You don't need to wait for me to offer you something. Please just help yourself to whatever you want.
NOTE: Pay attention to the reflexive form: Help yourself in singular, help yourselves in plural.

(to be) in a bad mood - unhappy; depressed; irritable
EXAMPLE 1: After her boyfriend broke up with her, Nicole was in a bad mood for several days.
EXAMPLE 2: I don't like to see you in a bad mood. How can I cheer you up?

just what the doctor ordered - exactly what was needed
EXAMPLE 1: Martin wanted a hot drink after spending the day skiing. A cup of hot cocoa was just what the doctor ordered.
EXAMPLE 2: Our trip to Florida was so relaxing. It was just what the doctor ordered!

(to) make a bundle - to make a lot of money
EXAMPLE 1: Bob's friend Charles made a bundle in the stock market and retired at age 45.
EXAMPLE 2: Sara made a bundle selling her old fur coats on eBay, a website where you can buy and sell used things.

(to be) on edge - nervous; irritable
EXAMPLE 1: Whenever Susan feels on edge, she takes several deep breaths and starts to feel more relaxed.
EXAMPLE 2: Ever since his car accident, Neil has felt on edge.

out of this world - delicious
EXAMPLE 1: Mrs. Field's oatmeal raisin cookies are out of this world!
EXAMPLE 2: Mmmm, I love your chicken soup. It's out of this world!

(to) pig out [slang] - to eat greedily; to stuff oneself
EXAMPLE 1: Ted pigged out on hot dogs and hamburgers at the barbecue and then got a stomachache.
EXAMPLE 2: "Nicole, stop pigging out on cookies or you'll never be able to eat your dinner!"
NOTE: Pay attention to the preposition "on" after the verb "to pig out." One can pig out on hotdogs, pig out on candy, pig out on ice cream.

PRACTICE THE IDIOMS
Choose the best substitute for the phrase or sentence in bold:

1) Thanks for baking cookies for me. You've got a heart of gold.
   a) You're a very nice person.
   b) You're a reliable person.
   c) You're very generous with your money.

2) I baked these cookies for you. Why don't you pig out?
   a) Please take just one cookie.
   b) Take as many cookies as you like.
   c) Why don't you ever eat my cookies?

3) I know you'll like my cookies since you've got a sweet tooth.
   a) your teeth are hurting
   b) you don't like sweet things
   c) you like sweet things

4) You should go into business selling cookies.
   a) You should go to the store and buy some cookies.
   b) You should try to get a job baking cookies.
   c) You should start a company that sells cookies.

5) I baked these cookies. Help yourself!
   a) Let me get you one!
   b) Take some!
   c) You need to get some help!

6) If you went into business selling these delicious cookies, you'd make a bundle.
   a) you'd make many cookies
   b) you'd make a lot of money
   c) you'd make a few dollars
7) **Good thinking!**
   a) That's a good idea!
   b) It's good that you're thinking!
   c) Keep thinking good thoughts!

8) I was thirsty. This iced tea is **just what the doctor ordered.**
   a) exactly what I needed
   b) very healthy for me
   c) exactly what my doctor recommended

*ANSWERS TO LESSON 6, p. 161*
LESSON 7

SUSAN HIRES BOB TO RUN HER BUSINESS

Susan stays up all night thinking about her cookie business. In the morning, she discusses it with Bob. Bob agrees to work for her.

Bob: You're up bright and early this morning, Susan.

Susan: I didn't sleep a wink. I was awake all night thinking about the new business.

Bob: Running your own business is lots of work. Are you prepared to work like a dog?

Susan: No. But I am prepared to hire you to run the business.

Bob: You want me to run a cookie business? Fat chance!

Susan: Why not?

Bob: I don't have a clue about making cookies. I don't even know how to turn the oven on!

Susan: I'll give you a crash course.

Bob: Do I have to do the baking?

Susan: No. You'll just manage the business side.

Bob: Needless to say, I have mixed feelings about working for you.

Susan: I'll be nice. I promise you'll be a happy camper.

Bob: Okay. Let's give it a shot, boss!

IDIOMS - LESSON 7

bright and early - early in the morning
EXAMPLE 1: Our flight to Berlin leaves at 7:00 a.m. tomorrow, so we'll have to get up bright and early.
EXAMPLE 2: We have lots of cookies to bake so we'll have to start bright and early tomorrow.
SYNONYM: at the crack of dawn

crash course - short and intensive instruction
EXAMPLE 1: Yesterday, Joan's son sat down with her for a couple of hours and gave her a crash course on using the Internet.
EXAMPLE 2: Rachel had a date on Friday night with an auto mechanic. He gave her a crash course on changing her oil.

Fat chance! - definitely not
EXAMPLE 1: The boys at school are always laughing at Dana. Will she be invited to the school dance? Fat chance!
EXAMPLE 2: You want to borrow my new car and drive it across the country? Fat chance!
SYNONYMS: never in a million years; no way!

(to) give it a shot - to try something
EXAMPLE 1: I've never tried to make wine in my bathtub before, but perhaps I'll give it a shot.
EXAMPLE 2: You can't open that jar? Let me give it a shot.
SYNONYMS: to give it a try; to try one's hand at something
NOTE: "To give it one's best shot" means to try as hard as one can. I know you're nervous about the interview — just give it your best shot.
happy camper  [slang] - a happy person; a satisfied participant
EXAMPLE 1: When Linda's passport was stolen in Florence, she was not a happy camper.
EXAMPLE 2: Steve is taking five difficult courses this semester. He's not a happy camper!
NOTE: This expression is usually used in the negative (not a happy camper).

(to have) mixed feelings - to feel positive about one aspect of something and negative about another
EXAMPLE 1: When our houseguests decided to stay for another week, I had mixed feelings. On the one hand, I enjoyed hanging out with them. On the other hand, I was tired of cooking for them.
EXAMPLE 2: I have mixed feelings about the president of our company. He's good with the clients, but he's nasty to his employees.

needless to say - obviously
EXAMPLE 1: You've got a test tomorrow morning. Needless to say, you can't stay out late tonight.
EXAMPLE 2: Needless to say, you shouldn't have waited until Christmas Eve to do your shopping. The stores are going to be very crowded!
SYNONYM: it goes without saying. Example: You've got a test tomorrow, so it goes without saying that you can't stay out late tonight.

(to) not have a clue - to know nothing about
EXAMPLE 1: Bob talks about working at McDonald's, but the truth is he doesn't have a clue about making hamburgers.
EXAMPLE 2: "Do you know how to fix a broken printer?" - "No, I don't have a clue!"

(to) not sleep a wink - to be awake all night
EXAMPLE 1: Ted was so nervous about his chemistry test that he didn't sleep a wink the night before.
EXAMPLE 2: It's not surprising that Jill didn't sleep a wink last night. She drank a large cup of coffee before going to bed.

(to) work like a dog - to work very hard
EXAMPLE 1: Larry became an investment banker after college, and now he works like a dog.
EXAMPLE 2: Al worked like a dog on his term paper and got an "A+" on it.
SYNONYMS: to work one's tail off; to work like a horse; to work one's fingers to the bone

PRACTICE THE IDIOMS
Fill in the blank with the missing word:

1) Bob was surprised to see his wife up_____and early in the morning.
   a) light    b) bright    c) ready
2) Last week I worked 80 hours. I really worked like a_____.
   a) dog    b) cat    c) squirrel
3) Bob had never baked anything before in his life. He didn't even have a_____about how to turn the oven on.
   a) hint    b) suggestion    c) clue
4) If you need to learn something quickly, you'd better take a_____course.
   a) crash    b) fast    c) beginner's
5) Bob wasn't sure he wanted to work for his wife. He had_____feelings.
   a) nervous    b) mixed    c) confused
6) Jennifer's boss is lousy and her salary is low. She's not a happy_____.
   a) scout    b) tourist    c) camper
7) Bob decided to work for Susan. He figured he'd give it a_____.
   a) shot    b) pop    c) choice
8) Nicole was up all night finishing her Spanish homework. She didn't sleep a_____.
   a) drink    b) blink    c) wink

ANSWERS TO LESSON 7, p. 161
LESSON 8

TED FORMS A ROCK BAND

Ted plans to become a successful musician. First, he needs Susan to loan him money for a new guitar. Susan suggests that Ted bake cookies to earn the money.

Susan: You're in good spirits today, Ted.

Ted: I've got great news, Mom.

Susan: What is it?

Ted: Amber and I are going to start a rock band!

Susan: Good for you!

Ted: Mom, I'm not going to beat around the bush. I need to borrow $1,000 for a new guitar.

Susan: Ted, your father and I can't shell out that much. We aren't made of money.

Ted: You're not? I thought you were millionaires, like Donald and Ivana Trump!*

Susan: Ha ha. This is no time to be a wise guy!

Ted: I promise I'll pay you back.

Susan: How?

Ted: We're going to take the music world by storm and make lots of money.

Susan: That sounds like a pipe dream. Aren't high school rock bands a dime a dozen?

Ted: Yeah, but we're different. With my guitar playing and Amber's beautiful voice, we're sure to make a splash!

Susan: Well, we're going through hard times. You're going to have to work for that $1,000.

Ted: How?

Susan: You can bake cookies.

Ted: I bet Mrs. Clapton never made Eric** bake cookies, but I guess those are the breaks.

* Donald Trump is a famous American millionaire who made his money in real estate. Ivana is his ex-wife.

** Eric Clapton is a very popular guitarist.

IDIOMS - LESSON 8

(to) beat around the bush - to talk around the subject; to avoid getting to the point

EXAMPLE 1: Kara beat around the bush for an hour, then finally told us she needed a ride to Kennedy Airport.

EXAMPLE 2: If you want something, tell me. Don’t beat around the bush!

dime a dozen - so plentiful as to be nothing special; common

EXAMPLE 1: Reality TV shows are a dime a dozen these days.

EXAMPLE 2: There are so many Starbucks coffee shops in Manhattan, they’re a dime a dozen.

NOTE: This expression comes from the fact that a "dime" is worth only ten cents (very little value).
**Good for you!** - Good job! Well done!

**EXAMPLE 1:** You won $100,000 on the TV game show Jeopardy? **Good for you!**

**EXAMPLE 2:** You passed your math test? **Good for you!**

*hard times* - a time of difficulty

**EXAMPLE 1:** Since his wife left him for her dentist, Dan has been going through **hard times.**

**EXAMPLE 2:** Nancy's family is going through **hard times.** Her father just lost his job.

*(to be) in good spirits* - happy; in a good mood

**EXAMPLE 1:** After she won the tennis tournament, Elizabeth was **in good spirits.**

**EXAMPLE 2:** Sam was **in good spirits** after receiving his Christmas bonus.

*made of money* - very rich

**EXAMPLE 1:** My neighbor is re-modeling his house to look like Versailles. He doesn't have good taste, but he certainly is **made of money.**

**EXAMPLE 2:** Max should be willing to loan you $10,000 to start your new business. He's **made of money.**

**SYNONYMS:** loaded; rolling in dough; to have money to burn

*(to) make a splash* - to win popularity quickly

**EXAMPLE 1:** Nicole's beautiful cousin Cecilia from Santo Domingo really **made a splash** at the high school dance.

**EXAMPLE 2:** Those new jeans really **made a splash.** All the kids are wearing them.

**SYNONYM:** to be a hit

*(to) pay (someone) back* - to repay a loan or debt

**EXAMPLE 1:** Nicole **paid her friend back** the $10 she borrowed.

**EXAMPLE 2:** You can borrow $50, but don't forget to **pay me back!**

**NOTE:** "Pay back" also means to "get revenge." Example: I know you're the one who stole my car, and one day I'll think of a way to **pay you back!**

*pipe dream* - an unrealistic hope

**EXAMPLE 1:** Susan would like to move to New Zealand and write romance novels, but she knows that's just a **pipe dream.**

**EXAMPLE 2:** You want to become a famous actor on Broadway? That sounds like a **pipe dream.**

*(to) shell out* - to pay (often more than one would like)

**EXAMPLE 1:** Bob **shelled out** $5,000 for Nicole's piano lessons before she decided she'd rather play the flute.

**EXAMPLE 2:** How much am I going to have to **shell out** to get two tickets to the Rolling Stones concert?

*(to) take (something) by storm* - to win popularity quickly

**EXAMPLE 1:** The play "The Producers" really **took New York by storm.**

**EXAMPLE 2:** That new restaurant really **took Chicago by storm!**

*(that's or those are) the breaks* - when something bad happens and you can't do anything about it

**EXAMPLE 1:** By the time we got to the theater, the new Harry Potter movie was already sold out. Oh well, **that's the breaks!**

**EXAMPLE 2:** Your glasses fell on a rock and broke while you were fishing? **Those are the breaks!**

*wise guy* [slang] - a smart aleck; one who makes a lot of sarcastic comments

**EXAMPLE 1:** When Mrs. Lee asked Joey what he wanted to be when he grew up, he said, "An adult." She told him not to be such a **wise guy.**

**EXAMPLE 2:** That clerk in the video store is a real **wise guy.** He's always making nasty comments about the customers.

**SYNONYMS:** wise ass [rude], smart ass [rude]

**PrACTICE THE IDIOMS**

Choose the best substitute for the phrase in bold:

1) **I'm in good spirits** today because I got a promotion at work.
   ![Choice](a) happy  
   ![Choice](b) drunk  
   ![Choice](c) tired

2) Renting an apartment on Park Avenue in Manhattan is difficult, unless you're **made of money.**
   ![Choice](a) wealthy  
   ![Choice](b) strange  
   ![Choice](c) famous
3) My friend's daughter paints beautiful pictures. In a few years, she'll take the art world by storm.
   a) something bad will happen and she'll lose her job
   b) she'll draw an excellent painting of a storm
   c) she'll become a very successful artist

4) Susan thinks that Ted's plan to become a famous rock star is a pipe dream.
   a) something that is not likely to happen
   b) Ted's biggest hope
   c) something very realistic

5) If you're looking for a new suit, you shouldn't have a problem. Clothing shops in this town are a dime a dozen.
   a) hard to find
   b) everywhere
   c) lousy

6) Ted performed at his high school dance. He knew he'd made a splash when all the girls started singing along.
   a) done something wrong
   b) made a very positive impression
   c) created waves

7) Being a wise guy can be fun, but it might not make you popular with your teachers.
   a) a very intelligent person
   b) an obnoxious person who makes sarcastic comments
   c) a person whom everybody admires

8) Nicole wants to attend Yale, but her parents don't want to shell out $100,000 for the tuition.
   a) waste
   b) save
   c) pay

*ANSWERS TO LESSON 8, p. 161*
Nicole discusses her plans to run for student body president. Nicole wants Ted to ask his friends to vote for her. Ted agrees, in exchange for Nicole's help with his homework.

Nicole: I've decided to run for student body president! If I'm going to become a senator one day, I should get some experience under my belt now.

Ted: Andrea Jenkins is also running. She'll give you a run for your money!

Nicole: Andrea Jenkins is an idiot. I'm by far the better candidate.

Ted: Don't be so full of yourself! I might vote for Andrea.

Nicole: Stop kidding around. Let's get down to business. I need your help.

Ted: You want me to help you!

Nicole: Yes. I need you to talk your friends into voting for me.

Ted: But you never give my friends the time of day. All you give them is the cold shoulder.

Nicole: That's because they've got blue hair and nose rings!

Ted: They're better than your friends — a bunch of goody-goodies and brown-nosers!

Nicole: That's beside the point. Let's talk about your friends and their votes.

Ted: Okay. You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours. If you do my chemistry homework, I'll help you get the votes.

Nicole: I'm not crazy about that idea. But, okay, it's a deal. I hope I can count on you.

IDiOMS - LESSON 9

beside the point - see Lesson 3

brown-noser [slang] - a person who's constantly trying to win favor with people above them, such as teachers or bosses
EXAMPLE 1: Lauren is such a brown-noser. She's always telling her teacher how much she enjoys class.
EXAMPLE 2: Dennis brought the boss lunch today? What a brown-noser!
NOTE: You will also see the verb form of this expression: "to brown-nose." Example: Dennis is always brown-nosing the boss, but I still don't think he's going to get a promotion.

by far - by a wide margin; by a great difference
EXAMPLE 1: Some people think Tom Hanks is by far the best actor in America today.
EXAMPLE 2: Mediterranean Grill is by far the best restaurant in town. No wonder it's so hard to get a reservation there!
SYNONYMS: by a long shot; far and away; hands down
(to count on someone) - to depend or rely on someone
EXAMPLE 1: My brother has a great sense of humor, so I can always count on him to cheer me up.
EXAMPLE 2: If I can count on you to wake me up, I won’t set my alarm clock.

(to be) crazy about - see Lesson 3

full of oneself - to think too much of oneself
EXAMPLE 1: After Angela appeared on the cover of Vogue magazine, she was really full of herself.
EXAMPLE 2: Mitch thinks he’s really great. He’s so full of himself.

(to get down to business) - to get serious about a task
EXAMPLE 1: The book club members spent the first two hours of their meeting eating and drinking before finally getting down to business.
EXAMPLE 2: Our dinner guests are arriving in two hours. We’d better get down to business and start preparing.

(to get or to have under one’s belt) - to have or to get experience
EXAMPLE 1: Kristen had three years of working for a large law firm under her belt before leaving to start her own firm.
EXAMPLE 2: Ernie needs to get an MBA under his belt to get the job he wants.

(to give (someone) a run for (one’s) money) - to be strong competition
EXAMPLE 1: We lost the soccer tournament, but we certainly gave the girls from Stamford High School a run for their money.
EXAMPLE 2: Tina is a good tennis player and always gives me a run for my money.

(to give someone the cold shoulder) - to be cold to someone on purpose; to snub someone
EXAMPLE 1: When Lisa saw Amber at the mall, she didn’t even stop to talk to her. She really gave her the cold shoulder.
EXAMPLE 2: I can’t understand why Joe would give you the cold shoulder. I thought you two were good friends!
SYNONYM: to blow someone off. Example: Amber can’t understand why Lisa blew her off at the mall.

(to not) give someone the time of day - to ignore someone; to refuse to pay any attention to someone
EXAMPLE 1: Sandra never gave me the time of day back in college, but now she calls me all the time for advice.
EXAMPLE 2: Why don’t you find a new stockbroker? Yours is always so busy, she barely gives you the time of day.

goody-goody - self-righteously or smugly good
EXAMPLE 1: Goody-goodies usually sit in the front row and smile at the teacher during class.
EXAMPLE 2: Samantha is a real goody-goody. She always offers to erase the blackboard at the end of class.
SYNONYMS: goody two-shoes; teacher’s pet

it’s a deal - I agree (to a proposal or offer)
EXAMPLE 1: You’ll make dinner every night for a month if I help you with your homework? Okay, it’s a deal!
EXAMPLE 2: “If you rake up all the leaves in front of the house, I’ll do the dishes.” “It’s a deal!”

(to kid around) - to joke around; to tease
EXAMPLE 1: Jeremy loves to kid around, so don’t be offended by anything he says.
EXAMPLE 2: While they were kidding around, Tim accidentally poked Rob in the eye. He had to be rushed to the emergency room of the hospital.
NOTE: You will often hear this in the negative “not kidding around.” This means to take something very seriously. Example: The White House is not kidding around with airport security.

(to talk into) - to persuade; to convince
EXAMPLE 1: Chris didn’t want to jump out of the plane, but Erin talked him into it.
EXAMPLE 2: Stop trying to talk me into going to the dance club on Saturday night. I already decided that I’m going to Maria’s party instead.

you scratch my back and I’ll scratch yours - if you do me a favor, I’ll do you a favor; let’s cooperate
EXAMPLE 1: I’ll help you with your homework if you do the dishes. You scratch my back and I’ll scratch yours.
EXAMPLE 2: If I drive you into the city, will you pick up my dry cleaning? You scratch my back and I’ll scratch yours.
PRACTICE THE IDIOMS

Fill in the blank with the missing word:

1) Nicole is very reliable. You can always count_____her.
   a) in          b) on          c) with

2) I need to ask you for your help, and I'll do something nice for you in return. You scratch my ____ and I'll scratch yours.
   a) back        b) neck        c) foot

3) Stop kidding____! Tell me where you hid my shoes.
   a) about       b) around      c) into

4) I can't believe that Lisa gave you the ____ shoulder. I thought you two were friends.
   a) hot         b) freezing     c) cold

5) Ted's friends didn't want to vote for Nicole, but Ted talked them_____it.
   a) into        b) around      c) for

6) Although Jim Greene was_____far the more qualified candidate, he lost the election because of a scandal.
   a) way         b) in          c) by

7) Denise is really full_____herself. She thinks she's the smartest and most beautiful woman in the world.
   a) with        b) of          c) in

8) Nicole thinks that Andrea is a snob. She says Andrea won't_____her the time of day.
   a) give        b) allow       c) tell

ANSWERS TO LESSON 9. p. 162
Bob Visits the Village Market

Bob goes to the Village Market, a supermarket in town. He asks Carol, the owner of the store, if she would like to sell Susan's Scrumptious Cookies. Carol agrees, but isn't able to tell Bob how much she'll pay him.

Bob: Thank you for making time for me today, Carol.
Carol: Don't mention it, Bob. What's up?
Bob: My wife baked these cookies from scratch. Please take one.
Carol: Mmmm, chewy. These are out of this world!
Bob: My wife's a great cook.
Carol: You can say that again. I don't want to make a pig of myself, but let me take a few more.
Bob: Oink oink! Just kidding!
Carol: I'd like to sell these at the Village Market. My customers will go nuts over these!
Bob: How much would you pay us for each cookie?
Carol: I'm not sure. I need to roll up my sleeves and figure out the finances.

Bob: Can you give me a ballpark figure now?
Carol: I don't want to jump the gun. Sit tight for now, and we'll talk things over this evening.

IDIOMS - LESSON 10

ballpark figure - an approximate number
EXAMPLE 1: The auto mechanic didn't know exactly how much the repairs would cost, but he was able to give me a ballpark figure.
EXAMPLE 2: The plumber estimated that it would cost $150 to fix our sink, but that was just a ballpark figure.

Don't mention it! - you're welcome
EXAMPLE 1: "Thanks for bringing the cookies," I said to Susan. "Don't mention it!" she replied.
EXAMPLE 2: "Thanks for picking up my suit at the dry cleaners." - "Don't mention it. It was my pleasure."

(to) figure out - to solve; to determine
EXAMPLE 1: Ted couldn't figure out one of his math problems, so he asked his sister for help.
EXAMPLE 2: Susan is sure she'll never figure out why kids today behave the way they do.

from scratch - from the beginning; using all fresh ingredients rather than using a prepared mix
EXAMPLE 1: The house was in such bad shape, they decided to tear it down and re-build it from scratch.
EXAMPLE 2: You baked these muffins from scratch? They're delicious!

(to) go nuts [slang] - to react with great enthusiasm
EXAMPLE 1: When Tiger Woods got a hole-in-one during the golf tournament, the crowd went nuts.
EXAMPLE 2: When Eminem appeared on stage, everybody went nuts.
NOTE: This expression also means "to go crazy" or "to become crazy with anger." Example: Jim went nuts when his wife told him she was leaving him for another man.
**PRACTICE THE IDIOMS**

Imagine that you are Bob and that you’re meeting with Carol from the Village Market to sell her your cookies. Choose the most appropriate replies to Carol’s questions and statements:

1) Carol: "I'm glad I was able to make time to see you today."
   
   **Bob's reply:**
   a) "I guess I'll see you tomorrow then."
   b) "It must be nice to have so much free time."
   c) "Yes, thanks for fitting me into your busy schedule."

2) Carol: "What's up?"
   
   **Bob's reply:**
   a) "Fine, thank you."
   b) "I'd like to discuss a business deal with you."
   c) "I don't know. Let me check with my wife."

3) Carol: "These cookies are out of this world. What do you think?"
   
   **Bob's reply:**
   a) "I agree. They're delicious!"
   b) "I don't know where they are."
   c) "No thanks. I've already had ten cookies."

4) Carol: "Did your wife make these from scratch?"
   
   **Bob's reply:**
   a) "No, she made them from flour, eggs, and sugar."
   b) "Yes, she did. She loves to bake."
   c) "Yes. She bought a roll of Pillsbury frozen dough and heated it in the oven for 15 minutes."

5) Carol: "I ate seven cookies. Do you think I've made a pig of myself?"
   
   **Bob's reply:**
   a) "Not at all. These cookies are hard to resist!"
   b) "Yes. You look just like a pig."
   c) "Yes. Pigs love to eat cookies too."
6) **Carol:** "I think my customers will go nuts over these cookies."
   **Bob's reply:**
   a) "I agree. After all, they're very good!"
   b) "Nuts? Sure, we can put nuts in the cookies."
   c) "I disagree. They'll probably like them."

7) **Carol:** "Bob, I'm not ready to give you a ballpark figure yet."
   **Bob's reply:**
   a) "Okay, how about one dollar per cookie?"
   b) "When you're ready, we can sell them in the ballpark."
   c) "Okay, I can wait until tomorrow."

8) **Carol:** "I don't want to jump the gun by discussing details now."
   **Bob's reply:**
   a) "I understand. Take some time to think about it."
   b) "I didn't say anything about selling you guns."
   c) "Thanks, I'd love an answer right now."

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**Review for lessons 6-10**

Choose the best substitute for the phrase in bold:

1) This apple pie is **out of this world.**
   a) not bad
   b) from another planet
   c) delicious

2) Jane was feeling **on edge,** so she went to a day spa to relax.
   a) anxious
   b) relaxed
   c) angry

3) You ate 15 cookies? You really **made a pig of yourself!**
   a) turned into an animal with a snout and tail
   b) made yourself sick
   c) ate more than you should have

4) Bob wasn't sure he wanted to work for his wife's cookie company, but she **talked him into it.**
   a) forced him
   b) convinced him
   c) asked him

5) Nancy **doesn't have a clue** about the Internet. She's never even used e-mail.
   a) understands deeply
   b) knows nothing
   c) is learning a lot

6) Stop **beating around the bush!** I don't know what you're trying to tell me.
   a) avoiding the subject
   b) hitting the trees
   c) repeating yourself

7) Paul likes to draw silly cartoons of his classmates on the blackboard before class. He's a **wise guy.**
   a) bad student
   b) smart person
   c) sarcastic person

8) Tom needed to learn how to ride a horse before his trip to Ireland, so he took a **crash course.**
   a) short, intensive class
   b) class in falling down
   c) semester-long class

9) Laura **made a bundle** when she was younger, and now she spends every day on the golf course.
   a) had a good job
   b) made lots of money
   c) stole money

10) The doctor will be with you soon. Please **sit tight.**
    a) come back later
    b) wait patiently
    c) follow me
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across
2. Stop beating around the _____ and get to the point already!
6. Susan's cookies really made a _____ at the Village Market. Everybody loved them!
7. You want to be a famous painter? That sounds like a _____ dream!
8. When Ted was asked to perform at the high school dance, he was one happy _____.
11. When I ran into Mary at the mall, she gave me the cold _____.
12. Stop _____ around! We've got work to do.

Down
1. If you need to learn something quickly, you can take a course.
2. I don't need an exact number right now. A _____ is fine.
3. I always prefer cakes and cookies made from ______.
4. If there's one thing teachers hate, it's a _____.
5. It's nice when a boss gives you the _____ for your ideas.
9. I have _____ feelings about visiting Puerto Rico in August. On the one hand, it won't be too full of tourists. On the other hand, it will be very hot.
10. Susan is always helping others. She's got a heart of _____.
13. I don't know how I got talked _____ taking a tour of Costa Rica during the rainy season.

ANSWERS TO REVIEW, p. 162
BOB DRIVES A HARD BARGAIN

Carol from the Village Market calls Bob to discuss Susan's Scrumptious Cookies. Carol and Bob discuss how much Bob will receive for each cookie.

Carol: Hi Bob. How's it going?

Bob: Fine thanks, Carol. How are you?

Carol: Can't complain. Bob, I've had a chance to crunch some numbers. I can pay you 50c per cookie.

Bob: That's out of the question. At that price, it's not worth our while. The ingredients alone cost us 30c per cookie.

Carol: Okay, let me sweeten the deal — 60c per cookie?

Bob: Carol, my wife and I need to make a living from this business.

Carol: Okay, okay, you've twisted my arm. I'll pay you 75c per cookie. Take it or leave it!

Bob: Now you're talking! We'll take it.

Carol: You drive a hard bargain, Bob.

Bob: Yes, but we make a good cookie.

Carol: Let's get the ball rolling. Bring me 2,000 cookies on Monday morning by 9 a.m.

IDIOMS - LESSON 11

can't complain - things are going well; I'm fine
EXAMPLE 1: "How's business, Mike?" - "Can't complain. I sold a lot of computers this month."
EXAMPLE 2: "How are things going at your new job?" - "Can't complain."

(to) crunch numbers - to perform calculations (especially financial calculations)
EXAMPLE 1: Scott loves to crunch numbers, so he decided to become an accountant.
EXAMPLE 2: Wendy spends all her time at work in front of the computer crunching numbers and analyzing sales data.

(to) drive a hard bargain - to be tough in negotiating an agreement; to negotiate something in one's favor
EXAMPLE 1: I wanted to pay less for the car, but the salesman drove a hard bargain.
EXAMPLE 2: Eric drove a hard bargain and got the company to raise their salary offer by $15,000.

(to) get the ball rolling - to get started
EXAMPLE 1: Let's get the ball rolling on this project. We've only got one week to finish it.
EXAMPLE 2: If we don't get the ball rolling on our vacation plans soon, we'll end up going nowhere.

How's it going? - How are you?
EXAMPLE 1: "How's it going?" I asked Ted. "Everything's fine. How are you?" he replied.
(to) make a living - to earn enough money to support oneself
EXAMPLE 1: Many people laugh at him, but Bill actually makes a living selling gourmet dog food.
EXAMPLE 2: Danny makes some money playing his guitar on street corners, but not enough to make a living.

now you’re talking - you’re saying the right thing
EXAMPLE 1: You want to offer me free tickets to the J. Lo concert? Now you’re talking!
EXAMPLE 2: You’d like to offer me a $10,000 raise and a corner office? Now you’re talking!

out of the question - impossible
EXAMPLE 1: My friend Emily wanted me to climb Mount McKinley with her, but I told her it was out of the question.
EXAMPLE 2: You want to borrow my new car and drive it across the country? I’m sorry, but that’s out of the question.

(to) sweeten the deal - to make an offer more attractive
EXAMPLE 1: IBM offered to sweeten the deal by giving John a company car if he agreed to work for them.
EXAMPLE 2: We really want you to take the job here at Magna Corporation, so let us know what we can do to sweeten the deal.

take it or leave it - accept or reject an offer, usually a final one
EXAMPLE 1: The highest salary we can offer you is $50,000 a year — take it or leave it.
EXAMPLE 2: I’m offering to do the dishes for one week if you’ll help me with my science project. Take it or leave it.

(to) twist (someone’s) arm - to persuade someone; to convince someone
EXAMPLE 1: Ted didn’t want to get another tattoo on his back, but Amber twisted his arm.
EXAMPLE 2: Okay, you’ve twisted my arm. You can borrow my new car and drive it across the country.

worth one’s while - worthy of one’s effort or time
EXAMPLE 1: It would be worth your while to audition for the game show Jeopardy. You’d probably win a lot of money.
EXAMPLE 2: Let me make it worth your while to work weekends. I’ll pay you an extra $10 per hour on Saturdays and Sundays.

PRACTICE THE IDIOMS
Abe, owner of Honest Abe’s Furniture Store, is talking to Jeff about a new advertising campaign for the store. Jeff owns an advertising agency. Complete the dialogue using these idioms:

get the ball rolling drive a hard bargain crunch some numbers how’s it going out of the question now you’re talking twisted my arm make a living

Abe: Hi, Jeff.
Jeff: Fine, thanks. I’ve only scheduled a half hour for this meeting, so we’d better

Abe: Jeff, I need you to come up with a new advertising campaign for my furniture shop.
Jeff: I’ve had a chance to, and you’ll need to pay me $30,000 to come up with some new ideas.
Abe: Thirty thousand dollars? That’s really
Jeff: Listen, Abe, I need to too. I’ve got a wife and seven children at home.
Abe: I’ll pay you $20,000.
Jeff: If you want quality work, you have to pay for it. Let’s say $25,000?
Abe: Okay, okay. You’ve twisted my arm. I’ll pay you $23,000.
Jeff: That’s a fair price.
Abe: You certainly
Jeff: I know, but you’ll be happy with my work.

ANSWERS TO LESSON 11, p. 163
LESSON 12

BOB'S BIG COOKIE ORDER

The family is gathered around the dinner table. Bob tells them about his deal with the Village Market. He asks his kids for help baking the cookies.

Bob: I know I've been down in the dumps since I got fired, but things are looking up now. The Village Market wants to sell our cookies.

Nicole: That's great news, Dad!

Bob: We're going to have to bake like crazy over the weekend. They want 2,000 cookies by Monday.

Nicole: Two thousand cookies in three days? Don't you think you've bitten off more than you can chew?

Ted: Yeah, you're going to be running around like a chicken with its head cut off!

Susan: Fortunately, there are four of us here. You kids will have to pitch in too.

Nicole: Sorry, but I can’t. I have to finish Ted's chemistry homework and then I've got to get going on my election speech.

Bob: What's that about doing Ted's chemistry homework?

Ted: Never mind! Amber will help out with the cookies instead of Nicole.

Susan: For heaven's sake, Nicole! It's like pulling teeth getting you to do any work around here.

IDiOMS - Lesson 12

(to) bite off more than one can chew - to take on more than one is capable of; to take on too much

EXAMPLE 1: Jennifer is having a dinner party for 50 people, and she can't even cook. I think she's bitten off more than she can chew.

EXAMPLE 2: You agreed to host 50 exchange students from Korea? Aren't you afraid you've bitten off more than you can chew?

SYNONYMS: to be or to get in over one's head. Example: Jennifer is in over her head with this dinner party!

(to be) down in the dumps - see Lesson 5

for heaven's sake! - A way of expressing emotions such as surprise, outrage, or impatience

EXAMPLE 1: Hurry up, for heaven's sake! You're going to be late for school.

EXAMPLE 2: Oh, for heaven's sake! Yesterday, I made three dozen chocolate chip cookies, and today there's only one cookie left!

SYNONYMS: for God's sake, for goodness sake, for Pete's sake

(to) get going - to get started on something; to set off for a destination; to leave

EXAMPLE 1: If you don't get going on your homework soon, you're going to be up all night.

EXAMPLE 2: We'd better get going to the restaurant now. Otherwise, we'll be late for our seven o'clock reservation.

SYNONYMS: to get a move on; to get the show on the road

(to) help out - to give assistance; to help

EXAMPLE 1: Amber offered to help out in the kitchen by chopping nuts.

EXAMPLE 2: I'd be happy to help out by baking cookies for the picnic.

SYNONYM: to lend a hand
like a chicken with its head cut off - in a hysterical manner; in a frenzy; in a very nervous way

**EXAMPLE 1:** Ken was late for work, and he couldn't find his car keys. He was running around his apartment *like a chicken with its head cut off.*
**EXAMPLE 2:** Patricia ran round the school looking for her lost backpack *like a chicken with its head cut off.*

**NOTE:** This idiom is usually used with the phrase "to run around" as in the above examples.

like crazy - with great speed or enthusiasm

**EXAMPLE 1:** When Pete Sampras won the tennis match, the crowd started cheering *like crazy.*
**EXAMPLE 2:** Ann ran *like crazy,* but she still didn't manage to catch the bus.

like pulling teeth - very difficult

**EXAMPLE 1:** It's *like pulling teeth* getting Max to talk about his girlfriend.
**EXAMPLE 2:** Kyle hates to study. It's *like pulling teeth* getting him to do his homework every night.

never mind - don't worry about something; forget it; it doesn't matter

**EXAMPLE 1:** You forgot to pick up eggs at the supermarket? *Never mind.* I'll get them tomorrow morning.
**EXAMPLE 2:** *Never mind* what your friends say. You need to do what you think is right.

(to) pitch in - to help

**EXAMPLE 1:** Nicole offered to *pitch in* and clean up her neighborhood beach. She picked up five plastic cups and an old towel.
**EXAMPLE 2:** If you need my help, just ask. I'd be happy to *pitch in.*
**SYNONYMS:** to lend a hand, to lend a helping hand; to help out

(to) run around - to move about quickly

**EXAMPLE 1:** I've been *running around* all day making final arrangements for our trip to Costa Rica tomorrow.
**EXAMPLE 2:** Debbie is exhausted. She *ran around* town all day today.

things are looking up - things are improving

**EXAMPLE 1:** Elizabeth found a wonderful new job and just moved into a beautiful new apartment. *Things are looking up* for her.
**EXAMPLE 2:** *Things are looking up* with the economy.

**PRACTICE THE IDIOMS**

**Fill in the blank with the missing word:**

1) When the sun doesn't shine all winter, it's easy to start feeling down in the____.
   a) dumps       b) crazy       c) luck

2) Things were so busy at work, I spent the entire week running around *like a chicken with its_____ cut off.*
   a) beak       b) head       c) neck

3) According to today's newspaper, the economy is improving. *Things are looking_____.*
   a) up       b) down       c) forward

4) I thought you could help me with my new project. But if you're too busy, never_____. I'll find somebody else.
   a) bother       b) mind       c) worry

5) For heaven's_____! If you don't stop playing those video games, you'll never get your homework done.
   a) angels       b) sake       c) benefit

6) When the school asked Susan to bring cookies to the bake sale, she said she'd be happy to help_____.
   a) in       b) about       c) out

7) When my friend John told me how busy he was preparing for his Halloween party, I offered to pitch_____.
   a) in       b) out       c) him

8) It's *like pulling_____* getting Nicole to help out in the kitchen.
   a) hair       b) nails       c) teeth
Choose the best substitute for the phrase in bold:

1) Janice is doing all the cooking for her daughter's wedding. I think she's **bitten off more than she can chew**.
   a) accepted too little responsibility
   b) taken too much food into her mouth
   c) taken on more than she can handle

2) If Nicole is going to cover her entire school with election posters, she'd better **get going on** them immediately.
   a) start working on
   b) stop working on
   c) start destroying

3) If you get tired of mowing the lawn, I'd be happy to **help out**.
   a) confuse you
   b) do nothing
   c) assist you

4) Last year, Bill opened a store selling gourmet pet food. This year, he'll open 10 more stores. His business is growing **like crazy**!
   a) very quickly
   b) very slowly
   c) despite being a crazy idea

5) Ever since receiving his rejection letter from Princeton University, Jason has been **down in the dumps**.
   a) happy
   b) sad
   c) encouraged

6) For a long time, Michelle couldn't find a boyfriend. But now **things are looking up**. She met a nice guy last weekend.
   a) her love life is getting even worse
   b) her love life is improving
   c) her love life couldn't get much worse

*ANSWERS TO LESSON 12, p. 163*
AMBER COMES OVER TO BAKE COOKIES

Ted's girlfriend Amber comes over to help with the cookies. Amber has experience baking cookies from a former job. Susan leaves the kitchen so they can work better.

Ted: Mom, Amber is here to lend a hand with the cookies.

Susan: Hi Amber. Nice to see you again.

Amber: Good to see you too, Mrs. Johnson.

Susan: That's an interesting hairstyle.*

Amber: Thanks. I'm glad you think it's cool. Blue hair is all the rage this season.

Susan: Well, I'm going to take a break now and let you kids take over.

Ted: Don't worry, Mom. Your business is in good hands with Amber. She really knows her stuff.

Amber: That's true. I used to work at Mrs. Field's Cookies** in the mall.

Susan: You don't work there anymore?

Amber: No, I got fired. I have a real sweet tooth, and they told me I was eating too many cookies.

Susan: Well, I'm sure you haven't lost your touch.

Amber: I might be a bit out of practice.

Ted: Mom, you can watch Amber bake if you want. You might pick up a few tricks of the trade.

Amber: Yes, feel free. As a singer, I'm used to performing before an audience!

Susan: Thanks, but I'm going to get out of the way. You know what they say: too many cooks spoil the broth!

Amber: Will I see you later tonight?

Susan: Yes, I'll be back in a few hours.

Ted: Mom, why don't you just call it a night and go to bed. You've been working your tail off all day.

* When somebody says something is "interesting" it often means they don't like it, but they want to be polite.

** Mrs. Field's Cookies are gourmet cookies that are sold in malls across the United States.

IDIOMS - LESSON 13

** all the rage - the latest fashion; popular right now
EXAMPLE 1: Have you seen those new alligator-skin cowboy boots? They're all the rage this season!
EXAMPLE 2: At Nate's high school, salsa dancing is all the rage this year.

**(to) call it a night - to stop an activity for the rest of the night
EXAMPLE 1: We spent a few hours walking around downtown Chicago. It was so cold that we were ready to call it a night by nine o'clock.
EXAMPLE 2: Let's call it a night and meet back at the office at seven o'clock tomorrow morning to finish preparing our report.

NOTE: There is also the expression "to call it a day" which means to stop activity for the day.
### feel free - go ahead and do something; don't hesitate (to do something)

**Example 1:** "Feel free to interrupt me and ask questions during my lecture," said the professor to his students.

**Example 2:** If you need legal advice, feel free to call my cousin Fred. He's a lawyer.

### (to) get out of the way - to move out of the way; to stop interfering with someone's plans or activities

**Example 1:** If you're not planning on helping us prepare dinner, please get out of the way. The kitchen is crowded.

**Example 2:** Get out of the way! That truck is backing up and it might run you over.

### (to be) in good hands - in good, competent care

**Example 1:** Don't worry — your dog will be in good hands while you're on vacation. We'll take her to the New York Dog Spa & Hotel.

**Example 2:** You're in good hands with Tony. He's an excellent driver.

### (to) know one's stuff- to have an expertise in a field

**Example 1:** Steve has been an auto mechanic for 25 years. He really knows his stuff.

**Example 2:** When it comes to cooking, Kristen knows her stuff. She spent two years studying at the Culinary Institute of America.

### (to lend a hand - to help

**Example 1:** When Amber saw Susan washing the cookie sheets, she offered to lend a hand.

**Example 2:** Would you mind lending a hand in the garden? We need to finish planting these flowers before it starts raining.

### (to lose one's touch - to no longer be able to do something well

**Example 1:** I used to make delicious pies, but this one tastes terrible. I think I've lost my touch.

**Example 2:** Dr. Stewart used to be a very good doctor, but recently several of his patients have died. He seems to have lost his touch!

### (to be) out of practice - no longer good at doing something

**Example 1:** Susan studied French in high school, but she hasn't spoken it since. She's really out of practice.

**Example 2:** I used to play tennis every day, but I haven't played in years. I'm out of practice.

### (to) pick up - to acquire; to learn

**Example 1:** Bob picks up languages quickly. After two weeks in Spain, he was already speaking Spanish.

**Example 2:** Diana picked up some great new ideas at the workshop.

**Note:** "Pick up" has several other meanings, including:

1. To take from the floor or ground. **Pick up** the pen you dropped.
2. To buy. I'll **pick up** some burritos on my way home.
3. To clean up. Let's **pick up** the bedroom before the guests arrive.
4. To retrieve someone. I'll **pick you up** at seven for our date.

### sweet tooth - an enjoyment of sugary foods

**Example 1:** Amber's got a real sweet tooth. Last night, she ate a whole box of Godiva chocolates.

**Example 2:** No wonder Liz is so overweight. She's got such a sweet tooth!

### (to) take a break - to stop and rest from an activity

**Example 1:** Bob always worked 10 hours straight, never taking a break.

**Example 2:** Let's take a break from our work and go get some ice cream.

### (to) take over - to assume control

**Example 1:** After 11 hours of driving, I was getting tired. Fortunately, my friend offered to take over.

**Example 2:** My new boss will be taking over some of my projects.

### too many cooks spoil the broth - too many people involved in an activity can ruin it

**Example 1:** After Bob and Susan edited Nicole's college applications, they were worse than when she started. Too many cooks spoil the broth.

**Example 2:** You don't need to help us. We have enough people helping already, and too many cooks spoil the broth.

**Note:** Broth is a clear liquid that forms the base for soups.

### tricks of the trade - clever shortcuts gained by experience

**Example 1:** The new teacher learned some tricks of the trade from Mrs. Blackstone, who'd been teaching at the school for 40 years.

**Example 2:** My new job will be easier once I learn some tricks of the trade.

### (to) work one's tail off [slang] - to work very hard

**Example 1:** Don worked his tail off to save money for his son's education.

**Example 2:** Bob worked his tail off at the furniture store, but his boss fired him anyway.
PRACTICE THEIDIOMS

Fill in the blank with the missing word:

1) When Susan was having trouble lifting her heavy mixer, Bob offered to lend a _____.
   a) finger  b) foot  c) hand

2) Nicole used to play the piano, but she hasn't practiced in five years. She's really _____ practice.
   a) about to  b) into  c) out of

3) You've been working in the kitchen for hours. Why don't you go and _____ a break?
   a) take  b) give  c) do

4) Amber picked up many _____ of the trade while working at Mrs. Field's Cookies in the Stamford Mall.
   a) bits  b) tricks  c) pieces

5) Your shoulder massages are still the best. You haven't _____ your touch.
   a) found  b) lost  c) spoiled

6) After two weeks in Italy, Tom started to pick _____ a few words of Italian, including cappuccino and pizza.
   a) up  b) out  c) in

7) When Jill got tired of chopping the onions, Jack took _____.
   a) over  b) off  c) away

8) Whenever we need financial advice, we call Suze Orman. She really knows her _____.
   a) things  b) stuff  c) matter

ANSWERS TO LESSON 13, p. 163
Amber and Ted are in the kitchen baking cookies. Amber asks Ted to give her a kiss, but Ted tells her he's too busy. Then he feels guilty and goes to her. But suddenly, they're not alone!

Amber: Ted, when I met you, it was love at first sight.

Ted: I was nuts about you from the beginning too, Amber. Don't forget, I broke up with that girl Tiffany after I met you.

Amber: Come here and give me a kiss.

Ted: Give me a break, Amber! We don't have time for that now. We need to crank out these cookies.

Amber: You don't really love me, do you?

Ted: Amber, I'm head over heels in love with you. But it's crunch time with these cookies.

Amber: Cookies, cookies, cookies — you've got a one-track mind. He loves cookies, yeah, yeah, yeah...

Ted: Amber, I need to keep working, but you can take a break if you want.

Amber: No, I'll keep plugging away... I'm just your cookie slave. Go ahead, treat me like dirt!

Ted: Sorry, Amber. Come here and let me give you a quick kiss.

(Susan enters the kitchen)

Susan: Hey, what's going on in here? Are you two making cookies or making out?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDIOMS - LESSON 14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>(to) break up with (someone)</strong> - to end a relationship with a romantic partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXAMPLE 1: When Nicole's boyfriend told her he didn't want to see her anymore, she replied, &quot;I can't believe you're breaking up with me!&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXAMPLE 2: After dating her boyfriend Dan for four years, Erica finally decided to break up with him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(to) crank out</strong> - to produce rapidly or in a routine manner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXAMPLE 1: Last night, Nicole cranked out 200 signs for her campaign.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXAMPLE 2: We just bought a new printer at work. It can crank out 20 pages per minute.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>crunch time</strong> - a short period when there's high pressure to achieve a result</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXAMPLE 1: The entire month of December is crunch time for Santa Claus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXAMPLE 2: May is crunch time for many students. It's when they have their final exams.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Give me a break!</strong> - that's ridiculous; that's outrageous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXAMPLE 1: You want me to pay $3 for one cookie? Give me a break!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXAMPLE 2: You expect me to believe that excuse? Give me a break!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOTE: You might see this written in its informal, conversational form: &quot;Gimme a break!&quot; This is usually how the idiom is pronounced.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
go ahead - to continue; to proceed without hesitation
EXAMPLE 1: We have more than enough food for dinner. Go ahead and invite your friend to join us.
EXAMPLE 2: Let's go ahead and buy our plane tickets now.
NOTE: “Go ahead” can also be used as a noun, as in the expression "to give somebody the go ahead," meaning to give somebody permission to move forward with an activity.

head over heels in love - very much in love
EXAMPLE 1: During the first years of their marriage, Brad and Jennifer were head over heels in love with each other.
EXAMPLE 2: Sara is head over heels in love with Mark. Unfortunately, he doesn’t even know her name!

love at first sight - an immediate attraction
EXAMPLE 1: It took Allison several months to fall in love with Karl. It wasn’t love at first sight.
EXAMPLE 2: Tony liked Tara immediately. It was love at first sight!

(to) make out - to kiss with much passion
EXAMPLE: Ted and Amber started making out at the stoplight and didn’t realize that the light had turned green.
NOTE: “Make out” also means:
1) To manage. How did you make out at the doctor’s today?
2) To understand or see with difficulty. It was so foggy, I could barely make out the street signs.
3) To prepare a check or other payment. Please make out a check for this month’s rent.

(to be) nuts about - to like very much
EXAMPLE 1: Ted has every single Metallica album — he’s nuts about that band.
EXAMPLE 2: We’re just nuts about our new neighbors. We have them over for dinner once a month.
SYNONYM: crazy about

(to have a) one-track mind - having all thoughts directed to just one thing or activity; focused on just one thing
EXAMPLE 1: Ryan thinks about football all the time. He’s got a one-track mind.
EXAMPLE 2: Mia has a one-track mind. She thinks about boys all the time.

plug away (at something) - to proceed with a boring or routine task; to keep trying
EXAMPLE 1: Only 842 more cookies to bake. Let’s keep plugging away!
EXAMPLE 2: Don’t give up on chemistry class. If you keep plugging away, you will eventually learn the material.

take a break - see Lesson 13

(treat (someone) like dirt - to behave in a nasty way towards someone; to treat someone poorly
EXAMPLE 1: Nobody was surprised when Nicole’s boyfriend broke up with her, since she treated him like dirt.
EXAMPLE 2: I feel sorry for Jeffrey. The kids at school are very nasty to him. They really treat him like dirt.
Susan is telling the story of how she met her husband. Fill in the blanks, using the following idioms:

- love at first sight
- go ahead
- plugging away
- treated him like dirt
- crunch time
- crank out
- making out
- crazy about
- broke up with
- head over heels in love

I met Bob in college. He was in my English Literature class. I liked him right away. For me, it was __________. I wrote him several love poems, though I never gave them to him.

Then I found out that he had a girlfriend. I saw him __________ with a girl named Joyce. It looked like she was __________

Bob too. But later that week, I heard that she was a nasty person and that she __________. So I decided to __________ and ask him to the movies. He said he was too busy. It was __________, and he had to __________ a paper for literature class and study for several exams. But I didn't give up. I kept __________. Then one day he __________ Joyce and asked me out to dinner. That was 25 years ago, and we're still together. Fortunately, we're still __________ with each other!

"Remember the rule of thumb - imagine your audience naked."

ANSWERS TO LESSON 14, p. 164
Susan: What's up, Nicole?

Nicole: I pulled an all-nighter working on my election speech.

Susan: No wonder you look like a basket case! Did you finish your speech?

Nicole: Yes, at 6 a.m.

Susan: That must be a load off your mind!

Nicole: It's not. I've got to give the speech tomorrow in front of 1,500 people. I'm a nervous wreck!

Susan: Just remember the old rule of thumb: Imagine your audience naked.

Nicole: That's gross. Why would I want to do that?

Susan: According to conventional wisdom, it'll make you less nervous.

Nicole: Only practice will do the trick.

Susan: Okay, let's hear the speech.

Nicole: Good afternoon, everyone. There are four candidates running for president. You think you have several choices. In reality, you have just one choice: me!

Susan: You can't say that. You'll turn off your audience immediately.

Nicole: It sounds like I have a big head?

Susan: I'll say!

IDIOMS - LESSON 15

basket case [slang] - someone or something in a useless or hopeless condition

EXAMPLE 1: After working a 12-hour day and then coming home and cooking dinner for her family, Tanya felt like a basket case.

EXAMPLE 2: After running the marathon, Brian felt like a basket case.

NOTE: You may also see the expression "economic basket case" to describe an economy that is doing very poorly. Example: After years of dictatorship, North Korea is an economic basket case.

(to have a) big head - arrogant; too proud of oneself

EXAMPLE 1: Stop bragging so much about the award you got at work! People will think you've got a big head.

EXAMPLE 2: Jenny has such a big head. No wonder nobody wants to be friends with her!

SYNONYM: to be full of oneself. Example: Joan is really full of herself. She's always talking about how smart she is.

conventional wisdom - a widely held belief

EXAMPLE 1: According to conventional wisdom, a diet high in salt can cause high blood pressure.

EXAMPLE 2: Challenging conventional wisdom, the psychologist said that sometimes it's healthy to be in a bad mood.
(to) do the trick - to achieve the desired results
EXAMPLE 1: Juan changed the light bulb and said, "That should do the trick!"
EXAMPLE 2: My house is difficult to find, so I'll put 10 large balloons on my mailbox on the day of the party. That should do the trick.

I'll say! - yes, definitely!
EXAMPLE 1: "Did you enjoy the Madonna concert?" - "I'll say!"
EXAMPLE 2: "Your sister must've been very happy after winning $50,000 in the lottery." - "I'll say!"

in reality - in fact; actually
EXAMPLE 1: Ted thinks it'll be easy to become a rock star. In reality, it will take years of hard work.
EXAMPLE 2: I know you think it'll be easy to get cheap tickets to a Broadway play. In reality, we'll have to wait in line for hours!

load off one's mind - a relief
EXAMPLE 1: When Amber called Ted to tell him that she arrived home safely, it was a big load off his mind.
EXAMPLE 2: Finishing her English essay was a load off Nicole's mind.

look like - have the appearance of
EXAMPLE 1: Before agreeing to go out on a date with her, Keith wanted to know what my cousin Maria looked like.
EXAMPLE 2: Please tell me what the cover of that new book looks like so it will be easier for me to find it in the bookstore.
NOTE: The expression "it looks like" can mean "it is likely that..."
Example: It's snowing, so it looks like the schools will be closed today.

nervous wreck - a person feeling very worried
EXAMPLE 1: Ted was a nervous wreck before his chemistry test.
EXAMPLE 2: Whenever Nicole rides on the back of her friend's motorcycle, Susan is a nervous wreck.

no wonder - it's not surprising
EXAMPLE 1: Brian's entire body is in pain. It's no wonder since he ran a marathon yesterday!
EXAMPLE 2: No wonder you're cold — it's January and you're walking around outside without a coat!
SYNONYM: small wonder

(to) pull an all-nighter - to stay up all night to do work
EXAMPLE 1: Ted pulled an all-nighter to study for his chemistry test and ended up falling asleep in class the next day.
EXAMPLE 2: I've got a 20-page paper due tomorrow morning, and I haven't even started writing it yet. I guess I'll be pulling an all-nighter!

rule of thumb - a useful principle
EXAMPLE 1: When cooking fish, a good rule of thumb is 10 minutes in the oven for each inch of thickness.
EXAMPLE 2: "Ted, as a rule of thumb, you should always plan to study for your chemistry tests for at least two hours."

(to) turn off - to cause to feel dislike or revulsion
EXAMPLE 1: I used to be friends with Monica, but she gossiped all the time and it really turned me off.
EXAMPLE 2: At first, Sara really liked Jacob. But when he started talking about all his ex-girlfriends, she was really turned off.
NOTE: The noun form, turn-off, is also common and usually describes something that causes the opposite sex to respond negatively. Example: When Jake started talking about all his ex-girlfriends, it was a real turn-off for Sara.

what's up? - see Lesson 10

\( \Rightarrow \) PRACTICE THE IDIOMS

Choose the best substitute for the phrase in bold:

1) Ted didn't start studying for his chemistry test until the night before. Then he had to pull an all-nighter.
   a) get plenty of rest before an exam
   b) stay up all night studying
   c) sleep late

2) After working on it for months, I finally gave my presentation this morning. That was certainly a load off my mind!
   a) a relief
   b) difficult
   c) easy
3) Nicole was turned off when Todd, her date, started picking his teeth with a toothpick during dinner.
   a) left the room
   b) became interested
   c) lost all interest

4) According to conventional wisdom, you shouldn't ask about salary on your first interview.
   a) accepted beliefs
   b) outdated beliefs
   c) smart people

5) Ted had to perform his music before one of the most important talent agents in the country. It's not surprising that he was a nervous wreck.
   a) confident
   b) very worried
   c) exhausted

6) Girls cheered and blew kisses whenever Ted performed his music. Amber worried that he’d get a big head.
   a) get a headache
   b) become arrogant
   c) find a new girlfriend

7) People keep telling Fred that he looks like a basket case. Maybe it's because he hasn't slept in weeks.
   a) really great
   b) angry
   c) terrible

8) Do you have a headache? Here, take two aspirin. That should do the trick.
   a) make you feel better
   b) perform magic
   c) make you feel worse

Choose the best substitute for the phrase or sentence in bold:

1) Nicole didn’t want to go to the party, but her friend twisted her arm.
   a) persuaded her
   b) hurt her arm
   c) agreed with her

2) Amber needs to go on a diet and lose 10 pounds, but it's difficult for her because she has such a sweet tooth.
   a) she has a loose tooth
   b) she has emotional problems
   c) she likes to eat sweets

3) Amber likes to design handbags as a hobby, but she’s not sure she could make a living at it.
   a) do it for the rest of her life
   b) earn enough money to support herself
   c) do it all day long

4) Ted wanted to travel to Miami for a rock concert. His mother told him it was out of the question.
   a) a good idea
   b) still a possibility
   c) not a possibility

5) Nicole worked her tail off, making hundreds of posters for her campaign.
   a) worked very hard
   b) worked until her tail fell off
   c) made her friends work hard
6) **It's crunch time.** Ted has to write six papers in two days.
   a) It's a very busy time.
   b) It's a time to relax.
   c) It's a period of time filled with fun and laughter.

7) My 95-year old neighbor was cutting her grass on a hot summer day. I offered to lend a hand.
   a) give her my hand
   b) help her
   c) drive her to the hospital

8) Jennifer treats her husband like dirt. I don't know why he doesn't just leave her.
   a) is very nice to her husband
   b) asks her husband to do the gardening
   c) is nasty to her husband

9) Tattoos are all the rage. Many kids are getting them.
   a) something that makes you angry
   b) very popular
   c) easy to get

10) **Things are looking up for Bob.** He's already found a new job working for his wife.
    a) Bob's situation is getting worse.
    b) Bob's situation is improving.
    c) Bob always focuses on positive things.

11) Susan volunteered to host 45 exchange students from China. Now she fears she's bitten off more than she can chew.
    a) accepted an easy assignment
    b) taken on a bigger task than she can handle
    c) ordered too much Chinese food

12) If Ted doesn't get going on his chemistry homework soon, he's going to be up all night.
    a) start doing
    b) stop doing
    c) leave the house with

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**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**Across**
2. My old job was boring. All I did was______numbers all day.
4. Bob went to the Village Market to get the______rolling on the cookie business.
5. You didn’t take out the garbage yet? Never—! I’ll do it myself.
7. Donna ate the whole apple pie herself. I guess she has a______tooth.
9. Jim never thought he could sell designer watches on street corners, but his brother taught him the______of the trade.
11. You've been working at the computer for hours. Why don't you take a______?
12. After her boyfriend broke up with her, Anna was feeling down in the______.
13. Mini-skirts were all the______last summer.

**Down**
1. Susan used to sing opera, but she hasn't sung in years. She's out of_____.
3. Bill thinks he's the smartest guy in the world. His friends think he just has a big_____.
6. I don't like horror movies, but John——my arm and I agreed to see _Murder on Main Street._
8. My car wasn't running well so I changed the oil. That should do the_____.
10. After the car accident, Betty was a——wreck whenever she drove.
11. When I don't get eight hours of sleep, I feel like a——case in the morning.

**ANSWERS TO REVIEW, p. 164**

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Bob brings Carol the cookies. He tells Carol that baking the cookies was easy because he had lots of help.

Carol: Bob, how did the baking go?

Bob: Slow at first, but we're getting the hang of it.

Carol: Once you learn the ropes, it becomes second nature.

Bob: To tell you the truth, I thought that baking 2,000 cookies would be a pain in the neck. But we managed to round up some helpers, and it was a piece of cake.

Carol: Well, thanks for coming in person with the cookies.

Bob: No problem. When will you need more?

Carol: It depends on how many we sell today.

Bob: How many do you think you'll sell?

Carol: Maybe 500, maybe 2,000. Your guess is as good as mine. In any case, I'll keep you posted.

Bob: Okay. Just give me a ring as soon as you know.
**practice the idioms**

Fill in the blank with the appropriate word:

1) When Nicole drove her car for the first time, she was really nervous. Now, after an entire year, it's____nature.
   a) first  b) second  c) third

2) I can't believe I won. To_____you the truth, I never thought I'd be able to beat you at tennis.
   a) say  b) tell  c) explain

3) Nicole was going to mail her college application to Yale. But then she decided to go to New Haven and deliver it____person.
   a) on  b) at  c) in

4) After a snowstorm, it can be a real pain in the____driving to work in the morning.
   a) head  b) arm  c) neck

5) The meeting in Dallas was canceled, but, in_____case, we still need to go there.
   a) all  b) any  c) about

6) Starting a new job is difficult in the beginning. It gets easier once you learn the____
   a) ropes  b) chains  c) ties

7) Bob and Susan thought getting rich would be very difficult. But thanks to their cookie business, it was a piece of____
   a) cookie  b) cake  c) pie

8) Let's go to the movies tonight. I'll look in the newspaper and____you a ring after I see what's playing.
   a) offer  b) take  c) give

**answers to lesson 16, p. 165**

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**to learn the ropes** - to learn the basics

EXAMPLE 1: Mark learned the ropes of the restaurant business by working as a cook at Outback Steakhouse.

EXAMPLE 2: David worked at a big law firm for 10 years where he learned the ropes. Now he runs his own law firm.

**pain in the neck** - an annoyance

EXAMPLE 1: Yesterday I had to stay home all day and wait for the repairman. What a pain in the neck!

EXAMPLE 2: Alice wants me to drive her to the airport early tomorrow morning. That's going to be a pain in the neck!

**piece of cake** - very easy

EXAMPLE 1: Nicole finished her physics test in just 25 minutes. It was a piece of cake.

EXAMPLE 2: The driving test is a piece of cake. Don't worry about it.

SYNONYM: easy as pie. You should have no trouble passing the driving test. It's as easy as pie.

**to round up** - to gather people together

EXAMPLE 1: The town rounded up 200 volunteers to search for the hiker, who was lost in the woods of Yosemite National Park.

EXAMPLE 2: Let's round up some volunteers to help bake cookies and pies for the bake sale.

**second nature** - a behavior that has been practiced for so long, it seems to have been there always

EXAMPLE 1: Karen has been arguing with her husband every day for the past 20 years, so by now it's just second nature.

EXAMPLE 2: With practice, riding a unicycle becomes second nature.

**to tell you the truth** - to speak openly; to admit

EXAMPLE 1: To tell you the truth, Ted isn't a very good student.

EXAMPLE 2: To tell you the truth, I didn't even want to attend Katie's wedding. But I knew she'd be offended if I didn't go.

**your guess is as good as mine** - I don't know; I don't know any more than you do

EXAMPLE 1: Will we ever find intelligent life on other planets? Your guess is as good as mine.

EXAMPLE 2: Will Ted graduate on time? Your guess is as good as mine!
Carol phones Bob to tell him the cookies are selling very well and that she needs another 1,000 by the morning. Bob isn't sure he can make the cookies so quickly, but Carol insists.

Carol: Bob, your wife's cookies are selling like hotcakes!

Bob: How many did you sell, Carol?

Carol: We've sold out. I need more right away! Bring me another 1,000 by tomorrow at 9 a.m.

Bob: That's a tall order, Carol.

Carol: Don't blow it, Bob! Susan's Scrumptious Cookies could really take off.

Bob: I know, but I'm not sure we have enough time to bake all those cookies.

Carol: Bake all night if you have to. Burn the midnight oil! If you work hard now, you'll be sitting pretty in a few years.

Bob: Rest assured that I'll do my best to deliver the goods.

Carol: Okay, now let's stop the chitchat. You've got work to do!

Carol tells Bob the good news

Carol phones Bob to tell him the cookies are selling very well and that she needs another 1,000 by the morning. Bob isn't sure he can make the cookies so quickly, but Carol insists.

Carol: Bob, your wife's cookies are selling like hotcakes!

Bob: How many did you sell, Carol?

Carol: We've sold out. I need more right away! Bring me another 1,000 by tomorrow at 9 a.m.

Bob: That's a tall order, Carol.

Carol: Don't blow it, Bob! Susan's Scrumptious Cookies could really take off.

Bob: I know, but I'm not sure we have enough time to bake all those cookies.

Carol: Bake all night if you have to. Burn the midnight oil! If you work hard now, you'll be sitting pretty in a few years.

Bob: Rest assured that I'll do my best to deliver the goods.

Carol: Okay, now let's stop the chitchat. You've got work to do!

Idioms - Lesson 17

(to) blow it - to spoil an opportunity
EXAMPLE 1: The actress got nervous and forgot all of her lines. She really blew it!
EXAMPLE 2: I'll give you one more chance, but don't blow it this time!
SYNONYM: to screw up [slang]. Example: I can't believe you screwed up during the interview by asking for six weeks of vacation before you even got the job offer!

(to) burn the midnight oil - to stay up late studying or working
EXAMPLE 1: Michael burned the midnight oil studying for his algebra test.
EXAMPLE 2: The project is due tomorrow and we're far from finished. We're going to have to burn the midnight oil tonight.

chitchat - casual conversation; gossip
EXAMPLE 1: Peter told Heather to stop the chitchat and get back to work.
EXAMPLE 2: Okay, enough chitchat! Let's start discussing this week's reading assignment.
SYNONYM: to shoot the breeze
NOTE: Chitchat can also be a verb. Example: Amber and Ted were chitchatting all night long.

(to) deliver the goods - to meet expectations; to do what's required
EXAMPLE 1: Peter thought Bob wasn't delivering the goods, so he fired him.
EXAMPLE 2: I'm depending on you to finish the job on time. I know that you can deliver the goods!
SYNONYM: to cut the mustard. Example: If you can't cut the mustard here, you'll have to find a new job.

(to) do one's best - to try as hard as possible
EXAMPLE 1: Although Ted did his best, he still failed his chemistry test.
EXAMPLE 2: You might not get a perfect score on your history test, but just do your best.
SYNONYM: to give it one's all
**rest assured - be sure**

**EXAMPLE 1:** Rest assured that the police will find the thieves.
**EXAMPLE 2:** Rest assured I'll take good care of your dog while you're on vacation.

**right away - immediately**

**EXAMPLE 1:** When Meg realized her house was on fire, she called the fire department right away.
**EXAMPLE 2:** You need some sugar for your cookies? I'll bring some over right away.

**(to) sell like hotcakes - to sell fast; to be a popular item**

**EXAMPLE 1:** Those new Fubu blue jeans are selling like hotcakes. All the girls love them.
**EXAMPLE 2:** Stephen King's new novel is selling like hotcakes.

**(to be) sitting pretty - in a good position (often financially)**

**EXAMPLE 1:** After Chad won the lottery, he was really sitting pretty. He quit his job and bought a mansion in Malibu, California.
**EXAMPLE 2:** Gina was one of the first people to work at Amazon.com, and she made millions on her stock options. Now she's sitting pretty.

**sold out - completely sold**

**EXAMPLE 1:** Becky was really disappointed when she found out that the Britney Spears concert was sold out.
**EXAMPLE 2:** Susan's cookies were very popular at the bake sale. In fact, they sold out in just 20 minutes!

**(to) take off - to become popular; to grow suddenly**

**EXAMPLE:** Julia Roberts' career took off with the film "Pretty Woman."

**NOTE:** "Take off" has several other meanings:
1. Remove. Please take off your shoes before coming inside our apartment. We just vacuumed this morning.
2. To leave. We're taking off now. See you later!
3. To deduct. The waiter forgot to bring us drinks, so he took $10 off the bill.
4. To leave the ground. The airplane took off on time.

**tall order - a task or goal that is difficult to achieve**

**EXAMPLE 1:** It'll be a tall order to find a new governor as popular as the current one.
**EXAMPLE 2:** You want me to figure out how to clone your pet rabbit? That's a tall order!

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**PRACTICE THE IDIOMS**

Choose the most appropriate reply to the following statements:

1) "Bob, your cookies are delicious. They're selling like hotcakes."

**Bob's reply:**
- a) "I'm not surprised. My family has always loved them."
- b) "What? I thought people would buy more."
- c) "Yes, they are best when served hot."

2) "Bob, I know you can get me 1,000 cookies by morning. Don't blow it!"

**Bob's reply:**
- a) "I never blow on the cookies. I let them cool down by themselves."
- b) "Don't worry. I'll be sure to get you the cookies by 9 a.m."
- c) "Thanks. I'll take my time then."

3) "Bob, I've got some great news for you. All of your chocolate chip cookies have sold out!"

**Bob's reply:**
- a) "Great. I'd better make more."
- b) "I guess people don't like them."
- c) "How many are left?"

4) "Ted, if you and Amber don't stop the chitchat, you'll never finish your homework."

**Ted's reply:**
- a) "Okay, we'll stay up all night talking."
- b) "Okay, we'll stop talking and start hitting the books."
- c) "Yes, Amber is helping a lot with my homework."
5) "Ted, ask Amber to come over right away to help bake cookies."

Ted's reply:
   a) "Okay. I'll tell her to come over next Saturday."
   b) "Okay. I'll tell her to come over immediately."
   c) "Okay. I'll ask her to go away."

6) "Bob, if you work hard now, you'll be sitting pretty in a couple of years."

Bob's reply:
   a) "Thank you. I am looking forward to feeling pretty."
   b) "I don't enjoy sitting for long periods of time."
   c) "Great. I'd love to be able to stop working and start relaxing more."

7) "Nicole, getting elected to the United States Senate is a very tall order."

Nicole's reply:
   a) "I know, but I love a good challenge."
   b) "I agree. It should be very easy."
   c) "I know. I've already put in my order."

8) "Bob, I suggest you burn the midnight oil and make 1,000 cookies tonight."

Bob's reply:
   a) "Okay. I'll go to sleep at midnight and wake up at 10 a.m."
   b) "Yes, we'll need quite a bit of oil for the cookies."
   c) "Okay. I'll work all night and finish up by morning."

ANSWERS TO LESSON 17, p. 165
EVERYONE BAKES COOKIES

Bob tells his family the cookies are selling well. He asks his kids to help bake more cookies for tomorrow. Nicole says she's too busy to lend a hand.

Bob: The cookies are selling like hotcakes!

Ted: Way to go, Dad!

Bob: I need you kids to help tonight with the cookies. We need another thousand by morning.

Nicole: One thousand by tomorrow morning? That's impossible!

Ted: Amber and I will lend a hand. She's a real night owl, so she won't mind staying up late.

Bob: Nicole, we'll need your help too.

Nicole: Bake cookies the night before the elections? Nothing doing!

Ted: Lighten up, big shot! You're running for high school president, not President of the United States.

Nicole: Ted, you really get on my nerves sometimes.

Bob: Okay, kids, let's stop fooling around. We need to get the show on the road!
night owl - a person who enjoys being active late at night
EXAMPLE 1: Sara goes to sleep every night at 3 a.m. She’s a real night owl.
EXAMPLE 2: I never go to bed before midnight. I’m a night owl.

Nothing doing! - Not a chance!
EXAMPLE 1: You want me to buy the Golden Gate Bridge from you for a million bucks? Nothing doing!
EXAMPLE 2: You want me to write your paper on Catherine the Great? Nothing doing!
SYNONYMS: No way! Not on your life!

(to) sell like hotcakes - see Lesson 17
(to) stay up - not to go to bed; to stay awake
EXAMPLE 1: Ted and Amber stayed up all night talking about cookies.
EXAMPLE 2: Whenever I stay up late, I regret it the next morning.

Way to go! - see Lesson 4

Practice the idioms

Fill in the blank with the appropriate word:

1) I was really proud of my friend for winning an Olympic medal. "Way to_____!" I told her.
   a) do   b) succeed   c) go

2) Amber loves to cook, so she never minds lending_____ in the kitchen.
   a) herself   b) a hand   c) her hands

3) Vanessa is definitely not a night_____ . She likes to be in bed by nine o’clock every night.
   a) bird   b) hawk   c) owl

4) After Mr. Digby was elected president of the company, he thought he was a real_____ shot.
   a) big   b) huge   c) large

5) You’re taking everything too seriously. You need to lighten
   a) above   b) up   c) down

6) Let’s go! We’re already late. Let’s get the show on the_____.
   a) street   b) way   c) road

7) When people near me whisper during a movie, it really_____ on my nerves.
   a) gets   b) acts   c) scratches

8) Nicole’s teacher asked her to help a new exchange student from Argentina with her English homework. Nicole was happy to help_____.
   a) around   b) out   c) in

Bonus practice

Choose the best substitute for the phrase or sentence in bold:

1) You want me to drive you all the way to Toronto during this snowstorm? Nothing doing!
   a) Great idea!
   b) No problem!
   c) Not a chance!

2) Len and Ben, college roommates, stayed up until 3 a.m. talking and drinking beer. No wonder they didn’t wake up until noon the next day!
   a) didn’t go to bed
   b) went to bed
   c) didn't eat dinner
3) Michael used to work the late shift at McDonald's — from midnight to 8 a.m. He didn't mind since he's a night owl.
   a) a wise person
   b) a person who goes to sleep early
   c) a person who likes to stay up late

4) The man behind me on the bus wouldn't stop whistling. It really got on my nerves!
   a) entertained me
   b) annoyed me
   c) relaxed me

5) Our plane leaves in just two hours. If we don't get the show on the road, we're going to miss it.
   a) go into the street
   b) get ready to go
   c) call the airline

6) You want to attend Yale University? Call my friend Penny. She's a real big shot on the admissions committee.
   a) a powerful person
   b) a big mouth
   c) a useless person

7) Ted was fooling around with his friends when he should've been studying for his chemistry test.
   a) acting like a fool
   b) putting time to good use
   c) wasting time

8) You got a big promotion at work? Way to go!
   a) Too bad!
   b) Good job!
   c) Sorry to hear that!

Answers to Lesson 18, p. 165
Nicole's Close Election

Nicole loses the election at school. She doesn't want to accept it, so she looks for excuses. Ted encourages her to accept defeat and move on.

Nicole: I lost the election by a hair — just 10 votes! But I'm not giving up.

Ted: Give me a break, Nicole. You lost. Live with it!

Nicole: But I was a sure thing! If I hadn't stayed up so late baking cookies, I wouldn't have messed up my speech.

Ted: Get real, Nicole.

Nicole: It's your fault, Ted. I lost because your friends didn't vote for me!

Ted: Don't try to put the blame on me! I gave it my best shot.

Nicole: They must've made a mistake while counting the votes. I'll demand a re-count on Monday and set the record straight.

Ted: Don't make a fool of yourself, Nicole. Face it, Andrea won the election fair and square!

Nicole: Well, I just don't know where I went wrong.

Susan: Here, take a chocolate chip cookie. That'll cheer you up for sure!

**IDIOMS - LESSON 19**

*by a hair* - just barely; very narrowly; by a small amount

**EXAMPLE 1:** Larry won the bicycle race by a hair. The second-place winner came in just a second behind him.

**EXAMPLE 2:** Was the tennis ball in or out? I think it was out by a hair. You know the old saying: "When in doubt, call it out!"

*(to) cheer up* - see Lesson 6

*Face it* - see Lesson 1

*fair and square* - honestly

**EXAMPLE 1:** Did George Bush win the 2000 presidential election fair and square? That depends on whether you ask a Democrat or a Republican!

**EXAMPLE 2:** Tony won the ping pong tournament fair and square.

*for sure* - definitely

**EXAMPLE 1:** This year, Tom Cruise will win an Academy Award for sure.

**EXAMPLE 2:** Mike is the most popular guy in school. If he runs for student body president, he'll win for sure.

*Get real* - see Lesson 3

*(to) give it one's best shot* - to try as hard as one can

**EXAMPLE 1:** Courtney lost the race, but at least she gave it her best shot.

**EXAMPLE 2:** I know you're nervous about the interview. Just give it your best shot and see what happens.

*give me a break* - see Lesson 14

*(to) give up* - to admit defeat; to surrender

**EXAMPLE 1:** Bill gave up golf after realizing he'd never be good at it.

**EXAMPLE 2:** I know you're 100 points ahead of me, but I still might win the Scrabble game. I'm not giving up yet!
**Idioms**

- **(to) go wrong** - to make a mistake; to go astray; to malfunction; to work incorrectly
  
  EXAMPLE 1: Follow the directions I gave you, and you can't **go wrong**.
  EXAMPLE 2: Something **went wrong** with my neighbor's car alarm system, and the alarm wouldn't stop ringing all night.

- **(to) live with it** - to accept a difficult reality
  
  EXAMPLE 1: Your boss is an idiot. **Live with it**.
  EXAMPLE 2: Your hair will never be straight. Just **live with it**!

  NOTE: There is also the expression "to learn to live with it," which means to get used to something annoying or difficult. Example: Sandra knew that Roger would always throw his dirty clothes on the floor. She'd just have to **learn to live with it**.

- **(to) make a fool of oneself** - to cause oneself to look stupid
  
  EXAMPLE 1: Dan drank too much and then **made a fool of himself**.
  EXAMPLE 2: Please stop arguing with me in front of all these people. You're **making a fool of yourself**!

- **(to) mess up** - to make a mistake; to spoil an opportunity
  
  EXAMPLE 1: Amber **messed up** and put salt instead of sugar in the cookies.
  EXAMPLE 2: Ted really **messed up** on his chemistry test. He got a "D."

  SYNONYM: **screw up** [slang]

- **(to) put the blame on (someone)** - to name somebody else as responsible for a misdeed or misfortune
  
  EXAMPLE 1: Mrs. Lopez **put the blame on** her husband for losing their life savings in the stock market.
  EXAMPLE 2: Don't **put the blame on me** that your plants died while you were on vacation. You forgot to tell me to water them!

- **(to) set the record straight** - to correct an inaccurate account
  
  EXAMPLE 1: Ken knew his father was innocent, and he hoped he could set **the record straight** one day.
  EXAMPLE 2: Let me **set the record straight**. I won the last game.

- **sure thing** - an outcome that is assured
  
  EXAMPLE 1: Gary bet all his money on a horse named Trixie, thinking she was a **sure thing**.
  EXAMPLE 2: Nicole has a good chance of getting accepted to Yale, but it's still not a **sure thing**.

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**PRACTICE THE IDIOMS**

Ted is angry at Nicole because she didn't do a good job on his chemistry homework. Fill in the blanks using the following idioms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>give me a break</th>
<th>cheer you up</th>
<th>sure thing</th>
<th>for sure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>put the blame on me</strong></td>
<td><strong>live with it</strong></td>
<td><strong>give it my best shot</strong></td>
<td><strong>messed up</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ted: Nicole, my teacher gave me back my chemistry homework. I got a terrible grade! I thought___________ you'd help me get an "A+."

Nicole: I'm sorry. I really did______________, but I guess it wasn't good enough.

Ted: Not good enough? That's right. You really___________

Nicole: You never should've asked me to do your homework. Don't try to______________for your bad grades.

Ted: Yes, my mistake. I thought you were a

Nicole: So you'll get a bad grade in chemistry. Just learn to ________________. Here, take one of Mom's cookies. It'll help______________

Ted: You think a stupid cookie will cheer me up?__________


**ANSWERS TO LESSON 19, p. 165**
BOB GETS AN ANGRY CALL FROM CAROL

Carol calls Bob to tell him that a customer found a hair in her cookie. Bob wants Carol to forget about this, but Carol thinks it's very serious. She refuses to buy any more cookies from Bob.

Bob: Could we just sweep this under the rug?

Carol: No. This is too serious.

Bob: But I was just getting a handle on the cookie business. Now what will I do? I don't have any other way of making a living!

Carol: My heart goes to you, Bob, but you need to get your act together. I want to sell chocolate chip cookies, not hair cookies!

Bob: I guess I just knocked myself out for the past week for nothing.

Carol: Clearly!

Carol: Bob, a lady came into the Village Market today ranting and raving.

Bob: Oh yeah? What happened?

Carol: She found a blue hair in her chocolate chip cookie!

Bob: Aha. I can see how she'd be taken aback.

Carol: Does anybody in your family have blue hair?

Bob: As a matter of fact, my son's girlfriend Amber has blue hair.

Carol: Bob, I can't sell your cookies anymore.

Bob: Aren't you blowing things out of proportion?

Carol: The health department would throw the book at me if they found out about this.

IDIOMS - LESSON 20

as a matter of fact - in fact; actually

EXAMPLE 1: We need more milk? As a matter of fact, I was just going to ask you to go shopping.

EXAMPLE 2: This isn't the first time Andy has gotten trouble at school. As a matter of fact, just last month he was suspended for an entire week.

(to) blow things out of proportion - to exaggerate; to make more of something than one should

EXAMPLE 1: They sent a 12 year-old boy to jail for biting his babysitter? Don't you think they're blowing things out of proportion?

EXAMPLE 2: Sally called the police when her neighbor's party got too loud. I think that was blowing things out of proportion.

SYNONYM: To make a mountain out of a molehill

(to) find out - to learn; to discover

EXAMPLE 1: Al is calling the theater to find out what time the movie starts.

EXAMPLE 2: David had a big party at his house while his parents were away on vacation. Fortunately for him, they never found out.
(to) get a handle on - to gain an understanding of
EXAMPLE 1: This new computer program is very difficult. I still haven’t
gotten a handle on it.
EXAMPLE 2: Once you get a handle on how the game works, please ex-
p lain it to everybody else.

(to) get one's act together - to get organized; to start oper-
ating more effectively
EXAMPLE 1: If Ted gets his act together now, he might be able to get into a
good college.
EXAMPLE 2: We’d better get our act together. Otherwise, we’re going to
miss our flight.

(to) knock oneself out - to work very hard at something
(sometimes too hard)
EXAMPLE 1: Ted knocked himself out getting votes for Nicole, and she
didn’t even say thank you.
EXAMPLE 2: I really knocked myself out getting these free concert tickets
for you and your girlfriend. I hope you appreciate it.
NOTE: "Don’t knock yourself out!” means don’t work too hard at some-
thing or for someone; it’s not worth it. Example: Don’t knock yourself
out for Jeremy — he won’t appreciate it anyway!

(to) make a living - see Lesson 11

one’s heart goes out to (someone) - to feel sorry for someone
EXAMPLE 1: My heart goes out to the Richardsons. Their home was
destroyed in a fire.
EXAMPLE 2: Naomi’s heart went out to all the people who lost their jobs
when the auto plant shut down.

(to) rant and rave - to talk loudly, often in anger
EXAMPLE 1: A customer in the video rental store was ranting and ranging
that the DVD he rented was broken.
EXAMPLE 2: Please stop ranting and ranging! Let’s discuss this issue in a
calm manner.

(to) sweep (something) under the rug - to hide something, often a scandal
EXAMPLE 1: “Senator, don’t try to sweep it under the rug. Everybody
knows about your affair with the intern."
EXAMPLE 2: Let’s just sweep this incident under the rug and move on.

taken aback - surprised (almost always in a negative sense)
EXAMPLE 1: Nicole was taken aback when her friend Rosa told her she
no longer wanted to hang out with her.
EXAMPLE 2: I was taken aback when my friend asked me if she could
borrow my toothbrush because she forgot hers at home.

(to) throw the book at someone - to punish or chide severely
EXAMPLE 1: When Ted failed his chemistry test the second time, his
teacher really threw the book at him.
EXAMPLE 2: The judge threw the book at Matt for stealing a football
from the store. He’ll be going to jail for six months.

睑. PRACTICE THE IDIOMS

Choose the best substitute for the phrase in bold:

1) After Nicole lost the election, she started ranting and raving.
   a) complaining loudly
   b) speaking quietly
   c) asking many questions

2) When a stranger approached me on the bus and asked to bor-
row my cell phone, I was taken aback.
   a) disappointed
   b) surprised
   c) delighted

3) When George showed up for work five minutes late, his
boss Beth threatened to fire him. Beth is known for blowing
things out of proportion.
   a) making a big deal out of small things
   b) lying
   c) creating extra work for someone

4) My apartment is always messy. I need to get my act together
and start cleaning it once a week.
   a) start pretending
   b) gather a group of people together
   c) get organized
5) My heart goes out to all the homeless people lying outside my apartment building in February.
   a) I help
   b) I feel sorry for
   c) I feel good about

6) I just found out yesterday that Amber never washes her hands before making cookies. Ted told me.
   a) saw
   b) overheard
   c) learned

7) The judge is going to throw the book at Jim for robbing several houses.
   a) release Jim from jail
   b) charge Jim with an offense
   c) read to Jim

8) Ted's chemistry homework was much more difficult than Nicole had expected. She just couldn't seem to get a handle on it.
   a) finish it
   b) understand it
   c) hold it in her hands

ANSWERS TO LESSON 20, p. 165

Review for lessons 16-20

Fill in the blank with the appropriate word:

1) My aunt and uncle are really sitting——. They made a lot of money in the stock market.
   a) rich     b) poor     c) pretty

2) Lighten_____! You need to stop taking your job so seriously.
   a) it       b) up       c) over

3) After a week, my houseguests really started to get_____my nerves. They made long-distance phone calls to Singapore, drank all my wine, and slept until noon every day.
   a) by       b) in       c) on

4) Amber likes to stay up past midnight every night. She's what you'd call a_____owl.
   a) night    b) busy     c) day

5) Mildred thought she'd have trouble remembering to take her pills. But now, after ten months, it's_____nature.
   a) first    b) second    c) third

6) Susan messed_____and left the cookies in the oven for 25 minutes too long. They were ruined.
   a) up       b) over      c) away

7) Andrea didn't cheat. She won the election fair and_____.
   a) easily    b) circle    c) square

8) Bob didn't know anything about baking when he and Susan started selling cookies, but he quickly learned the_____.
   a) chains    b) ropes     c) strings

9) Ted and his friends were fooling_____in the chemistry laboratory when they accidentally started a fire.
   a) around    b) about     c) away

10) Mary's daughter wanted the new Harry Potter book. But by the time they got to the bookstore, it was already sold_____.
    a) out       b) in        c) away
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across
2. Senator Brown's re-election would have been a sure_______if he hadn't gotten caught stealing candy at Wal-Mart.
3. Chad is sitting_______He just won the lottery.
6. Nicole had to burn the_______oil to finish her English paper by the morning.
8. When Ted was caught copying his friend's math homework, his teacher wasn't willing to sweep it under the_______.
10. It takes time to learn the_______when you start a new job.
11. Once you do it a few times, riding a unicycle is a piece of_______.
12. My friend's dog kept licking my hand. It was getting on my_______.

Down
1. Carly is a real big_______. She runs a large corporation.
4. Some people in restaurants like to_______and rave when their soup is too cold.
5. I tried to give my friend a_______this morning, but she wasn't home. I got her answering machine.
7. My_______goes out to people who live in America, but don't speak any English.
8. Martha Stewart tried to set the_______straight during her television interview with Barbara Walters.
9. Filling out tax forms is a pain in the_______.

ANSWERS TO REVIEW, p. 166
SUSAN GETS A SURPRISE CALL

Donna from the National Cookie Company calls Susan. She wants to buy out Susan's Scrumptious Cookies. Susan is very happy.

Susan: Hello?

Donna: Good afternoon. Are you Susan, of Susan's Scrumptious Cookies?

Susan: Yes, I am.

Donna: My name is Donna Jenkins, and I'm calling from the National Cookie Company. We're nuts about your cookies, and we'd like to sell them all over the country.

Susan: Unfortunately, we're running on a shoestring out of our kitchen. We can't make enough cookies for you.

Donna: My company wants to buy the recipe and the brand name from you.

Susan: Oh yeah? Why would you want to do that?

Donna: We have a successful track record of buying small companies and turning them into big ones.

Susan: In that case, I'm sure we can come to an agreement.

Donna: Great. You just made my day!

Susan: You'll need to work out the nuts and bolts of the agreement with my husband. He's the business manager.

Donna: May I speak with him now?

Susan: He's at a meeting. I'll have him get in touch with you when he returns.

Donna: Good. I look forward to speaking with him.

IDIOMS - LESSON 21

**all over** - throughout; everywhere

EXAMPLE 1: Nicole's classmates are from all over the world, including Argentina, Brazil, China, Japan, Korea, Poland, and Ukraine.

EXAMPLE 2: Oh no! I got ketchup all over my white sweater.

**(to) come to an agreement** - to reach an agreement

EXAMPLE 1: If we can come to an agreement now, I can start work on Monday.

EXAMPLE 2: If you're not willing to negotiate, it's going to be very difficult for us to come to an agreement.

**in that case** - under that circumstance

EXAMPLE 1: It's snowing? In that case, you'd better take the bus to school today instead of driving.

EXAMPLE 2: You forgot your wallet at home today? In that case, you can borrow five bucks from me for lunch.

**(to be or get) in touch with (someone)** - to be or get in contact with (someone)

EXAMPLE 1: I was surprised when Luis called me, since we hadn't been in touch with each other since high school.

EXAMPLE 2: Leave me your contact information in case I need to get in touch with you while you're on vacation.
(to) look forward to - to anticipate eagerly
EXAMPLE 1: I’m looking forward to my trip to Mexico next month.
EXAMPLE 2: Ron has worked as a high school teacher for over 40 years. He’s really looking forward to retiring next year.

(to) make one’s day - to give one great satisfaction
EXAMPLE 1: Our neighbors with the crazy dogs are moving away? That really makes my day!
EXAMPLE 2: Thanks for bringing over those cookies last week. That made my day!

(to be) nuts about - see Lesson 14
nuts and bolts - details; basic components of something
EXAMPLE 1: I don’t need to know the nuts and bolts of how the computer works — just show me how to turn it on.
EXAMPLE 2: Simon really understands the nuts and bolts of how toilets work. He would be a very good plumber.

on a shoestring - on a very low budget
EXAMPLE 1: Bob and Susan were living on a shoestring after Bob lost his job.
EXAMPLE 2: In the beginning, the Hewlett-Packard company ran on a shoestring out of a garage.

track record - a record of achievements or performances
EXAMPLE 1: The women’s basketball team at the University of Connecticut has an excellent track record.
EXAMPLE 2: We’ve spoken to your past employers, so we know you’ve got an excellent track record.

(to) work out - to find a solution; to resolve
EXAMPLE 1: Nicole spent half the night helping Ted work out a very difficult chemistry problem.
EXAMPLE 2: Sally couldn’t work out her problems with her neighbors, so she finally decided to move away.

NOTE: “Work out” has several other meanings, including:
1. succeed; prove effective. This plan won’t work out — you’ll need to go back to the drawing board and work out a new plan.
2. endure; last. Tony and Angela argue all the time. I don’t think their marriage will work out.
3. exercise. After working out at the gym for two hours, Scott could barely walk.

Practicing the Idioms
Fill in the blank with the appropriate word:

1) There’s a handsome exchange student from Sweden at Nicole’s school this year. Nicole is nuts____ him.
   a) with    b) into    c) about

2) Susan and Bob were able to come_____ an agreement with the representative from the National Cookie Company.
   a) from    b) with    c) to

3) When somebody has a successful track_____, it’s usually easy for them to find a new job.
   a) record    b) history    c) past

4) Let’s have dinner on Saturday night. I’ll get in touch_____ you later to choose a restaurant.
   a) from    b) by    c) with

5) Susan doesn’t have a lot of money. In fact, she’s running her business_____ a shoestring.
   a) with    b) on    c) in

6) You can find Starbucks coffee houses all_____the country, from New York to California.
   a) over    b) above    c) within

7) Bob hasn’t been on vacation in years. He’s really looking _____ his trip to Maine.
   a) above    b) forward    c) ahead

8) Ted’s teacher helped him work_____ a study schedule.
   a) out    b) in    c) through

Answers to Lesson 21, p. 166
LESSON 22

SUSAN SHARES THE GOOD NEWS

Bob tells Susan that the Village Market won't take their cookies anymore. Susan tells Bob that the National Cookie Company wants to buy out Susan's Scrumptious Cookies.

Bob: Dear, I've got some bad news.
Susan: What's the matter, Bob?
Bob: The Village Market won't take any more of our cookies.
Susan: Why not? They're selling like hotcakes!
Bob: I know, but a lady found a blue hair in her cookie. Now Carol refuses to sell them.
Susan: Carol is such a dragon lady! We're better off having nothing to do with her.
Bob: She's not my cup of tea either, but she was selling lots of cookies.
Susan: Oh well. That's the way the cookie crumbles. Ha ha. Get it?
Bob: Susan, this is no laughing matter!
Susan: Bob, we don't need the Village Market anymore.

Bob: Why not?
Susan: The National Cookie Company called. They want to buy out our business.
Bob: Susan, this is a dream come true. It looks like we've struck it rich!
Susan: Yes. Soon we'll be rolling in dough!

IDIOMS - LESSON 22

better off- in a more fortunate position
EXAMPLE 1: We're better off leaving for France on Thursday evening, so we can spend the entire weekend there.
EXAMPLE 2: If you're interested in studying languages, you'd be better off attending Northwestern University than the University of Chicago.
NOTE: This expression is often used with conditional tense (would), especially when you're giving advice: "you would be better off doing something" or "you'd be better off doing something."

(to) buy out - to purchase an entire business or someone's share of a business
EXAMPLE 1: Microsoft bought out Adam's company for $12 million.
EXAMPLE 2: Harriet and Jane sell homemade snack chips. They hope one day a big company will buy out their business.

cup of tea - see Lesson 5

dragon lady - a nasty woman who misuses her power
EXAMPLE 1: Beth is a real dragon lady. She's always screaming at her employees and blaming them for her mistakes. I hope she gets fired!
EXAMPLE 2: Liz was nasty to you? I'm not surprised. She's a dragon lady.
SYNONYMS: bitch [slang]; shrew

(to) get it - to understand
EXAMPLE 1: I invited 40 people to my Thanksgiving dinner, but only 10 people came. I don't get it!
EXAMPLE 2: Don't you get it? Your company is about to go out of business!
it looks like - it's likely that
EXAMPLE 1: It looks like I'll be able to get out of work early today, so let's plan on meeting downtown at 4:30.
EXAMPLE 2: It looks like it's going to rain, so we'd better just cancel the picnic now.

no laughing matter - nothing to joke about; something serious
EXAMPLE 1: When the tornado came into town, it was no laughing matter.
EXAMPLE 2: Jim might have been fooling around when he hit John, but he really hurt him. It was no laughing matter.

nothing to do with (someone or something) - not have any relationship with someone; to not get involved with something
EXAMPLE 1: After I found out that Nora shoplifted some lipstick from the drugstore, I wanted nothing to do with her.
EXAMPLE 2: Larry asked Nick if he wanted to help him plan a robbery. Nick told Larry that he wanted nothing to do with it.

rolling in dough - very rich
EXAMPLE 1: Susan and Bob don't need to work anymore. They're rolling in dough.
EXAMPLE 2: Adam will be able to retire young. He's rolling in dough.
NOTE: This is a play on words. "Dough" means "money" as well as what is used to make cookies, breads, and pastries. The dough (cookies) made by Bob and Susan brought them lots of dough (money).
SYNONYMS: rolling in it; rolling in money; loaded

(to) sell like hotcakes - see Lesson 17

(to) strike it rich - to attain sudden financial success
EXAMPLE 1: Chad struck it rich with the winning lottery ticket.
EXAMPLE 2: Craig hopes to strike it rich so he can quit his job and open a winery in California.

that's the way the cookie crumbles - that's the way things go sometimes and there's nothing you can do about it
EXAMPLE 1: You lost your job? That's the way the cookie crumbles.
EXAMPLE 2: Somebody drank your last can of Pepsi? Oh well, that's the way the cookie crumbles.

What's the matter? - see Lesson 2

Choose the best substitute for the phrase or sentence in bold:

1) "What's the matter? You don't look happy."
   a) How are you?
   b) What does it mean?
   c) What's wrong?

2) We sold our business. Now we're rolling in dough!
   a) we're still making cookies
   b) we're rich
   c) we're poor

3) How could a woman find a hair in her cookie? I just don't get it.
   a) I don't understand it.
   b) I don't get hair in my cookies.
   c) I don't believe it.

4) Ted and Amber think they're going to strike it rich in the music business.
   a) get hurt
   b) make lots of money
   c) hit something

5) Bob thought that losing his job at the furniture store was no laughing matter.
   a) something serious
   b) something to laugh about
   c) something that doesn't really matter

6) My boss at the plastics company was a real dragon lady. Whenever I went into her office, she started yelling.
   a) ugly woman
   b) nasty woman
   c) fire-breathing monster
7) Nicole, I’m sorry you lost the election for president, but
that's the way the cookie crumbles.
a) that's how it goes and you can't do anything about it
b) sometimes cookies fall apart
c) when bad things happen, you should be very upset

8) A few months after Peter fired Bob, his furniture store went
out of business.
a) started doing better
b) moved to a different location
c) closed

ANSWERS TO LESSON 22, p. 166
BOB HAS A SURPRISE VISITOR

Bob’s former boss Peter, from the furniture store, comes to visit. He offers Bob his old job back, but Bob’s not interested.

Peter: Hi Bob. I was just in the neighborhood so I thought I’d stop by.

Bob: Come on in. Take a cookie.

Peter: Thanks. I’m glad to see you’re not holding a grudge against me for firing you.

Bob: Not at all. At first, it burned me up. But I feel better now.

Peter: Good. I’m glad you have no hard feelings. How would you like your old job back?

Bob: What happened to your wonderful new manager?

Peter: She drank at work. By five o’clock, she’d be lying under a dining room table, three sheets to the wind. Yesterday, I finally got rid of her.

Bob: Let me get this straight. You replaced me with some crazy woman who got plastered every day on the job?

Peter: Yeah, I lost my head.

Bob: I don’t think you lost your head. I just think you’ve got rocks in your head!

Peter: Bob, I’m trying to level with you. I never should’ve let you go.

Bob: No use crying over spilt milk.

Peter: So you’ll come back and work for me?

Bob: Not on your life! Susan and I are very well off now. We just sold our new company for a small fortune!

IDIOMS - LESSON 23

at first - see Lesson 16

(to) burn someone up - to make someone angry
EXAMPLE 1: Jenny didn’t vote for Nicole. That really burns Nicole up.
EXAMPLE 2: I can’t believe Kristen and Andrew didn’t invite us to their wedding. That really burns me up!

come on in - enter
EXAMPLE 1: Come on in, the door’s open!
EXAMPLE 2: If nobody answers the door when you ring tonight, just come on in.
NOTE: This is a more conversational way of saying “come in.”

(to) get plastered [slang] - to get drunk
EXAMPLE 1: Harold got plastered at the wedding and fell into the wedding cake.
EXAMPLE 2: That’s your fifth martini. What are you trying to do, get plastered?
SYNONYMS: to get loaded [slang]; to get sloshed [slang]

(to) get rid of - to free oneself of; to throw out
EXAMPLE 1: We finally got rid of our spider problem, but now we have ants.
EXAMPLE 2: I’ve got too many old magazines and newspapers in my office. I need to get rid of some of them.
### (to) get (something) straight
- to clarify; to understand

**Example 1:** Are you sure you **got the directions straight**?
**Example 2:** Let me **get this straight** — you’re leaving your husband?

### (to) hold a grudge against (someone)
- to stay angry with someone about a past offense

**Example 1:** Nicole **holds a grudge against Jenny** for voting for Andrea instead of her.
**Example 2:** Julia **held a grudge against her boyfriend** for not bringing her flowers on Valentine’s Day.

### (to) let (someone) go
- to fire; dismiss employees

**Example 1:** The investment bank **let Chris go** after they discovering he was stealing erasers, paper clips, and other office supplies.
**Example 2:** The Xerxes Corporation was doing so poorly, they had to **let many workers go** earlier this year.

### (to) level with (someone)
- to speak openly and honestly with someone

**Example 1:** Let me **level with you**. I’m voting for Andrea instead of you.
**Example 2:** I have a feeling you’re not telling me the whole truth. Please just **level with me**.

### (to) lose one's head
- to lose control of one’s behavior; to not know what one is doing

**Example 1:** Nicole **lost her head** after losing the elections and started yelling at all her friends.
**Example 2:** Remember to stay calm before the judge. Don’t get nervous and **lose your head**!

### no hard feelings
- no anger; no bitterness

**Example 1:** After the elections, Andrea said to Nicole, "I hope there are **no hard feelings."
**Example 2:** I know you were disappointed that I beat you in the golf tournament, but I hope there are **no hard feelings**.

### no use crying over spilt milk
- there’s no point in regretting something that’s too late to change

**Example 1:** Nicole realized she'd made some mistakes with her campaign for president, but there was **no use crying over spilt milk**.
**Example 2:** Your bike was ruined in an accident? There's **no use crying over spilt milk**. You'll just have to buy a new one.

---

### Not on your life!
- definitely not

**Example 1:** You want me to sit in that sauna for an hour? **Not on your life**!
**Example 2:** Thanks for offering me a job in Siberia. Am I going to take it? **Not on your life**!

### on the job
- at work

**Example 1:** Jennifer has four men **on the job** painting her house.
**Example 2:** Dan got fired for drinking **on the job**.

### small fortune
- a good amount of money

**Example 1:** When her great aunt died, Anne inherited a **small fortune**.
**Example 2:** You won $25,000 in the lottery? That’s a **small fortune**!

### (to) stop by
- to pay a quick visit

**Example 1:** I’m having some friends over for pizza tomorrow night. Why don’t you **stop by**?
**Example 2:** **Stop by** my office on your way home tonight.

### three sheets to the wind
- drunk

**Example 1:** After drinking four beers, Bob was **three sheets to the wind**.
**Example 2:** Somebody needs to make sure Greg gets home safely. He’s **three sheets to the wind**.

SYNONYMS: wasted [slang]; liquored up [slang]; dead drunk

### well off
- wealthy; financially secure

**Example 1:** Betsy’s grandfather used to be very **well off**, but he lost most of his fortune when the U.S. stock market crashed in 1929.
**Example 2:** Debbie is a doctor and her husband is a lawyer. They’re quite **well off**.

---

### PRACTICE THE IDIOMS

**Choose the best substitute for the phrase or sentence in bold:**

1) Nicole was very angry that she lost the election. Her mother told her **there was no use crying over spilt milk**.
   a) there was no point in feeling bad about what can’t be changed
   b) she should think about all the mistakes she made
   c) maybe she could still change the results
2) Many people have died while climbing Mount Everest. Would I like to try it? **Not on your life!**
   a) Not if it means you’ll be risking your life!
   b) Yes, definitely
   c) No way!

3) When Carol told Bob she could no longer sell Susan’s Scrumptious Cookies, it really **burned him up.**
   a) made him feel happy
   b) made him feel sick
   c) made him very angry

4) Sara, I’m going to have to **let you go.** You come to work late every day and spend all day chatting with your friends.
   a) fire you
   b) give you more vacation time
   c) yell at you

5) One day, Nicole woke up with big red spots on her face. She didn’t know how to **get rid of** them.
   a) make more of
   b) remove
   c) encourage

6) Thanks for coming to my party. **Come on in!**
   a) See you later!
   b) Go away!
   c) Enter!

7) Susan was **three sheets to the wind.** Bob told her not to drink any more pina coladas.
   a) really drunk
   b) very thirsty
   c) feeling very tired

8) Now that Bob is **well off,** he definitely won’t be taking a job at McDonald’s.
   a) employed
   b) feeling well
   c) secure financially

*ANSWERS TO LESSON 23, p. 166*
Ted always writes the songs for the rock band. but now Amber says she wants to start writing songs too. She sings him the first lines of her new song.

Amber: Ted, you know how all along you've been in charge of all the lyrics for our band?
Ted: That's right, Amber. Everybody loves my songs!
Amber: Well, I hope they'll love my songs too.
Ted: But you don't write songs.
Amber: I'm sick and tired of singing your songs all the time. I want to sing my own songs!
Ted: Okay, no need to freak out! First things first. Have you written a song yet?
Amber: Yes, as a matter of fact, I have.
Ted: Well, let's hear it then.
Amber: Okay, but it's still a work in progress.
Ted: Stop trying to buy time. Let's hear the song!

Amber: My boyfriend is crazy. Crazy about baking cookies. I know for sure that there is no cure... 🎶
Ted: Cut it out! Stop teasing me. I am cured.
Amber: All better?
Ted: Yes. I'll never bake another cookie again. My parents made a fortune. Now we can all just chill out!

### AMBER WRITES A SONG

Ted always writes the songs for the rock band. but now Amber says she wants to start writing songs too. She sings him the first lines of her new song.

Amber: Ted, you know how all along you've been in charge of all the lyrics for our band?
Ted: That's right, Amber. Everybody loves my songs!
Amber: Well, I hope they'll love my songs too.
Ted: But you don't write songs.
Amber: I'm sick and tired of singing your songs all the time. I want to sing my own songs!
Ted: Okay, no need to freak out! First things first. Have you written a song yet?
Amber: Yes, as a matter of fact, I have.
Ted: Well, let's hear it then.
Amber: Okay, but it's still a work in progress.
Ted: Stop trying to buy time. Let's hear the song!

Amber: My boyfriend is crazy. Crazy about baking cookies. I know for sure that there is no cure... 🎶
Ted: Cut it out! Stop teasing me. I am cured.
Amber: All better?
Ted: Yes. I'll never bake another cookie again. My parents made a fortune. Now we can all just chill out!

### IDIOMS - LESSON 24

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Idiom</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| all along              | throughout; from beginning to end                                            | EXAMPLE 1: Jenny told Nicole she would vote for her, but all along she was planning on voting for Andrea.  
EXAMPLE 2: I never believed Joel when he told us he was marrying a princess from Denmark. I knew all along that he was lying. |
| all better             | completely cured                                                            | EXAMPLE 1: "All better?" asked Maureen, after her son stopped crying.  
EXAMPLE 2: If you're not all better, you shouldn't go to work tomorrow. |
| as a matter of fact    | - see Lesson 20                                                             |                                                                          |
| (to) buy (some) time   | - to make more time available (in order to achieve a certain purpose)       | EXAMPLE 1: We're not sure yet whether or not we want to buy the house. We'd better buy some time so we can think about it over the weekend.  
EXAMPLE 2: I'm not sure whether or not I want to take the job offer. I'd better buy some time to think about it. |
| (to) chill out         | [slang] - to relax                                                          | EXAMPLE 1: Chill out! If we miss this train, we'll just take the next one.  
EXAMPLE 2: Your dog ate your homework? Chill out, I'm sure your teacher will understand! |
| (to be) crazy about    | - see Lesson 5                                                              |                                                                          |
(to) **cut it out** - stop it; stop the annoying behavior

**Example 1:** Tracy was chewing gum loudly during the movie. Her boyfriend finally told her to **cut it out**.

**Example 2:** Cut it out! Stop trying to pull my shoes off.

**first things first** - let's focus on the most important thing or task first

**Example 1:** You want to work here at Lulu's Dance Club? **First things first,** have you ever worked as a dancer before?

**Example 2:** You want to ask your teacher if you can hand in your paper two weeks late? **First things first,** you'd better think of an excuse.

**for sure** - see Lesson 19

(to) **freak out** [slang] - to respond to something irrationally or crazily; to overreact

**Example 1:** Ashley's parents **freaked out** when she told them she was dropping out of college to become an actress.

**Example 2:** Don't **freak out** when I tell you this, but I lost the laptop you lent me last week.

**(to be) in charge of** - having responsibility for

**Example 1:** John is **in charge of** all international sales for his company.

**Example 2:** Who's **in charge of** making sure we don't run out of toilet paper in the bathroom?

**in progress** - happening; under way; going on now

**Example 1:** The play is already **in progress**, so you'll have to wait until intermission to sit down.

**Example 2:** Once the test is **in progress**, you will not be allowed to leave the room.

**(to) make a fortune** - to make a lot of money

**Example 1:** Adam **made a fortune** when he sold his company to Microsoft.

**Example 2:** Emma **made a fortune** selling candy to her classmates after lunch every day.

SYNONYMS: to make a bundle; to make a killing

**(to be) sick and tired of** - completely bored with; sick of

**Example 1:** Ted is **sick and tired of** hearing about what an excellent student Nicole is.

**Example 2:** I'm **sick and tired of** this nasty weather we've been having!

**Practice the Idioms**

**Fill in the blanks using these idioms:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>buy time</th>
<th>cut it out</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>chill out</td>
<td>in charge of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>freaked out</td>
<td>sick and tired of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all along</td>
<td>first things first</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1) Nicole really ___________ when she heard she lost the presidential election. She threw her books across the room!

2) Ted, why do you always leave your dirty clothes on the floor? Your mother is ___________ cleaning up after you.

3) Donna, from the National Cookie Company, wanted Susan to sign a contract right away. Susan told her ___________. She wanted to speak to a lawyer before signing any papers.

4) As president of the Spanish Club, Nicole will be ___________ organizing a trip to Spain in the spring.

5) When Nicole saw a group of her brother's friends laughing at her, she told them to ___________.

6) After losing the election, Nicole was very upset. She needed to take it easy and ___________.

7) Bob and Susan weren't sure yet how much they wanted to sell their cookie company for. They needed to ___________ so they could get some advice.

8) Nicole had assumed ___________ that she was going to win the election. She was really surprised when she lost.
BONUS PRACTICE

Fill in the blank with the missing word:

1) Billy fell down the stairs and started crying. When he finally stopped, his mother asked, "All _____?"
   a) good    b) better    c) okay

2) Amber was happy when Ted said they didn't have to bake any more cookies. She was sick and tired _____ baking cookies.
   a) of    b) with    c) at

3) Ethan hasn't yet made up his mind whether or not to accept the job offer. He needs to _____ some time.
   a) buy    b) purchase    c) get

4) The man behind me on the train was whistling loudly. It was giving me a headache. Finally, I told him to _____ it out.
   a) stop    b) cut    c) sever

5) Chill _____! We're only going to be a few minutes late.
   a) it    b) in    c) out

6) Adam _____ a fortune working in computers in the late 90's. He was able to retire at age 39.
   a) had    b) made    c) found

7) The students were told that while the test was _____ progress, they wouldn't be allowed to leave the classroom.
   a) with    b) in    c) at

8) Victoria has a big job. She's in charge _____ the marketing department at her company.
   a) at    b) with    c) of

ANSWERS TO LESSON 24, p. 167
TED BRINGS HOME MORE GOOD NEWS

Ted tells his family that a talent agent wants to meet with him. The agent will fly Ted and Amber to New York. Nicole announces that she's been named president of the Spanish Club.

Ted: Amber and I are going to break into the music business. Last night after our concert, a talent agent asked us to meet with him in New York.

Susan: Congratulations! We'll give you some spending money for your trip.

Ted: No need. The agent is footing the bill for everything. And when we get there, he's going to wine and dine us.

Susan: He must think you're the cream of the crop.

Ted: He thinks we sound like the Goo Goo Dolls.

Nicole: Who are they?

Ted: You're really out of it. They're a popular rock band.

Nicole: Our family is certainly on a winning streak. I was elected president of the Spanish Club today.

Ted: The Spanish Club? Big deal!

Susan: A rock star and a diplomat — I'm so proud of both of you!

Nicole: You don't get it, Ted. This is only the beginning. Today, president of the Spanish Club. Tomorrow, ambassador to Spain!

Ted: Well, Ambassador, you'll need to wrap up my chemistry homework before you leave for the Spanish Embassy.

IDIOMS - LESSON 25

Big deal! - So what? That doesn't really matter.

EXAMPLE 1: You won five dollars in the lottery? Big deal!
EXAMPLE 2: Your father has a job with a big company in New York City? Big deal!

(to) break into - to enter or be let into a profession

EXAMPLE 1: If you want to break into journalism, it's a good idea to work on a college newspaper.
EXAMPLE 2: These days it's difficult to break into investment banking.

NOTE: "Break into" has several other meanings:
1. Interrupt. Boris and I were talking. Please don't try to break into our conversation.
2. Enter illegally or by force. Somebody broke into Peter's house and stole his DVD player.
3. To suddenly begin an activity, such as singing. After receiving the check from the National Cookie Company, Susan broke into song.

cream of the crop - the best of a group

EXAMPLE 1: In the world of women's tennis, the Williams sisters are the cream of the crop.
EXAMPLE 2: Of course you'll get accepted to Harvard. Don't forget, you're the cream of the crop!

SYNONYM: creme de la creme
(to) **foot the bill** - to pay

**EXAMPLE 1:** You paid last time we went to the movies. Let me **foot the bill** this time.

**EXAMPLE 2:** Fortunately, whenever we go out to dinner with the boss, she **foots the bill**.

**SYNONYM:** to pick up the tab

(to) **get it** - see Lesson 21

(to be) **out of it** - not aware or knowledgeable about trends or modern habits

**EXAMPLE 1:** Don’t ask for Susan’s advice on fashion. She’s really **out of it**. She wears sneakers with everything.

**EXAMPLE 2:** Betsy has never even heard of Harry Potter. She’s really **out of it**!

**NOTE:** “Out of it” also means “confused” or “disoriented.” Example: After staying up all night studying, Ted felt **out of it** the next day.

**spending money** - money for minor expenses

**EXAMPLE 1:** Before Tim left for Europe, his parents gave him $400 in **spending money**.

**EXAMPLE 2:** Martin’s parents are paying his college tuition, but he has to earn his own **spending money**.

**SYNONYM:** pocket money

(to) **wine and dine** - to take someone out for an evening or an expensive meal

**EXAMPLE 1:** Donna **wined and dined** Bob and Susan and then presented them with a contract for the sale of Susan’s Scrumptious Cookies.

**EXAMPLE 2:** Kate was **wined and dined** during her trip to Santiago.

(to be on a) **winning streak** - a series of wins

**EXAMPLE 1:** The basketball team hasn’t lost a game all season. They’re on a **winning streak**!

**EXAMPLE 2:** You won 10 games in a row? You’re on a **winning streak**!

(to) **wrap up** - to finish

**EXAMPLE 1:** If you **wrap up** your homework by eight o’clock, we’ll have time to catch a movie tonight.

**EXAMPLE 2:** Okay folks, let’s **wrap up** these exercises so we can go home early tonight.
Fill in the blank with the missing word:

1) Next year, Ted will be traveling all _____the world with his band.
   a) about  b) inside  c) over

2) After his fifth vodka, Steve was_____sheets to the wind.
   a) five  b) three  c) two

3) For a while, the Johnsons were living_____a shoestring. They couldn't afford to eat out at restaurants.
   a) with  b) on  c) by

4) When my friend lost her favorite necklace, I told her it was no use crying over spilt _____.
   a) milk  b) juice  c) beer

5) Joel has a fun job. He's_____charge of advertising sales for Mad, the best humor magazine in America.
   a) at  b) on  c) in

6) Please put away your wallet! Let me_____the bill.
   a) arm  b) foot  c) hand

7) My friend was running around like a chicken with its head cut off. I told her to chill_____.
   a) out  b) in  c) down

8) Bob worked out the nuts and_____of the agreement with the National Cookie Company.
   a) details  b) bolts  c) tacks

9) After Martha's neighbor chopped down her apple tree, she held a grudge_____him for years.
   a) from  b) against  c) for

10) I arrived late to the stadium. The baseball game was already _____progress.
    a) through  b) in  c) at

11) My friend invited me out for a drink, but I told her I'd first need to wrap_____some things at the office.
    a) through  b) along  c) up

12) I'm _____and tired of telemarketers calling me in the evening trying to sell me stuff I don't want.
    a) sick  b) ill  c) angry

13) Kristen's boss paid her a compliment. He said she was the best salesperson in the company. That really_____her day.
    a) made  b) created  c) ruined

14) The person seated behind me on the airplane kept on kicking my seat. Finally, I told him to_____it out.
    a) stop  b) cut  c) fly

15) Amber hopes to break_____the modeling business after she graduates from high school. She can definitely model nose rings and tattoos!
    a) into  b) in  c) around
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across
1. First things . Before we start wandering around the streets of Paris, let’s look at a map and plan our route.
3. The company will wine and ______ their top candidates for this position.
5. Nicole was really looking ______ to her school trip to Spain.
7. Ken is an engineer. He tries to understand the nuts and ______ of how things work.
9. When the stock market collapsed, Bob lost his ______ and sold everything.
10. Nicole’s boyfriend forgot his wallet, so she had to foot the ______.
11. Bob no longer shops at the Village Market. He holds an ______ against them.
13. I was sick and ______ of watching my co-worker flirt with our boss.

Down
2. We can’t afford a new computer for the office. We’re running on a ______.
3. Bette Davis may have been a great actress, but she was a ______ lady in real life.
4. Musicians from the Juilliard School of Music are the cream of the ______.
6. Diane and Mike just bought a mansion. They’re rolling in ______.
8. Mary left her husband George for a younger man. She told George, “I hope there are no ______ feelings about this.”
12. Stephen King has a long track ______ of writing bestsellers.

ANSWERS TO REVIEW, p. 167

CHALLENGE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

How well have you learned the idioms in this book? This crossword puzzle will test you. Idioms are taken from throughout the entire book. If you can solve the whole puzzle, good for you!
Across
2. The US team did not win the World Cup, but they gave it their best _____.
3. You think Al should tell his boss that she's wrong? Easier said than _____!
4. The English teacher gave her students a useful _____ of thumb. She told them not to repeat the same adjectives too many times in one essay.
6. You have an exam tomorrow morning? You'd better start hitting the _____!
7. Todd doesn't like reading. It's like _____ teeth to get him to read anything.
11. Julie was very upset when her landlord increased her rent by 25 percent. Now she doesn't know how she'll make ends _____.
14. Eva loves to travel. She's traveled all _____ the world.
15. Stop jumping up and down on the bed! If it breaks, it'll be no laughing _____.
16. I wanted to buy The New York Times this morning, but by the time I got to the store, they had already _____ out.
18. Good luck at the casino. Hopefully you'll strike it _____!
23. Jay didn't cheat during the Scrabble game. He won _____ and square.
24. You look very tired. We'd better call it a _____ and go home.
25. You paid $900 for that cappuccino maker? That's really _____ dollar!
28. You're going on vacation to Aruba? I'm _____ with envy.

Down
1. On a hot day like today, an ice cream stick is just what the _____ ordered!
2. We've only got two hours to finish this project. Let's roll up our _____ and start working.
3. Pfizer really wanted to Tanya to accept their job offer, so they agreed to _____ the _____.
4. If you studied your idioms, this crossword puzzle should be a _____ of cake.
8. Ted _____ around the bush before telling his parents that he failed his test.
9. Mmmm, this chocolate cake is out of this _____!
10. Joe wants to join the army, but he hasn't yet broken the _____ to his mom.
11. Oh, you're finally home. That's a load off my _____!
12. Frank, our best salesman, hasn't made a sale all week. I'm afraid he's lost his _____!
13. Mark drove a hard _____ and got two T-shirts for the price of one.
17. Vivian is a night _____ . She never goes to sleep before midnight.
19. I know you had your set on going skiing this weekend, but I'm afraid there won't be enough snow.
20. You'd better get up _____ and early to finish your homework.
22. All of Brianna's after-school activities cost money. Her parents are tired of _____ so much money.
23. Judy made a list of books for the book club to read, but she told members to feel _____ to make other suggestions.
26. Will Democrats and Republicans every stop fighting? When _____ fly!
27. Tom doesn't want to go to the rock concert. Jazz is more his cup of _____.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLE, p. 168
LESSON 6: SUSAN STAYS HOME & BAKES COOKIES
1. a 5. b
2. b 6. b
3. c 7. a
4. c 8. a

LESSON 7: SUSAN HIRES BOB TO RUN HER BUSINESS
1. b 5. b
2. a 6. c
3. c 7. a
4. a 8. c

LESSON 8: TED FORMS A ROCK BAND
1. a 5. b
2. a 6. b
3. c 7. b
4. a 8. c

LESSON 9: NICOLE FOR PRESIDENT!
1. b 5. a
2. a 6. c
3. b 7. b
4. c 8. a

LESSON 10: BOB VISITS THE VILLAGE MARKET
1. c 5. a
2. b 6. a
3. a 7. c
4. b 8. a

REVIEW: LESSONS 6-10
1. c 5. b 9. b
2. a 6. a 10. b
3. c 7. c
4. b 8. a
LESSON 11: BOB DRIVES A HARD BARGAIN
Abe: Hi, Jeff. How's it going?
Jeff: Fine, thanks. I've only scheduled a half hour for this meeting, so we'd better get the ball rolling.
Abe: Jeff, I need you to come up with a new advertising campaign for my furniture shop.
Jeff: I've had a chance to crunch some numbers, and you'll need to pay me $30,000 to come up with some new ideas.
Abe: Thirty thousand dollars? That's really out of the question!
Jeff: Listen, Abe, I need to make a living too. I've got a wife and seven children at home.
Abe: I'll pay you $20,000.
Jeff: If you want quality work, you have to pay for it. Let's say $25,000?
Abe: Okay, okay. You've twisted my arm. I'll pay you $23,000.
Jeff: Now you're talking. That's a fair price.
Abe: You certainly drive a hard bargain.
Jeff: I know, but you'll be happy with my work.

LESSON 12: BOB'S BIG COOKIE ORDER
1. a  2. b  3. a  4. b

BONUS PRACTICE
1. c  2. a  3. c

LESSON 13: AMBER COMES OVER TO BAKE COOKIES
1. c  2. c  3. a  4. b

LESSON 14: AMBER AND TED HEAT UP THE KITCHEN
I met Bob in college. He was in my English Literature class. I liked him right away. For me, it was love at first sight. I wrote him several love poems, though I never gave them to him. Then I found out he had a girlfriend. I saw him making out with a girl named Joyce. It looked like she was crazy about Bob too. But later that week, I heard that she was a nasty person and that she treated him like dirt. So I decided to go ahead and ask him to the movies. He said he was too busy. It was crunch time, and he had to crank out a paper for literature class and study for several exams. But I didn't give up. I kept plugging away. Then one day he broke up with Joyce and asked me out to dinner. That was 25 years ago, and we're still together. Fortunately, we're still head over heels in love with each other!

LESSON 15: NICOLE PRACTICES HER ELECTION SPEECH
1. b  2. a  3. c  4. a

REVIEW: LESSONS 11-15
1. a  2. c  3. b  4. c
ANSWER KEY

LESSON 16: BOB BRINGS THE COOKIES TO THE VILLAGE MARK
1. b 5. b
2. b 6. a
3. c 7. b
4. c 8. c

LESSON 17: CAROL TELLS BOB THE GOOD NEWS
1. a 5. b
2. c 6. a
3. a 7. a
4. b 8. c

LESSON 18: EVERYONE BAKES COOKIES
1. c 5. b
2. b 6. c
3. c 7. a
4. a 8. b

BONUS PRACTICE
1. c 5. b
2. a 6. a
3. c 7. c
4. b 8. b

LESSON 19: NICOLE'S CLOSE ELECTION
Ted: Nicole, my teacher gave me back my chemistry homework. I got a terrible grade! I thought for sure you'd help me get an "A+." Nicole: I'm sorry. I really did give it my best shot, but I guess it wasn't good enough.
Ted: Not good enough? That's right. You really messed up!
Nicole: You never should've asked me to do your homework. Don't try to put the blame on me for your bad grades.
Ted: Yes, my mistake. I thought you were a sure thing!
Nicole: So you'll get a bad grade in chemistry. Just learn to live with it. Here, take one of Mom's cookies. It'll help cheer you up.
Ted: You think a stupid cookie will cheer me up? Give me a break!

LESSON 20: BOB GETS AN ANGRY CALL FROM CAROL
1. a 5. b
2. b 6. c
3. a 7. b
4. a 8. b

REVIEW: LESSONS 16-20
1. c 5. b 9. a
2. b 6. a 10. a
3. c 7. c
4. a 8. b

LESSON 21: SUSAN GETS A SURPRISE CALL
1. c 5. b
2. c 6. a
3. a 7. b
4. c 8. a

LESSON 22: SUSAN SHARES THE GOOD NEWS
1. c 5. a
2. b 6. b
3. a 7. a
4. b 8. c

LESSON 23: BOB HAS A SURPRISE VISITOR
1. a 5. b
2. c 6. c
3. c 7. a
4. a 8. c
LESSON 24: AMBER WRITES A SONG
1. freaked out 5. cut it out
2. sick and tired of 6. chill out
3. first things first 7. buy time
4. in charge of 8. all along

BONUS PRACTICE
1. b 5. c
2. a 6. b
3. a 7. b
4. b 8. c

LESSON 25: TED BRINGS HOME MORE GOOD NEWS
1. c 5. b
2. a 6. b
3. c 7. c
4. c 8. a

REVIEW: LESSONS 21-25
1. c 5. c 9. b 13. a
2. b 6. b 10. b 14. b
3. b 7. a 11. c 15. a
4. a 8. b 12. a

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