

Illustrated

Everyday Idioms

with stories

Casey Malarcher

2



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Illustrated Everyday Idioms with Stories 2
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P r e f a c e

The purpose of the *Illustrated Everyday Idioms with Stories* series is to introduce English language learners to common idioms through humorous examples and illustrations. The lessons in this book will both entertain and enlighten students while providing exposure to how each idiom can be used in a variety of contexts.

Each lesson of the book begins with a list of ten target idioms. Within each lesson, target idioms are first defined for students. The definitions may explain the idiom in simple terms or use synonyms or other idioms to build a student's understanding of the meaning underlying each idiom. Each definition is then followed by sample sentences and short dialogs using the idiom in context. Finally, idioms are illustrated with humorous illustrations which can help build a memorable picture of each idiom's usage in the reader's mind.

Following the definitions and examples of the target idioms are two exercise pages for students to practice their understanding of idioms from the lesson. These pages include a

multiple-choice exercise of ten questions and a dialog exercise. In the multiple-choice exercise, students choose the correct idiom from the lesson to complete each sentence in the exercise. For the dialog exercise, students complete a cloze exercise of a dialog using six selected idioms from the lesson.

The final page of each lesson presents a short reading incorporating the idioms presented in the lesson. These readings give students additional exposure to idiom usage in context, as well as providing extended reading practice along with an entertaining presentation of the target idioms. Teachers using *Illustrated Everyday Idioms with Stories 2* in the classroom can use the readings as a springboard for discussion of the topics or situations described in the readings.

Illustrated Everyday Idioms with Stories series provides students with a useful approach to learning common English idioms. Students will also have fun in the learning process. We hope that you enjoy using *Illustrated Everyday Idioms with Stories*.

Lesson 1

t a i r d i e t m s

be composed of

clean off

come across

dress up

fall asleep

fill out

in retrospect

on the whole

set out

wait on

□ **be composed of** = comprise; be made of

The class was composed of students from the US, Canada, and England.

Water is composed of hydrogen and oxygen.

A: That's a very interesting sculpture.

B: Yes, it's composed of wood, glass, and old shoes.



□ **clean off** = clear; take everything off

You should clean off your desk. It's very dirty.

He cleaned off the shelf so that his new roommate could use it.

A: When is dinner?

B: In a few minutes. Please help me clean off the table.



□ **come across** = find by chance

I came across some old photographs at my parent's house.
She came across her favorite singer's latest album at the record store.

A: Please check my homework.

B: Sure. If I come across any mistakes, I'll tell you.



□ **dress up** = wear fancy clothes for a special occasion

Many children dress up as ghosts and monsters on Halloween.

Do I need to dress up for dinner at your parent's house?

A: Why did you buy that suit?

B: I want to dress up for the party.



□ **fall asleep** = go to sleep

Don't fall asleep when you are driving!
He falls asleep in class almost every day.

A: You look really tired.

B: I couldn't fall asleep last night.



□ **fill out** = write all of the information needed on a form or application

Everyone has to fill out a customs form when they enter a country.

Can you help me fill out this form? I don't understand it.

A: I'd like to apply for a credit card.

B: OK. Just fill out this form and sign it.



□ **in retrospect** = looking back at the past

In retrospect, I should have studied harder in high school.
You can see all of your past mistakes easily in retrospect.

A: Wow, I am so full!

B: Me, too. In retrospect, we should have ordered only one pizza.



□ **on the whole** = in general; all things considered

On the whole, I enjoyed my time in the United States.
Although there were some slow parts, on the whole the movie was good.

A: What did you think of the test?

B: On the whole, I felt it was quite easy.



□ **set out** = leave; begin a journey

He set out for the market early in the morning.
She packed everything in her car and set out for California.

A: Did Bob leave already?

B: Yeah, he set out early this morning.



□ **wait on** = serve someone in a restaurant

The man who waited on us last night had a French accent.
How many tables can you wait on at the same time?

A: Excuse me, no one has waited on us yet.

B: I am very sorry. I'll get a waiter right away.



Practice

Choose the best answer.

- _____, the university has a very good library and computer center.
 - Come across
 - In retrospect
 - On the whole
- At first, the band _____ a keyboard player, a guitarist, and a singer, but they added a drummer and bassist later.
 - was composed of
 - dressed up
 - waited on
- He could see _____ that he should never have told her about his family.
 - be composed of
 - fill out
 - in retrospect
- Here is the menu. Someone will be here to _____ you in a few minutes.
 - come across
 - set out
 - wait on
- I planned to do my homework after the movie last night, but I _____ when I got home.
 - cleaned off
 - fell asleep
 - set out
- Let's _____ for our anniversary and go to an expensive restaurant.
 - clean off
 - dress up
 - fill out
- Please _____ the table because it is almost time to eat dinner.
 - clean off
 - fill out
 - set out
- She _____ the registration form and gave it to the secretary.
 - filled out
 - on the whole
 - waited on
- Where did you _____ this interesting painting?
 - be composed of
 - come across
 - fall asleep
- We _____ for my parent's house very early, but didn't arrive until after midnight.
 - dressed up
 - fell asleep
 - set out

Dialog

Fill in the blanks.

is composed of
dress up

clean off
on the whole

came across
wait on

At a fancy restaurant:

Lucy: Will Arthur _____ us this evening? He's my favorite waiter here.

Sam: I requested him, so he should be our waiter.

Lucy: Oh my! They didn't _____ this table very well. There is a sticky spot here.

Sam: Don't touch it. I'll call someone over to clean it. Excuse me!

Waiter: Yes, sir?

Sam: My wife _____ a sticky spot on the table. Can you find someone to clean it up for us?

Waiter: Right away.

Lucy: The staff here _____ such professionals. They are all so polite and efficient.

Sam: Yes, _____, this is really a first-class restaurant. It is a little expensive, but worth it.

Lucy: Look at that man over there! He didn't _____ at all. He is not wearing a tie or a jacket.

Sam: That's Mel Gibson!



Idioms in Context

Read the following story.

¹ I go to college in Boston, but my parents now live in Florida. During the summer vacation, I went to visit them. I **set out** from downtown Boston by bus on Tuesday afternoon. Thursday night, I got off the bus in Florida. I had a lot of trouble **falling asleep** on the bus, so I was exhausted by the time I arrived at my parents' house. **In retrospect**, I probably should have just taken a plane to Florida.

² After I was in Florida for a few days, I was well rested again. However, I soon got bored. My friends were all in Boston. I decided to get a job. I **came across** an advertisement for a job at a local restaurant. I **filled out** an application and got hired right away.

³ On the first day of work, I got up early and got ready. I didn't have to **dress up** for work, but I did have to wear a uniform. The restaurant made everyone wear a formal white shirt and black shorts. The staff **was composed of** high school and college students.

⁴ At first, there were no customers, but around noon, the restaurant got crowded. I **waited on** customers and helped **clean off** tables. **On the whole**, it was pretty easy work. It wasn't too busy, but it wasn't too slow either.

⁵ As the lunch crowd started to leave, I stopped at a table where an old man and an old woman were sitting. As I was picking up their empty plates, the old man asked me, "Are you from the north?"

⁶ I said, "Yes, sir. I'm from Boston. I guess you could tell right away I was from the north, because of the way I speak."

"Oh no," the old woman said. "We have never seen legs as white as yours before."



Lesson 2

t a i r d g i e t m s

be crazy about
call it a day
concentrate on
get along with
have a point

more often than not
never mind
take a look at
turn out
wrap up

□ **be crazy about** = like or enjoy in an extreme way

She is crazy about tennis. She plays every day.
My brother is crazy about movies. He spends all of his money going to see them.

A: I love buying new clothes.

B: Me, too. I'm crazy about shopping!



□ **call it a day** = stop working

Let's call it a day!
Bill, you've been here for 10 hours! You should call it a day and go home.

A: It's 7:30. Let's call it a day.

B: Good idea. See you tomorrow.



□ **concentrate on** = focus attention toward

It's too noisy here. I can't concentrate on my homework.
He had to concentrate on the song to hear the words.

A: Just concentrate on hitting the ball.
B: OK, coach.



□ **get along with** = be friendly with; live or work well together

Everyone in my family gets along well with each other.
She does not get along with her mother-in-law.

A: Why aren't you going to Beth's party?
B: I don't get along with her.



□ **have a point** = said when you agree with someone's opinion

My sister says that I need to spend more time with my family. She has a point.
"That girl only seems stuck-up because she is shy."
"You have a point there."

A: The blue shirt looks better, but it's more expensive.
B: You have a point.



□ **more often than not** = usually

More often than not, he spends his holidays with his parents.
She works late more often than not.

A: We'd better take an umbrella.
B: Right. It rains more often than not this time of year.



❑ **never mind** = forget; pay no attention to

Never mind the car's color. It runs great!

Didn't you wash the dishes yet? Never mind. I'll do them myself!

A: Sorry, we don't have leather bags.

B: Never mind. I'll look in another store.



❑ **take a look at** = look at to evaluate

The doctor took a look at her foot to see if it was broken. Please take a look at my essay and let me know what you think of it.

A: Something's wrong with the car.

B: I'll take a look at it after lunch.



❑ **turn out** = finally be; end up

The weather looked bad this morning, but it turned out to be a nice day.

He tried to cook a special dinner for his girlfriend, but it didn't turn out well.

A: Good luck with your new project.

B: Thanks! I'll let you know how it turns out.



❑ **wrap up** = finish; bring to an end

The senator wrapped up his speech by quoting the president.

The party wrapped up around 3 a.m. after the beer ran out.

A: It's almost lunchtime.

B: OK. Let's wrap up and go out to eat.



Practice

Choose the best answer.

- _____ I have to sleep with my bedroom window open because our air conditioner doesn't work very well.
 - Never mind
 - Get along with
 - More often than not
- He _____ his step-brother.
 - has a point
 - gets along well with
 - turns out
- I _____ music, especially dance music.
 - get along with
 - take a look at
 - am crazy about
- We did a lot. Let's _____ and get some rest.
 - call it a day
 - never mind
 - turn up
- It's lunchtime. Let's _____ this meeting and go out to eat.
 - concentrate on
 - have a point
 - wrap up
- My father wants to have someone _____ our car engine.
 - get along with
 - take a look at
 - wrap up
- She was too tired to _____ her reading, so she went to bed.
 - concentrate on
 - have a point
 - turn out
- Things will _____ well in the end. You just have to be patient.
 - take a look at
 - turn out
 - call it a day
- She said that a good education begins at home. She _____.
 - concentrated on
 - gets along with
 - has a point
- Can you help me with this? _____. I see you are busy.
 - Take a look
 - Never mind
 - Wrap up

Dialog

Fill in the blanks.

never mind
have a point

am not crazy about
take a look at

got along with
turn out

At a coffee shop:

Alice: How did your date last night _____?

Carol: It was O.K. We _____ each other, but I didn't feel any attraction for him.

Alice: What do you mean?

Carol: He was a nice guy, but not my type. I _____ a man who spends his whole day with a computer. I prefer someone who is more of a "people person."

Alice: Computer programmers make a lot of money, Carol.

Carol: You ____, Alice. Actually, he does work for a very large company.

Alice: Is he handsome?

Carol: We took a picture together at one of those funny photo booths. Here, _____ him for yourself.

Alice: That's him? Oh, _____, Carol. You can do better than that!

