

# Lesson 1

target

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.



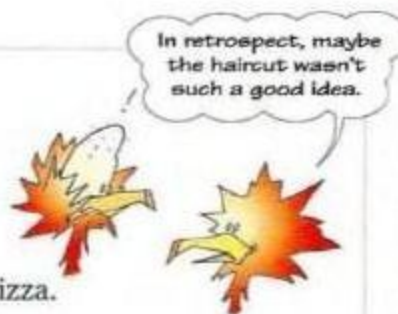


❑ **in retrospect** = looking back at the past

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.

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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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?"

<sup>6</sup> 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."

