

Lesson 6

target

as a rule
be at a loss
come up with
for short
in spite of

look to A for B
neither A nor B
point out
run into
when it comes to

□ **as a rule** = most of the time; normally

You should eat less meat and more vegetables, as a rule.
As a rule, the teacher does not like it when students leave early.

A: Do you think I can eat this banana?
B: Well, as a rule, eating is not allowed on the subway.

You should wash your white clothes and colored clothes separately, as a rule.



□ **be at a loss** = be unable to think

She was at a loss about what to do with the elephant in the backyard.

I know the man you are talking about, but I'm at a loss to think of his name.

A: I am at a loss as to what to cook for dinner.
B: Let's order pizza!

I'm at a loss for words.



❑ **come up with** = think of

When did you come up with that idea?
He came up with a plan to solve the problem.

A: You named your dog Tweety?
B: It's the best I could come up with!



❑ **for short** = a shorter way to say a name

My name is Alexander, but you can call me Alex for short.
I work for Seattle Auto Company or SAC for short.

A: What kind of car is that?
B: It's a sport utility vehicle—SUV for short.



This is my friend
Koronotino
Calenotangas.
His friends call him
KC for short.

❑ **in spite of** = regardless of something; despite

In spite of the bad weather, we will go hiking.
The company kept hiring new employees in spite of its decreasing sales.

A: How was your trip to Mexico?
B: I had a great time in spite of the hurricane!



❑ **look to A for B** = turn and ask A to give B

You should look to your parents for help if you don't have enough money.

He looked to his best friend for advice when he needed a job.

A: Don't worry about the test. We can study together.
B: It's nice to know that I can look to you for help. Thanks!



❑ **neither A nor B** = both A and B do not or are not

Neither I nor my sister is as beautiful as my mother.

She looked for her professor, but he was neither in his office nor in the classroom.

A: Neither Jim nor Amy are going to the movie.

B: I guess it's just the two of us then.



❑ **point out** = indicate

The waiter pointed out the chef's special on the menu.

He pointed out the places he visited on the map.

A: Wow! That girl is really ugly!

B: I should point out that she's my sister.



❑ **run into** = meet by chance

I often run into people I know at the bus stop.

While I was in Hollywood, I ran into a famous actor in the supermarket.

A: What took you so long at the store?

B: I ran into my old elementary school teacher.



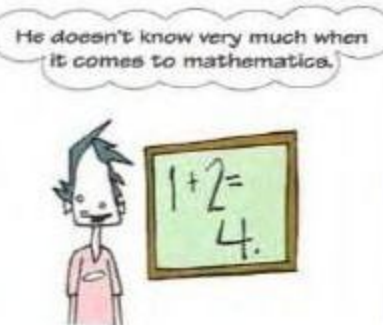
❑ **when it comes to** = regarding; when dealing with

When it comes to explaining difficult subjects, she is the best teacher.

He doesn't know very much when it comes to cars.

A: Can you help me install this computer program?

B: Sorry. When it comes to computers, I am a real dunce.



Practice

Choose the best answer.

1. _____, I never go swimming right after I eat.
 - a. As a rule
 - b. In spite of
 - c. Neither here nor there
2. He was _____ for words when he won the award.
 - a. at a loss
 - b. as a rule
 - c. for short
3. How did you _____ such a clever idea for a story?
 - a. be at a loss
 - b. come up with
 - c. look to
4. She was the perfect choice _____ finding someone to organize the conference.
 - a. ran into
 - b. when it came to
 - c. was at a loss
5. There was no need to _____ the mistake. Everyone could see it.
 - a. come up with
 - b. look to
 - c. point out
6. He drank _____ because he was driving.
 - a. neither beer nor wine
 - b. in spite of
 - c. for short
7. We _____ an old friend of ours at the movie theater.
 - a. came up with
 - b. ran into
 - c. were at a loss
8. You could _____ your grandparents for information about your ancestors.
 - a. point out
 - b. look to
 - c. run into
9. _____ the terrible weather, we had a nice time on our vacation.
 - a. In spite of
 - b. When it comes to
 - c. As a rule
10. Although our team name is the Buccaneers, people call us the Bucs _____.
 - a. in spite of
 - b. as a rule
 - c. for short

Dialog

Fill in the blanks.

am at a loss
for short

coming up with
ran into

in spite of
neither blonde hair nor

At the dinner table:

Alice: Guess who I _____ today?

Tom: Who?

Alice: Robert Smith!

Tom: Who?

Alice: Robert Smith, the boy who used to cut our lawn.

Tom: I _____. What does he look like?

Alice: Remember? He had blonde hair and glasses. He was really short.

Tom: Nope. I'm not _____ any kid like that in my memory.

Alice: Anyway, he's starting college. Now he has _____ glasses. He has dark hair and he's much taller. But _____ the fact that he is grown up, he still chews bubble gum!

Tom: Now I remember him! We used to call him Bob _____.

Alice: Right! Bubble Gum Bob!



Idioms in Context

Read the following story.

My husband and I went to a high school reunion party in our old town. Almost one hundred people were there. *As a rule*, I enjoy meeting people. But *when it comes to* large, noisy parties, I get very tired. I told my husband that I would prefer not to stay for too long. My husband *pointed out* that we should at least say hello to the people that we knew. We did *run into* several old friends at the party, so *in spite of* the crowd I still had a good time.

² During the party, a young man came up to us. "Hello, Mr. and Mrs. Brown," he said to us.

³ He looked familiar, but I didn't know where I had seen the young man before. I knew it was no use *looking to* my husband *for* help. He is terrible at *coming up with* names to match with faces. This time, we *were* both *at a loss* to think of his name. We talked with the young man for a while and then a couple came up to us. It was Don and Liz Wilson. (Her name is Elizabeth, but everyone calls her Liz *for short*). They were friends of ours. We had kept in touch, but had not seen them for many years.

⁴ The young man left after a few minutes to talk with some of his other friends. I told the Wilsons, "I'm sorry we did not introduce you to that nice young man. *Neither* my husband *nor* I could figure out his name."

"That's all right," said Mr. Wilson, "He is our son."

