

Lesson 8

at times
be likely to
be opposed to
by accident
come from

feel for
for the sake of
get away with
stand a chance
without question

□ **at times** = sometimes; there are times when

At times, I wish I had studied something other than medicine.

At times, he can be very cruel.

A: How do you like working in the circus?

B: It's OK. But, at times, I feel a little bored.



□ **be likely to** = will probably

It is likely to snow this afternoon. Drive carefully.

Someone is likely to ask for your business card. Do you have any?

A: Let's order some pizza.

B: It's not likely to be open this early in the morning.



□ **be opposed to** = against; not for; not in favor of

My mother was always opposed to my father's smoking.
I am not opposed to his joining us for the weekend.

A: Why does Bill only shower once a week?

B: He is opposed to wasting water.



□ **by accident** = without planning; by luck (good or bad)

By accident, he hit the wrong button on the keyboard
and lost his file.

She walked into the bathroom by accident while he
was in there.

A: What happened to my car?

B: I scratched it by accident. Sorry!



□ **come from** = originate in some place

Where did your ancestors come from?
These bananas come from Brazil.

A: Where did all these books come from?

B: The library was selling its old books.



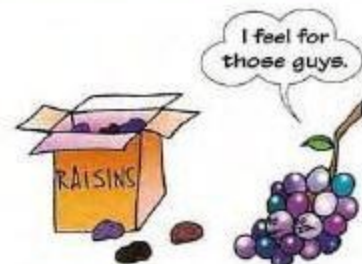
□ **feel for** = have sympathy for

She felt for the people starving in Africa, so she sent
money to the charity.

I really feel for homeless people.

A: Poor Tom! His pet iguana died.

B: Yeah. I really feel for him.



❑ **for the sake of** = to benefit or improve something

For the sake of time, we won't discuss the new budget at this meeting.

He had to quit smoking for the sake of his health.

A: Please don't try to cook anymore.

B: OK. I will stop for the sake of our relationship.



❑ **get away with** = avoid punishment

He thought he could get away with hiding a card in his sleeve, but he got caught.

She pretended she was a student to get the discount and she got away with it!

A: Did you hear that Sarah cheated on the test and got an A?

B: I can't believe she got away with it!



❑ **stand a chance** = have an opportunity to succeed

The players on the other team are all over six feet tall. We don't stand a chance!

I really want to ask her on a date. Do you think I stand a chance?

A: I can build the house by myself!

B: Hah! You don't stand a chance without me!



❑ **without question** = for sure; for certain

Without question, that is the best movie I have ever seen!

The test was, without question, the most difficult test of the year.

A: What do you think of my painting?

B: You are, without question, the most talented painter I know.



Practice

Choose the best answer.

- _____, I wish I could go back to college and study art.
 - At times
 - By accident
 - Stand a chance
- A small company like this doesn't _____ against a corporation like Microcomp.
 - come from
 - stand a chance
 - be likely to
- Do you know where these plants _____?
 - feel for
 - are opposed to
 - come from
- He _____ the plan of looking for oil in the Alaskan wilderness.
 - is likely to
 - is opposed to
 - comes from
- How many people _____ attend the meeting?
 - stand a chance
 - are likely to
 - feel for
- I just brought up the subject _____ conversation.
 - for the sake of
 - at times
 - by accident
- The thief robbed the store in the middle of the day and _____ it.
 - was opposed to
 - felt for
 - got away with
- He stepped on the cat's tail _____.
 - by accident
 - for the sake of
 - without question
- The missionary _____ the poor people living in the mountains.
 - got away with
 - felt for
 - stood a chance
- This is _____ the best party I've ever been to.
 - without question
 - at times
 - for the sake of

Dialog

Fill in the blanks.

at times
came from

is likely to
stand a chance

is opposed to
without question

At the office:

Betty: Come in, Bob. I wanted to talk to you about this memo regarding staff meetings.

Bob: Sure. Is there a problem?

Betty: Maybe. But first, do you know where this memo _____? It says "the staff" but I think one person may have written it.

Bob: I don't know who wrote it, but almost no one _____ the suggestion of only having one meeting every two weeks.

Betty: I think it's a good idea, too. But if the idea is going to _____ of being accepted by management, we need to add one thing to the proposal.

Bob: What is that?

Betty: _____ it might be necessary to have an emergency meeting. Do you think the staff _____ accept the suggestion that we have meetings every two weeks with possible emergency meetings once in a while?

Bob: _____ that should be OK with everyone.



Idioms in Context

Read the following story.

I often play golf with my father. Since I play golf on a college team, my father doesn't **stand a chance** of beating me. He is, **without question**, one of the worst golfers I've ever played with! In fact, I think even a beginner could beat him.

² **At times**, my father will cheat at golf. He'll kick the ball to put it in a better position. I'm not **opposed to** his occasional tricks. Even when I see him cheat, I still let him **get away with it for the sake of** the game. It helps keep the game interesting for both of us.

³ My father often hits the ball in the wrong direction. I remember one time my father hit a duck with his ball **by accident!** I really **felt for** the duck. My father's ball hit it right on the head! It quacked angrily and flew away.

"Don't worry, Dad," I said. "The duck **is likely to** make a full recovery."

⁴ My father asked, "Where did that duck **come from?** It shouldn't be on the golf course."

"The duck wasn't on the golf course, Dad," I pointed out to my father.

