

# Lesson 9

t a r g e t m s

as usual

back up

be cut out for

catch on

for ages

hand over

serve one right

take apart

turn down

work out

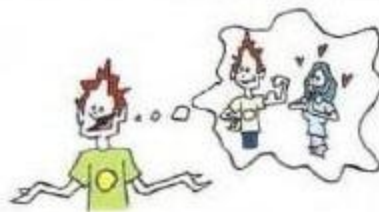
□ **as usual** = in the normal way

He is going to be late as usual.

As usual, I brushed my teeth right after I ate dinner.

A: Where is Matt?

B: He's playing computer games as usual.



As usual, he was talking about himself.

□ **back up** = move backwards

My father had to back up because the car in front of him broke down.

Could you please back up? You are standing too close.

A: I would like to get the trees in the photo, too.

B: OK. I'll just back up a little.



□ **be cut out for** = have the correct qualities for

I don't know if I'm cut out for graduate school.  
Nobody thought she was cut out for the army, but she became an officer.

A: I didn't know that Dave is afraid of flying.  
B: Yeah, I don't think he's cut out to be a pilot.



□ **catch on** = realize; understand

It took him a few minutes to catch on to the joke.  
Don't worry. Just follow me and you'll catch on in no time.

A: Wow. You learned how to juggle in one day?  
B: Yes. I caught on to it quickly.



□ **for ages** = for a long time

We haven't visited our grandparents for ages.  
That actor hasn't made a movie for ages.

A: How's your cat?  
B: I don't know. I haven't see it for ages.



□ **hand over** = give to another

This is a robbery! Hand over all of your money!  
The old man decided to hand over his business to his sons.

A: Alright! Hand over my keys!  
B: I don't have them!



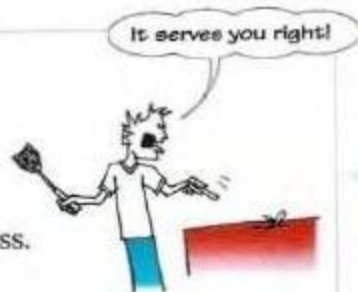


❑ **serve one right** = be the correct punishment for one

It would serve him right if she never spoke to him again.  
Her talk show was cancelled. It serves her right for being so rude to her guests.

A: Billy had to do extra homework because he came late to class.

B: Serves him right!

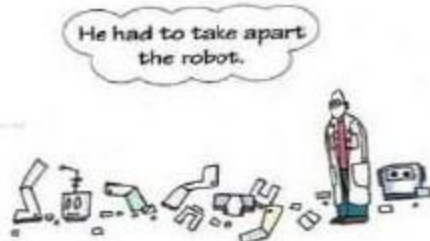


❑ **take apart** = separate something into pieces

I took apart the fan and put in a new motor.  
He takes apart cars and sells the engines.

A: Why did you take apart the computer?

B: I was looking for a file.



❑ **turn down** = decline; say "no"

She asked him to go out with her, but he turned her down.  
I invited her to join us, but she turned down my invitation.

A: I tried to join the band but they turned me down.

B: Maybe you should learn how to sing first.



❑ **work out** = exercise doing aerobics or weight lifting

How often do you work out each week?  
I don't really like to work out, but I do like to play tennis and basketball.

A: Do you work out?

B: Yes. I run to the donut shop every morning.



## Practice

Choose the best answer.

1. After she \_\_\_\_\_, he found someone else to go with him.
  - a. served him right
  - b. was cut out for
  - c. turned him down
2. Be careful when you \_\_\_\_\_. You might hit something.
  - a. catch on
  - b. as usual
  - c. back up
3. Do you think he \_\_\_\_\_ that job in the CIA?
  - a. for ages
  - b. is cut out for
  - c. catches on
4. She failed the test. It \_\_\_\_\_ for trying to look at my answers.
  - a. is cut out for
  - b. hands over
  - c. serves her right
5. The gym where I \_\_\_\_\_ has great equipment.
  - a. for ages
  - b. work out
  - c. hand over
6. He was embarrassed when he \_\_\_\_\_ to what they were talking about.
  - a. caught on
  - b. turned down
  - c. took apart
7. The old building was empty \_\_\_\_\_ until a computer company moved into it.
  - a. turn down
  - b. catch on
  - c. for ages
8. She \_\_\_\_\_ the radio, but could not fix it again.
  - a. handed over
  - b. backed up
  - c. took apart
9. The police officer demanded that the robber slowly \_\_\_\_\_ his gun.
  - a. took apart
  - b. hand over
  - c. work out
10. The morning traffic was bad \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. as usual
  - b. back up
  - c. hand over

## Dialog

Fill in the blanks.

as usual  
hand it over

catch on  
turned me down

for ages  
working out

### At the apartment:

Pete: Hey Sam! Did you borrow my yellow tie?

Sam: Oh yeah. I've got it.

Pete: \_\_\_\_\_! I've got a hot date tonight.

Sam: Really? With whom?

Pete: Carol Morgan.

Sam: You're going out with Carol? I haven't seen her \_\_\_\_\_. How is she?

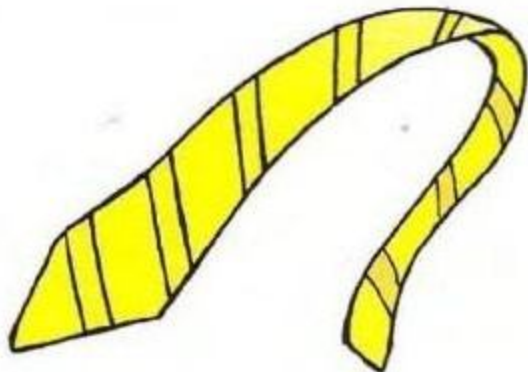
Pete: She is great! She has been \_\_\_\_\_ and looks better now than ever.

Sam: Wow! She looked incredible before. How did you get her to go out with you?

Pete: I asked her. OK, I had to ask her a few times. She \_\_\_\_\_ at first, but I kept asking.

Sam: \_\_\_\_\_, your annoying nature wins in the end.

Pete: I think you're starting to \_\_\_\_\_. Always remember, "If at first you don't succeed, try again."





## Idioms in Context

Read the following story.

Amy asked her husband to go shopping with her. **As usual**, her husband was too busy watching television to go with her. Amy tried to persuade her husband. She told him, "Come with me, honey. We haven't been shopping together **for ages**. I want you to take a look at some summer dresses with me. You can help me pick out the best one."

<sup>2</sup> Her husband **turned her down**, saying, "You always want to check every store, Amy. I'm just not **cut out for** all that walking around."

"Think of it as your chance to **work out**," Amy suggested. "You'll be getting your exercise for the day."

<sup>3</sup> But her husband wasn't listening. He was concentrating on the football game on television. Amy was so upset that she wanted to **take apart** the TV and flush each piece down the toilet! She set out for the shopping mall alone. But as she was **backing up** the car in the driveway, she had an idea. She stopped the car and went back in the house. She told her husband, "I'm sorry for bothering you, honey. Have fun watching the game." Then she gave him a kiss and left.

<sup>4</sup> At the mall, she found hundreds of dresses for sale and took her time looking through them all. She picked out two nice ones and went to pay for them. As she was **handing over** her credit card to the cashier, the remote control for her television fell out of her purse.

"My husband is home watching television," Amy explained to the confused cashier. "When he **catches on** that I stole the remote control, he'll go crazy! But it **serves him right** for not coming with me."

