

Lesson 11

blow up
bring back
burn down
catch fire
come to

for the most part
make one's way
no matter
sort of
tear down

❑ **blow up** = explode

The bomb blew up but no one was hurt.
Don't put that can near the fire or it might blow up.

A: How did the fire start?
B: The old gas heater blew up.

I ate so much. I feel like
I'm going to blow up!



❑ **bring back** = return; cause to return

He brought back the video that he had borrowed from me.
The picture brought back memories of her childhood.

A: Can I borrow your car?
B: Sure. But bring it back before 5:00, please.



The song brought
back some old
memories.

❑ **burn down** = completely destroy by fire

The school burned down in 1910.
Help! The church is burning down.

A: What happened to all the trees?
B: They burned down in the forest fire last year.



If you play with matches, you could burn down the house.

❑ **catch fire** = start to burn

The wood was wet, so it didn't catch fire very easily.
His clothes caught fire because he stood too close to the stove.

A: Let's move the candles away from the window.
B: You're right. The curtains might catch fire.



The log caught fire immediately.

❑ **come to** = reach

When you come to the end of this part of the test, stop.
If you come to a word you don't know, use a dictionary.

A: Excuse me. How can I get to Tom's Market?
B: Go straight. When you come to the intersection, turn right.



How did things come to this?

❑ **for the most part** = generally

For the most part, I enjoyed the time I spent in the country.
For the most part, she was satisfied with her performance.

A: How's your new job?
B: It's very interesting for the most part.



For the most part, I really enjoyed my trip.

❑ **make one's way** = go in the direction of (with purpose)

He made his way to the front of the line.

They made their way from California to Texas along Route 66.

A: I can't get a good look at the band.

B: Let's make our way to the front.

They made their way across the country.



❑ **no matter** = make no difference

I can't get an "A" in the class no matter how well I do on the final exam.

You don't have any money? No matter. You can pay me next time.

A: No matter what I try, I can't start my computer!

B: Is it plugged in?

No matter how much I comb my hair, it always looks messy!



❑ **sort of** = kind of; a little

This restaurant is sort of expensive. Do you want to go somewhere else?

I'm sort of tired. Can I meet you some other time?

A: Have you ever had shark?

B: Yes. It tastes sort of like chicken.



❑ **tear down** = destroy something that was built

I heard they are going to tear down the old stadium.

The workers had to tear down everything and start again.

A: I'm glad they tore down the wall.

B: Me, too. The view is much better!

They want to tear down the old apartments to build new ones.



Practice

Choose the best answer.

1. _____, all the songs on her new album sound just like her old songs.
a. For the most part
b. No matter
c. Sort of
2. He said he will be there _____ what.
a. no matter
b. sort of
c. for the most part
3. The gas truck _____ when it hit the tree.
a. blew up
b. burned down
c. came to
4. If the grease in a pan _____, don't throw water on it!
a. tears down
b. has time off
c. catches fire
5. More than one hundred square acres of the forest _____.
a. sort of
b. burned down
c. came true
6. She _____ through the airport looking for the baggage claim area.
a. made her way
b. caught fire
c. blew up
7. Some people want to _____ the fashions of the 1970s.
a. bring back
b. burn down
c. catch fire
8. The milk tastes _____ strange. Maybe it went bad.
a. come to
b. sort of
c. tear down
9. He got a ticket because he didn't _____ a complete stop at the stop sign.
a. burn down
b. come to
c. blew up
10. They want to _____ that old bridge and build a new one.
a. catch fire
b. make their way
c. tear down

Dialog

Fill in the blanks.

burned down
for the most part

caught fire
sort of

come to
tear down

On the street:

Betty: Wow! That was a huge fire last night.

Kim: It's hard to believe that there used to be a four-story office building right there. The whole thing _____ to the ground.

Betty: Does anyone know how it _____?

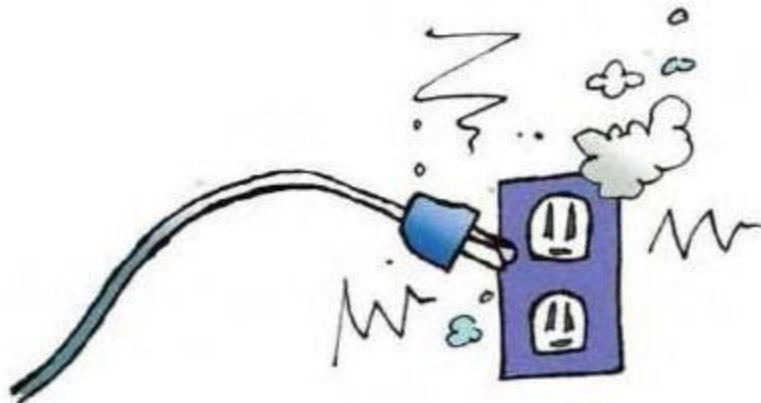
Kim: I heard someone say something about an electrical fire. Maybe it was bad wiring.

Betty: It's _____ scary to think that could happen in our building as well.

Kim: _____, I feel pretty safe in our building. It's much newer than the building that burned down.

Betty: I guess they're going to _____ the burned parts of the building that are still standing and build a new office building there.

Kim: I'm sure they will. Probably if we _____ this spot in a few months, we won't even recognize the place.



Idioms in Context

Read the following story.

Last summer, I visited my hometown. I had not been there for ten years. I kept in touch with my parents while I was away, but **no matter** how much they tried to tell me about the changes in our town, I was still surprised at what I saw. As I **made my way** through the streets around my parent's house, many of the places I saw **brought back** memories of my childhood. First, I saw my elementary school playground. Then I saw my best friend's old house.

¹ Some of my favorite places were gone. For example, the old movie theater had **burned down** years ago. It **caught fire** when the heater in the basement **blew up**. The old store where I used to buy candy was **torn down**. Now a four-story office building stands in its place.

² As I **came to** the corner by the old bank, I ran into Mr. Collins. My parents were friends with the Collins when I was young. I went up to Mr. Collins and said hello. He looked **sort of** confused.

I told him, "I'm John and Helen's daughter."

Mr. Collins said, "Oh! You're Helen's daughter. Such a beautiful lady." Then Mr. Collins called his wife over.

"Lucy! Come here! It's Helen's daughter. You remember Helen. Such a beautiful lady."

³ Mrs. Collins came over. She looked at me and said, "Oh, yes. Helen was so pretty." Then she said, "**For the most part**, you take after your father."

