

Lesson 13

t a r g e t

at first glance
attend to
back and forth
be no use -ing
clear-cut

drive one crazy
fed up with
play a part in
take into account
turn into

□ **at first glance** = after a quick look

The problem looked easy at first glance.
At first glance, she seemed to be very young.

A: What do you think of my drawing?
B: At first glance, it looks like a monkey in a suit.

At first glance,
he looked similar to his brother.
But now, I can see the difference.



□ **attend to** = take care of

She had to attend to the guests in the other room.
The staff attended to our every need at the resort.

A: I'm sorry, but I'm afraid that I have to leave.
B: No problem. I have some things to attend to as well.

She attended to her guests.



□ **back and forth** = go and come between two places

The dog ran back and forth across the yard.

The tennis players hit the ball back and forth for almost five minutes.

A: So you work in New York, but you live in Vermont?

B: Yes. I drive back and forth every weekend.



□ **be no use -ing** = does not change the situation

It's no use getting upset over a broken glass.

I tried to cheer her up, but it was no use talking to her.

A: It's no use trying to fix that old TV again!

B: You're right. Let's buy a new one.



□ **clear-cut** = easily seen; clear

That is the most clear-cut explanation of the theory I have ever heard.

There did not seem to be any clear-cut solution to the problem.

A: If you don't like your job, just quit!

B: It's not so clear-cut. My boss is also my father-in-law.



□ **drive one crazy** = make angry; bother or annoy

These mosquitoes are driving me crazy!

He was trying to drive her crazy on purpose.

A: That noise is driving me crazy!

B: Sorry. I'll practice my violin somewhere else.



❑ **fed up with** = sick of; at the limit of one's endurance

She was fed up with living in such a small apartment.
Aren't you fed up with having to work so much overtime?

A: I am fed up with eating ham everyday!
B: OK. Tomorrow we'll have bacon.



❑ **play a part in** = have an effect on something; be involved with

The bad weather played a part in our decision to cancel the picnic.
Education plays an important part in success.

A: How did you put out the fire so quickly?
B: Volunteer fire fighters played a part in stopping the fire.



❑ **take into account** = consider

She didn't take into account the fact that the bank was closed on Saturdays.
Did you take into account the possibility that some people don't like seafood?

A: I made reservations at the Milton Hotel for dinner.
B: Did you take into account that we only have \$20!?



❑ **turn into** = become; change to

The conversation turned into an argument.
The frog turned into a handsome prince.

A: Your puppy really eats a lot!
B: Yes. He's going to turn into a big dog someday.



Practice

Choose the best answer.

1. Do you know the name of the doctor who was _____ you?
 - a. turning into
 - b. playing a part in
 - c. attending to
2. How often do you have to drive _____ between the two cities?
 - a. clear-cut
 - b. back and forth
 - c. at first glance
3. I am _____ having sandwiches for lunch every day.
 - a. back and forth
 - b. take into account
 - c. fed up with
4. No one _____ the possibility that the river would rise so high.
 - a. took into account
 - b. played a part in
 - c. drove crazy
5. One thing that really _____ is people who chew their gum loudly.
 - a. drives me crazy
 - b. turns into
 - c. takes into account
6. Let's buy a new oven. _____ trying to fix that old one!
 - a. Attend to
 - b. It's no use
 - c. At first glance
7. Very few problems in society have _____ solutions.
 - a. fed up with
 - b. turn into
 - c. clear-cut
8. This one looks better _____, but I'll have to make a closer inspection.
 - a. at first glance
 - b. back and forth
 - c. fed up with
9. The author had started to write a short story, but it _____ a novel.
 - a. drove him crazy
 - b. turned into
 - c. took into account
10. The politician's promise of no taxes _____ his getting elected.
 - a. attend to
 - b. played a part in
 - c. clear-cut

Dialog

Fill in the blanks.

attend to
driving me crazy

back and forth
fed up with

clear-cut
plays a part in

At home:

Linda: Honey, I'm home!

Dan: How was your day, dear?

Linda: Terrible! I had to _____ a problem at our branch office all the way across town.

Dan: Was traffic a problem or something?

Linda: No, the situation at the branch office is the problem. There doesn't seem to be a _____ solution at the moment, so I will have to keep going over there.

Dan: Then you won't be working in the head office for a while?

Linda: Oh, I still have my work there, too. So now I have to drive _____ between the offices. This job is _____!

Dan: Well, you've been complaining about this job for a while. If you are so _____ it, why don't you try to find a new one?

Linda: You're right. This job _____ making my life too stressful. I'm going to quit!



Idioms in Context

Read the following story.

Sometimes at my job I have to **attend to** work in the back of the store, like unpacking boxes or checking inventory. When someone comes in the store and they don't see anyone **at first glance**, they think the store is closed. Just to make it clear that I am in the store and ready to help, I put a bell on the counter. I also put a sign next to the bell that says, "Please ring the bell if you need help."

² I thought the bell was a **clear-cut** solution to my problem, and it worked great at first. I could always hear it even if I had on headphones and was listening to music. For the first week, I never missed a customer. Unfortunately, however, my great idea didn't last long. I didn't **take into account** the fact that some people might enjoy ringing the bell for fun.

³ The bell started **driving me crazy** after a while. Children **played a big part in** this problem. They would come into the store, ring the bell, and run outside again. I had to keep running **back and forth** from the back of the store to the front. One day a little boy took the bell and ran around the store ringing it over and over again! I knew it **was no use getting** angry with the boy. He was just a child. However, I was really **fed up with** the bell! I threw it in a box and hid it under the counter. However, I forgot to take down the sign when I got rid of the bell. This **turned into** the real solution to my problem.

⁴ Now, when someone comes into the store, I know that they need help when I hear them yell, "Hey! Where is the bell?"

