

Lesson 15

target

as soon as
attribute A to B
be apt to
cut down on
end up

get over
get used to
in comparison with
in no time
used to

□ **as soon as** = right after; when

As soon as you delete a worthless file, you'll need it.
As soon as the sun rises in the morning, the farmer starts working.

A: Are you coming to lunch?
B: I'll be there as soon as I finish this.



□ **attribute A to B** = say A is a result of B

Scientists attribute the warm weather to pollution.
Many of the deaths in the earthquake were attributed to poor construction.

A: Why are your shoes in my yard?
B: I attribute that to your dog!



□ **be apt to** = be likely to; will probably

Without a map, you are apt to get lost on the small, confusing streets.

He is apt to fail the test because he didn't study.

A: Let's go shopping!

B: It's a holiday. Stores are apt to be closed.

He is apt to be late for class because he has a night job.



□ **cut down on** = reduce; do/have less

We cut down on driving because the price of gasoline is too high.

She cut down on eating snacks between meals.

A: Why don't you want some cake?

B: My dentist told me to cut down on sugar.

After that night, he decided to cut down on alcohol.



□ **end up** = finally be; be in the end

They ended up working on the project all night because of the deadline.

The extra food at the party ended up in the garbage.

A: Let's climb over the fence and touch the tiger!

B: No thanks. I don't want to end up as lunch.

The ice-cream ended up on the floor.



□ **get over** = recover from; overcome

It took her almost a week to get over her jet lag from the long flight.

She got over her old boyfriend very quickly and started dating a new boy.

A: How did you get over your cold so fast?

B: I ate 30 oranges a day for 3 days.

Buddy, get over it.



□ **get used to** = be accustomed to; be familiar and comfortable with

After I got used to waking up early, I enjoyed my extra time in the morning.

How long did it take you to get used to living in your new apartment?

A: It's almost midnight. Aren't you tired?

B: No. I'm used to going to bed late.



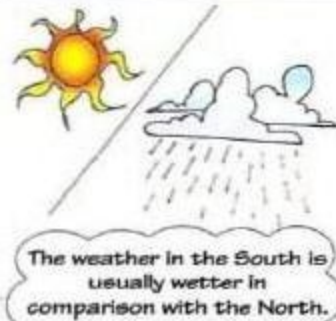
□ **in comparison with** = looking at in order to see the difference

In comparison with her first book, the author's second book was not very good.

This rock is heavy in comparison with its size.

A: Your house is so small.

B: Yes, but in comparison with my old house, it's a palace!



□ **in no time** = very quickly

If you make a few American friends, you can improve your English in no time.

In no time, the firefighters arrived at the fire.

A: Are we almost there? I am so hungry!

B: Don't worry. We'll be there in no time.



□ **used to** = occurring or existing in the past

My family used to eat dinner together, but now we are too busy.

The excuse for missing homework used to be "the dog ate it." Now it's "the disk was erased."

A: What is your favorite sport?

B: I used to like squash, but now I like racquetball.

She used to have straight hair.



Practice

Choose the best answer.

1. He is trying to _____ his smoking, but he doesn't plan to quit completely.
 - a. be apt to
 - b. cut down on
 - c. get used to
2. I will never _____ the way people drive in this city!
 - a. attribute to
 - b. cut down on
 - c. get used to
3. She _____ the fact that she failed the exam and began studying for the next one.
 - a. is apt to
 - b. got over
 - c. in no time
4. She called her parents _____ she heard the good news.
 - a. as soon as
 - b. in no time
 - c. used to
5. The food is much better at this restaurant _____ the restaurant where we usually eat.
 - a. attribute to
 - b. end up
 - c. in comparison with
6. My father _____ work in a large company, but he started his own business.
 - a. got used to
 - b. ended up
 - c. used to
7. The movie _____ selling out before we got to the theater, so we couldn't see it.
 - a. as soon as
 - b. ended up
 - c. got over
8. The lower number of people flying overseas this year was _____ the slowing economy.
 - a. attributed to
 - b. in comparison
 - c. used to
9. This picture frame _____ break if we try to mail it, so we should find another gift to send.
 - a. is apt to
 - b. cuts down on
 - c. gets over
10. We could finish this job _____ if we had the right tools.
 - a. attribute to
 - b. in no time
 - c. in comparison with

Dialog

Fill in the blanks.

as soon as
in comparison with

end up
in no time

get used to
used to

At school:

Mary: How do you like our new teacher, Tom?

Tom: I don't like her. She doesn't teach very well _____ Ms. Smith.

Mary: Why do you say that?

Tom: Ms. Smith _____ take her time and explain the lessons with lots of interesting examples, but our new teacher goes too fast.

Mary: Maybe you just need some time to _____ our new teacher's style of teaching.

Tom: I'll probably _____ failing this class. I can't even do the homework for Monday.

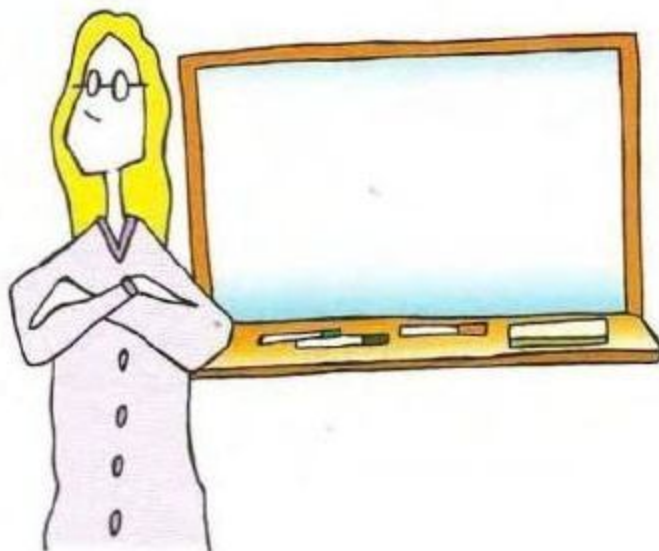
Mary: I can help you. I'm sure I can explain the homework to you _____. It probably won't even take an hour.

Tom: That would be great, Mary! Can we meet on Saturday?

Mary: I'm going to see a movie with a friend Saturday afternoon, but I can call you _____

_____ I get
back from the
movie.

Tom: Thanks! See you
on Saturday, Mary.



Idioms in Context

Read the following story.

Research has found that **as soon as** a man and a woman get married, they start putting on weight. Men usually gain about four pounds. Women gain about five.

Researchers **attribute** the weight gain **to** changes in the exercise habits of newly married couples. A newly married man who **used to** spend several hours each week exercising **is apt to** stop exercising in order to spend more time with his new wife.

² After the couple **gets used to** their new life together, they may begin to exercise again. However, usually the couple **ends up** exercising for a shorter time together **in comparison with** the time they exercised separately before marriage. One way a husband and wife can **get over** this problem is to begin to exercise together soon after the wedding.

³ The food a couple eats can also help the couple control their weight. In general, most people need to **cut down on** the foods which are high in fat. Couples who are used to eating a lot of beef, fried food, and deserts should try to eat more vegetables, chicken, and fish.

⁴ Couples who start putting on weight after marriage can get back to their old healthy weight **in no time** with the proper diet and exercise.

