

Lesson 18

t a r g i e t m s

catch a cold

close call

do without

dry out

fool around

get nowhere with

hold back

in time

pay off

succeed in

☐ **catch a cold** = get a cold; come down with a cold

My mother told me to always wear a hat so I wouldn't catch a cold.

He walked home in the rain without an umbrella and caught a cold.

A: What's wrong with you?

B: I caught a cold. Achoo!!

He caught a cold last weekend.



☐ **close call** = almost be in danger; almost get hurt

It was a close call, but we managed to keep the cat alive.

I had a close call crossing the street today. A car almost hit me!

A: The firefighters saved me just before the house blew up!

B: Wow! That was a close call!

That was a close call!



□ **do without** = manage while lacking

She didn't have money for a drink, so she did without one.

He couldn't do without his cell phone, so he had to go home and get it.

A: I forgot to bring my hair dryer!

B: Don't worry. I think you can do without it.



□ **dry out** = become dry after some time

The ground in the desert dries out very quickly after a heavy rain.

Hang that wet towel on the back of the chair so it will dry out.

A: What should we do with all these grapes?

B: Let's dry them out and make raisins.



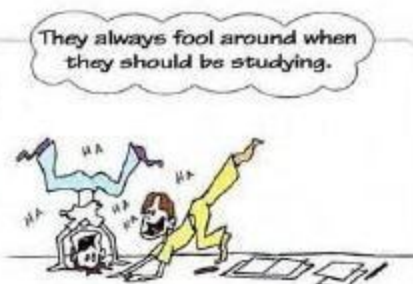
□ **fool around** = play; have fun

"What are you kids doing out there?" "We're just fooling around."

Don't fool around with matches. You could start a fire.

A: Why did Jimmy have to stay after school?

B: He was fooling around in class.



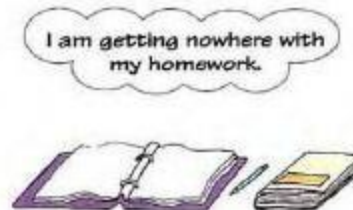
□ **get nowhere with** = not progress or succeed using something

I was getting nowhere with my project, so I took a break.

She got nowhere with the problem until a friend gave her an idea.

A: Do you need some help?

B: Yes, thanks! I am getting nowhere with this math problem!



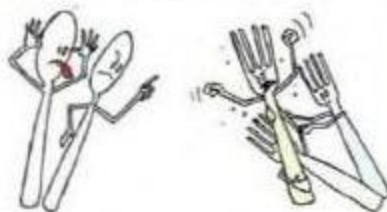
□ **hold back** = make something stay in the same place

We tried to hold back the flood, but there was too much water.

When she passed other people with dogs, she had to hold back her dog.

A: Did you shake hands with the president?

B: No. His body guards held back the crowd.



They had to hold him back.

□ **in time** = before the limit of some time

We got to the theater in time to see the previews.

He ran, but he didn't arrive in time to catch the train.

A: Did Amy miss her flight?

B: No, she got there just in time!



□ **pay off** = bring a good result

I passed the test! All that extra studying paid off!

Private piano lessons are expensive. Do you think they will pay off?

A: Wow! You look great!

B: Thanks. Joining that health club really paid off.



All that time at the gym really paid off!

□ **succeed in** = achieve the result one hopes for

The only way to succeed in medical school is to study day and night.

He succeeded in building a very successful company before he reached the age of thirty.

A: I don't think I can succeed in math class.

B: Don't worry. I'll help you study!



He succeeded in getting the promotion.

Practice

Choose the best answer.

- All the time that she was in university, she _____ seeing a single movie.
 - caught a cold
 - did without
 - dried out
- Hang your socks over the heater to _____.
 - get nowhere with them
 - dry them out
 - fool around with them
- The police tried to _____ the protesters.
 - fool around
 - dry out
 - hold back
- I feel like I am _____ my career. I have been doing the same thing for three years.
 - doing without
 - paying off
 - getting nowhere with
- If you _____, drink lots of orange juice and try to rest.
 - dry out
 - succeed in
 - catch a cold
- It is not safe to _____ in the street. Go play in the park.
 - succeed in
 - fool around
 - do without
- She _____ making friends with everyone in the office.
 - fooled around
 - did without
 - succeeded in
- Putting that stop sign there _____ . There haven't been any more accidents.
 - paid off
 - a close call
 - in time
- We had _____ at work today when a cabinet fell over. It almost hit a secretary.
 - in time
 - a close call
 - pay off
- Will you be home _____ for dinner tonight or will you be late again?
 - hold back
 - do without
 - in time

Dialog

Fill in the blanks.

held her back
fooling around

caught a cold
in time

close call
succeeded in

In the park:

Amy: Where are your two little girls, Kim?

Kim: They're over there _____ in the sandbox.

Kim: That's so nice that they can play together.

Amy: Oh, they're not always nice when they play together. Last time we came to the park, I caught Linda trying to make Mary jump in the fountain! It was quite cold that day, so I'm sure Mary would have _____ if she had gone in.

Kim: So you got there _____ to stop her?

Amy: It was a _____. Linda _____ getting Mary to put her feet in the fountain. I _____ from going all the way in the water.

Kim: Sisters can be mean sometimes.

Amy: But they can be great friends, too.

Kim: I agree, little sister!



Idioms in Context

Read the following story.

One Halloween a pumpkin truck had an accident on a bridge. It was a **close call**, but the driver was not hurt. However, all the pumpkins fell into the river. That afternoon, my friend and I were down by the river **fooling around**. Suddenly we saw a pumpkin floating by. Then another one floated by. Then lots of them floated by! The pumpkins from the truck were floating down the river.

² My friend and I tried to catch a pumpkin before they all floated away. My friend leaned out over the water while I **held him back** by his belt. We tried many times but the pumpkins were too far out from the shore.

"We are **getting nowhere with** this plan! Let's go in the water and get them," I said.

"Not me!" my friend said. "That water looks really cold!"

³ There were only a few more pumpkins coming down the river. I didn't want to **do without** one of those pumpkins. Then I had an idea. I would trick my friend!

"Why don't we try again with a stick!" I said. My friend took a stick and leaned out over the water again as I held him. At that moment, I let go of his belt and he fell into the river.

"I'm sorry! My hand slipped!" I shouted. My friend started to swim back to shore. "Hold onto some pumpkins," I suggested. "It will be easier to swim." My friend put two pumpkins under his arms and kicked back to shore. My plan **paid off**! We finally **succeeded in** getting some pumpkins!

⁴ We took the pumpkins back to his house. My friend changed clothes so he wouldn't **catch a cold** and hung up his wet clothes to **dry out** before his mother got home. Then we planned how to carve our beautiful pumpkins **in time** for Halloween!

