

Lesson 20

Idioms

all along
be true of
cut out
every so often
on account of

pass away
speak up
stay put
suffer from
under the weather

☐ **all along** = the whole time

He knew about the surprise party all along.
The machine was not plugged in all along.

She knew all along that they would get together.

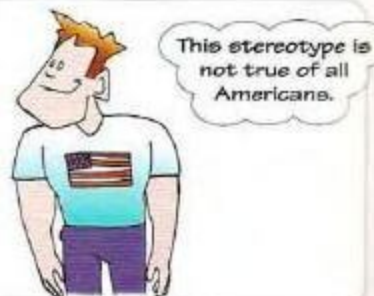
A: Who sent you all those secret love notes?
B: I thought it was John, but it really was Jim all along.



☐ **be true of** = correct when talking about

These statistics are true of high school students, but not university students.
That stereotype is not true of all women.

A: I hate dogs! They are always so noisy.
B: But that's not true of all dogs. Mine is very quiet.



□ **cut out** = stop

I am trying to cut out drinking during the week.
Cut it out!

A: What do you think of my new dance moves?
B: Cut it out! I'm trying to study!



□ **every so often** = sometimes

Every so often he goes to a movie by himself.
We hear from our friends in Canada every so often.

A: Do you like sports?
B: No, but every so often I go hiking.



□ **on account of** = because of

She didn't call us on account of the fact she was busy.
On account of the hot weather, we stayed indoors.

A: On account of you, there's no pizza left for me!
B: Sorry. I was really hungry!



□ **pass away** = die

My grandmother passed away last year.
When did he pass away?

A: Why is the shoe store closed today?
B: The owner passed away this morning.



□ **speaking up** = say aloud

I can't hear you. Speak up.

No one spoke up in class, so the teacher asked the question again.

A: Sorry, I didn't hear you. Could you speak up, please?

B: I said your stereo is turned up too loud!



□ **stay put** = not move

I will go and look for him, but you stay put.

He stayed put in his company even though many of his co-workers quit.

A: Jake is on the phone. He just arrived at the airport.

B: Tell him to stay put. I'll go pick him up.



□ **suffer from** = be ill with or bothered by

My mother suffers from depression.

People who use computers all the time often suffer from back problems.

A: Why are you wearing a hat today?

B: I am suffering from bad hair.



□ **under the weather** = a little sick

I'm feeling a bit under the weather.

Are you feeling under the weather?

A: Why are you going home early?

B: I feel a bit under the weather.



Practice

Choose the best answer.

1. He had been fooling everyone _____.
a. all along
b. on account of
c. every so often
2. The police told the protesters to move, but they all _____.
a. stayed put
b. were true of it
c. cut out
3. If you _____ allergies, there are medicines available these days to help you.
a. pass away
b. stay put
c. suffer from
4. He is incredibly tall, which also _____ all the members of his family.
a. speaks up
b. is true of
c. stays put
5. If you _____ walking to school in the morning, you won't get any exercise.
a. cut out
b. pass away
c. stay put
6. _____ she thinks about quitting her job and moving to the country.
a. On account of
b. Every so often
c. All along
7. Would you mind _____? It's very noisy in here.
a. speaking up
b. thinking over
c. cutting out
8. You should buy a house now _____ the low interest rate.
a. every so often
b. all along
c. on account of
9. What's the matter? You look a bit _____.
a. suffer from
b. under the weather
c. all along
10. Our mother _____ years ago. We don't need to keep her old clothes.
a. cut out
b. spoke up
c. passed away

Dialog

Fill in the blanks.

cut out
is true of

every so often
on account of

speak up
suffered from

At the beach:

Bob: Isn't this a great beach, Carol?

Carol: Could you _____, please? The waves are so loud!

Bob: What do you think of the beach?

Carol: Oh, it's beautiful! It's my first time by the ocean!

Bob: So you never swam in the ocean as a kid?

Carol: Nope. _____ the fact that I grew up in Colorado, I never got to see the ocean when I was young. I never even learned how to swim.

Bob: Me, neither. I _____ swimmer's ear as a child, so my parents made me _____ swimming when I was six or seven years old.

Carol: So why do you like to come to the beach if you don't swim?

Bob: I like to come to lay in the sun. That _____ most people here I think. But _____ I walk down and stick my feet in the water!



Idioms in Context

Read the following story.

Some people are afraid to be alone. That **is true of** my wife. We live in a nice neighborhood, but she is still afraid when she is alone at night. I think she **suffers from** a slight case of paranoia. I don't like to leave her alone, but **every so often**, I have to go out of town.

² One time I had to travel to attend the funeral of an aunt who had **passed away**. My wife was feeling **under the weather** and decided to stay home. That evening, someone knocked on the door. My wife was in the living room at the time. The person knocked again. My wife just **stayed put** in the living room. She didn't answer the door **on account of** the fact that she was a little scared.

³ The person at the door kept knocking and then **spoke up**. "Hello? Hello?" My wife was becoming more and more anxious. She wished the person would **cut out** the knocking and go away. Then my wife had an idea. She started barking like a dog! The person at the door stopped knocking and went away.

⁴ The next evening, I was home when the boy who delivers our newspaper came to collect money from us. He told me, "I came here last night, but your wife started barking at me. So I left."

⁵ I guess our paperboy can tell a dog's bark from a human's bark. Or maybe he knew my wife was home **all along**.

