

# Lesson 23

t a r g e t

be concerned about

break down

get stuck

have nothing to do with

look on A as B

put away

relieve A of B

take for granted

to say nothing of

trade in

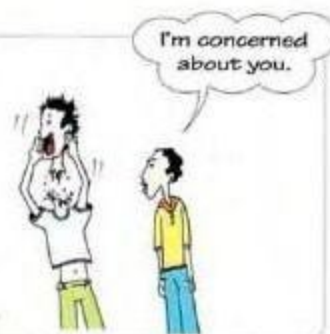
❑ **be concerned about** = be worried about

He was concerned about his hair because a lot of it fell out.

Aren't you concerned about the world population?

A: I am concerned about Jenny.

B: Me, too. She hasn't come to work for three days.



❑ **break down** = stop working (for a machine)

When the car broke down, they had to get out and walk.

I'm sure our refrigerator is going to break down. It's over twenty years old.

A: What's wrong with the copy machine?

B: It broke down yesterday.



❑ **get stuck** = be unable to move

Her boot got stuck in the mud while she was hiking.  
I got stuck on the third problem, so I couldn't finish the homework.

A: This ring got stuck on my finger!

B: Try putting some butter on it.

He got stuck in the mud.



❑ **have nothing to do with** = not be related to; have no connection to

The hot weather this summer has nothing to do with global warming.  
Our professor's lectures have nothing to do with the topics in our textbook.

A: I think you are sick because you ate all that cheese.

B: That has nothing to do with it!

Stay out of it.  
This has nothing to do with you!



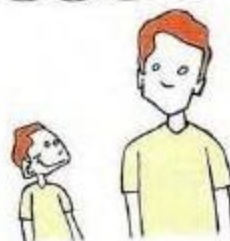
❑ **look on A as B** = think A as B

Do you look on your career as being fulfilling?  
The class looks on the teacher as a friend.

A: Can you join us for a game of golf?

B: No. My wife looks on golf as a waste of time and money.

He looks on his brother as a role model.



❑ **put away** = put in a safe place; hide or store

I put my skis away for the summer.  
She put away her jewelry in a box in the back of her closet.

A: Are those the gifts for Matt's party?

B: Yeah. I have to put them away before he gets home.



Where did you  
put away my old  
comic books?



❑ **relieve A of B** = take B from A

The teacher relieved him of his pocket knife.  
Those books look heavy. Let me relieve you of some of them.

A: Why are you home so early?

B: I am feeling sick, so my boss relieved me of my duties tonight.

She relieved her friend of his keys because he was drunk.



❑ **take for granted** = assume; expect

I took it for granted that my alarm clock would wake me up.  
Many people took it for granted that the economy would continue to do well.

A: Why are you taking your umbrella?

B: I don't take it for granted that it will stay sunny.

Don't take the nice weather for granted.



❑ **to say nothing of** = not to mention; need not describe because it is obvious

The soups there are delicious, to say nothing of the desserts.

The library at our university is beautiful, to say nothing of the music hall.

A: How was your trip?

B: The weather was wonderful, to say nothing of the food!

Their coffee is delicious, to say nothing of their cakes!



❑ **trade in** = exchange for another (usually for a better or newer one)

The car dealer only gave her \$1000 when she traded in her car.

I want to trade in my motorcycle for a faster one.

A: Do you think I could trade in my bike for a new one?

B: I think you should just give it away.

It is almost impossible to trade in an old computer.



## Practice

Choose the best answer.

1. Can you help me \_\_\_\_\_ these dishes after I finish washing them?
  - a. put away
  - b. say nothing of
  - c. be concerned about
2. Do you think he can get very much money if he \_\_\_\_\_ his old car?
  - a. takes for granted
  - b. relieves them of
  - c. trades in
3. Everyone \_\_\_\_\_ that the company's product would always sell well.
  - a. got stuck
  - b. relieved it of
  - c. took it for granted
4. The child's grades in school \_\_\_\_\_ his intelligence. They are due to his behavior.
  - a. have nothing to do with
  - b. trade in
  - c. break down
5. He \_\_\_\_\_ not passing the class, so he is going to study all night.
  - a. is concerned about
  - b. breaks down
  - c. has nothing to do with
6. I can \_\_\_\_\_ some of your work. I have finished everything I needed to do.
  - a. relieve you of
  - b. look on you as
  - c. trade in
7. My bicycle \_\_\_\_\_ in the mud after the heavy rain.
  - a. put away
  - b. got stuck
  - c. has nothing to do with
8. Nobody \_\_\_\_\_ a professional because she is so young.
  - a. breaks down
  - b. looks on her as
  - c. puts her away
9. The car \_\_\_\_\_ on the highway miles away from any city.
  - a. said nothing of
  - b. broke down
  - c. looked on it as
10. The weather on the island is beautiful all year, to \_\_\_\_\_ the wonderful beaches.
  - a. look on it as
  - b. be concerned about
  - c. say nothing of

## Dialog

Fill in the blanks.

am concerned about  
look on the drive as

break down  
relieve you of

get stuck  
to say nothing of

**On an old dirt road:**

Sally: Are you sure this is the right direction, honey? I \_\_\_\_\_ our safety.

Roger: Relax, honey. What could happen?

Sally: The car could \_\_\_\_\_ for one thing. The tires are terrible, \_\_\_\_\_ the engine. What if we \_\_\_\_\_ in a hole or something?

Roger: The car is fine. And this road is not that bad. Why don't you \_\_\_\_\_ an adventure rather than a nightmare.

Sally: Watch out for that animal! Stop!

Roger: Wow! That was a close call. Are you all right?

Sally: I'm fine. But since we are stopped, let me \_\_\_\_\_ the keys. I'm going to drive from now on.





## Idioms in Context

Read the following story.

**I**n college, I still lived with my parents, but I had a job. I could pay for a lot of my own expenses. Because of this, my parents were able to **put away** some of their own money in the bank. After a little while, they had enough to buy a new car.

<sup>2</sup> My parents **traded in** their old car and got a new luxury car! The new car had a beautiful interior, **to say nothing of** its sound system! My parents loved that car.

<sup>3</sup> I had my own car, but it was old and often **broke down**. Sometimes I had to borrow my parents' car.

<sup>4</sup> One time I borrowed the car and brought it back late. I **got stuck** in a traffic jam because of an accident between a car and a truck. I didn't get home until almost midnight. I **took it for granted** that my parents would be asleep. However, my mother was waiting for me when I got home! She **relieved me of** the car keys with a serious look on her face. I told her, "Mom, you have to **look on** me **as** an adult now. You don't have to wait up for me."

<sup>5</sup> My mother told me that her waiting up **had nothing to do with** me. She **was concerned about** the car and couldn't sleep!

