

# Lesson 29

t a r g i e t

as to  
by and large  
due to  
fall behind  
lose track of

make believe  
on no account  
originate from  
pull one's leg  
throw up

□ **as to** = about; related to

She was given no explanation as to why her electricity was cut off.

We have information as to the location of the missing boy.

A: What were you and that man talking about?

B: He gave me some tips as to where I could find a good used car.

I was given no explanation as to why my hair is turning brown.



□ **by and large** = overall; on the whole

By and large, the public transportation in New York City is very reliable.

It was a good performance by and large.

A: How was business last year?

B: By and large it was successful.

By and large, the food is very good at that restaurant.



□ **due to** = because of

Due to the strike, the subway is not running today.  
The game was canceled due to the storm.

A: Why aren't you at the picnic?  
B: It was cancelled due to high winds.



□ **fall behind** = be late; be behind

They fell behind schedule and could not meet the deadline.

She fell behind at work because her computer crashed.

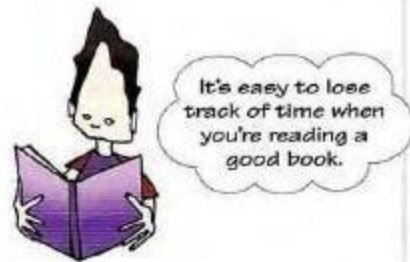
A: How did your team do?  
B: They fell behind in the second half and lost the game.



□ **lose track of** = not be aware of; not pay attention to

I always lose track of how much I spend on clothes.  
He lost track of his dog in the crowded park.

A: This vacation is so relaxing!  
B: Yes. I've lost track of the days!



□ **make believe** = pretend to be true

I used to make believe I could walk on water.  
She made believe she was sick so that her mom would not make her go to school.

A: Why is your son wearing a pot on his head?  
B: He's making believe that he's a robot.





❑ **on no account** = never; in no instance

On no account should you open the door if you don't know who is there.

On no account should you give your credit card number to strangers.

A: I can't believe there was a worm in your hamburger!

B: On no account am I going to eat at that place again!



❑ **originate from** = come from; start from

The legend originated from the Native American tribes in the southwest.

The letter originated from Paris.

A: My grandparents were from Germany.

B: My ancestors originated from Norway.



❑ **pull one's leg** = trick or fool one

You're not a spy. You're pulling my leg!

He told her he was French, but he was pulling her leg.

A: Stop pulling my leg!

B: I'm serious! There is a snake in my house!



❑ **throw up** = vomit

If you drink too much, you will throw up.

The baby threw up on her grandfather's suit.

A: Did you see Bill and Monica kissing at the party last night?

B: Yes. It made me want to throw up!



## Practice

Choose the best answer.

- \_\_\_\_\_, Florida has a pleasant climate year round.
  - By and large
  - Due to
  - On no account
- He was just \_\_\_\_\_ when he told her the boss was angry with her.
  - losing track of
  - pulling her leg
  - throwing up
- The rumor about our relationship \_\_\_\_\_ your sister.
  - fell behind
  - made believe
  - originated from
- If you \_\_\_\_\_ in your work for this class, you will have problems.
  - make believe
  - fall behind
  - lose track of
- Young boys like to \_\_\_\_\_ that they are cowboys or astronauts.
  - make believe
  - throw up
  - fall behind
- None of the cars on the highway were moving \_\_\_\_\_ an accident further up the road.
  - due to
  - on no account
  - by and large
- She can't eat watermelon. It makes her \_\_\_\_\_.
  - pull its leg
  - originate from
  - throw up
- \_\_\_\_\_ should you try to repair the computer's memory yourself.
  - On no account
  - By and large
  - Due to
- We \_\_\_\_\_ time and ended up talking until two in the morning.
  - originated from
  - lost track of
  - made believe
- The police could find no clues \_\_\_\_\_ the disappearance of the two girls.
  - make believe
  - as to
  - on no account

## Dialog

Fill in the blanks.

pulling my leg  
make believe

due to  
on no account

lost track of  
throw up

**In class:**

Ed: Did you finish the essay we have to turn in today, May?

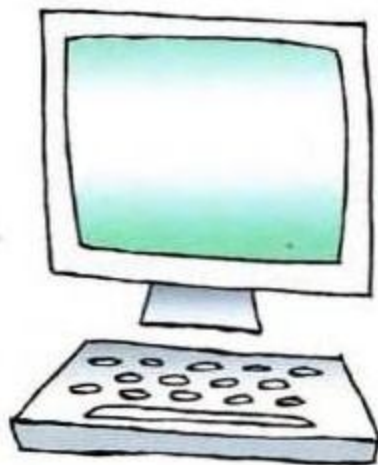
May: No. I didn't write my paper \_\_\_\_\_ this awesome website I found last night while I was surfing. While I was on the site chatting, I \_\_\_\_\_ time. Then I looked at the clock and it was one in the morning!

Ed: What? I hope you're just \_\_\_\_\_. You know the teacher told us that \_\_\_\_\_ should we miss an essay deadline. She doesn't accept any late papers!

May: Don't worry! I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_ I'm sick.

Ed: Unless you \_\_\_\_\_ in class, I don't think she is going to believe you.

May: Hey! That's a great idea!





## Idioms in Context

Read the following story.

I hate to fly, but I recently had to take a plane to a conference. One reason I hate to fly is that I get airsick. Before this flight, I took some medicine so I wouldn't *throw up* on the plane.



<sup>2</sup> Another reason I hate to fly is that I don't like to talk to strangers. On this flight, I *made believe* I was asleep so the person next to me wouldn't bother me.

<sup>3</sup> *By and large*, the flight itself wasn't too bad when we were in the air. But there were always problems on the ground. For example, we had to stop in St. Louis and change planes. But the flight I had to change to was delayed. The flight I needed to catch *originated from* Washington, D.C., but it *fell behind* schedule *due to* bad weather. I had to wait in the airport for two hours!

<sup>4</sup> Then, when we finally got to Los Angeles, the pilot had trouble finding the gate. We landed but the plane kept driving around. I knew that *on no account* should you get out of your seat while the plane is moving, so I started looking through one of the magazines on the plane. I came across an interesting article, so I *lost track of* time. But we must have been driving around for ten minutes at least. I asked a flight attendant for an explanation *as to* the delay. She said, "I think we're lost."

<sup>5</sup> I wasn't sure if he was serious, so I said, "You're *pulling my leg*."

At that moment the pilot came on the intercom and asked, "Does anyone know where Gate 12 is?"