

# Lesson 30

t a r g e t

be well off  
for good  
let alone  
look back on  
lose one's head

make faces  
regardless of  
result in  
stand up to  
what for

## □ be well off = rich

They aren't very well off, but they're happy.  
He was well off until he lost all of his money in a bad investment.

A: I heard that Carol's folks are well off.  
B: Yes. Her mother is a fashion designer.

Mr. Sanchez is well off.



## □ for good = finally; forever

He plans to move to New York for good.  
They closed their store downtown for good.

A: Good news! I quit smoking for good!  
B: Congratulations! Now, what about your gambling?

Our relationship  
is over for good.



❑ **let alone** = never mind; even less

I can barely afford this apartment, let alone a house.  
She won't do any typing, let alone organize the filing.

A: Would you like to be on our baseball team?

B: Me? Hah! I can barely throw a ball, let alone hit one.

He can't even swim,  
let alone work as a  
lifeguard!



❑ **look back on** = remember

There are many good memories I can look back on  
from high school.  
She doesn't like to look back on her life in Arizona.

A: When you look back on your life, do you have any regrets?

B: Yeah. I wish I hadn't invested all that money in stocks.

He sometimes looks back  
on his childhood.



❑ **lose one's head** = act irrationally (from anger or worry)

He lost his head when she told him she was leaving.  
In an emergency, it is important not to lose your head.

A: Ted, that bear is coming right at us!

B: Don't lose your head! Just pretend to be asleep and it will go away.

In an argument, it's important  
not to lose your head.



❑ **make faces** = move one's eyes and mouth to create a silly or funny appearance

The baby laughed when I made faces at him.  
Don't make faces! Just eat your broccoli. I don't  
care if you don't like it.

A: Why were you arrested?

B: I made faces at the queen.

He's always  
making faces  
at the girls.





❑ **regardless of** = no matter; without considering

She plans to go to Spain regardless of the cost.

Regardless of what other people thought, he quit his job and joined the circus.

A: Steve is a crazy guy!

B: Yeah. He plays with crocodiles regardless of the danger.



He decided to wear his favorite outfit regardless of what the others thought.

❑ **result in** = lead to; cause

The earthquake resulted in the deaths of thirty people.  
Smoking often results in health problems.

A: Speeding could result in a traffic fine.

B: I know, but we're late for the wedding!

Coming to work late again will result in him losing his job.



❑ **stand up to** = fight; be against (usually someone stronger)

You can't let them push you around like that. Stand up to them!

She finally stood up to her mother and told her she was old enough to get married.

A: I want to be a dancer, but my father says I have to join the army.

B: I think you should stand up to him and tell him what you really want.

I just can't stand up to my father.



❑ **what for** = why

"She gave me five dollars." "What for?"

"I have to go back to the office." "What for?"

A: Let's give Jimmy some money for his birthday.

B: What for? He'll just waste it on video games.

Hers. I got you this!



What for?



## Practice

Choose the best answer.

1. "I think Mr. Jones wants to see you." "\_\_\_\_\_?"
  - a. What for
  - b. Stand up to him
  - c. Let it alone
2. He \_\_\_\_\_ at her to try and make her smile.
  - a. looked back on
  - b. lost his head
  - c. made faces
3. He was afraid to \_\_\_\_\_ his older brother because he was so strong.
  - a. make faces
  - b. look back on
  - c. stand up to
4. I'm sorry I yelled at you. I \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. lost my head
  - b. resulted in
  - c. stood up to you
5. If you don't use the correct parts, it could \_\_\_\_\_ a poor final product.
  - a. result in
  - b. let alone
  - c. regardless of
6. We have to try and rescue the children \_\_\_\_\_ the danger!
  - a. well off
  - b. regardless of
  - c. for good
7. When he turned eighteen, he moved out of his parents' house \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. regardless of
  - b. for good
  - c. well off
8. She has a hard time speaking English, \_\_\_\_\_ writing it.
  - a. for good
  - b. let alone
  - c. regardless of
9. When you \_\_\_\_\_ your career, what do you see as your greatest achievement?
  - a. stand up to
  - b. what for
  - c. look back on
10. Although their house is not big, the family is actually very \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. let alone
  - b. well off
  - c. what for

## Dialog

Fill in the blanks.

let alone  
making faces

Looking back on  
result in

lost his head  
what for

### In the park:

Alice: What happened to you?

Ted: That big guy over there hit me!

Alice: \_\_\_\_\_?

Ted: I'm not sure. \_\_\_\_\_ what happened, it doesn't make any sense.

Alice: You must have done something to \_\_\_\_\_ his hitting you.

Ted: I was playing with some kid. I guess it was his son.

Alice: How were you playing?

Ted: We were just \_\_\_\_\_ at each other. Then I must have made a scary face because the kid started crying. But I didn't touch the kid, \_\_\_\_\_ hurt him.

Alice: So the kid's father hit you?

Ted: Yeah, I guess when he heard his son crying, he \_\_\_\_\_ and attacked me!

Alice: Let's go get some ice for your eye. It looks terrible.





## Idioms in Context

Read the following story.

I used to deliver the mail in a very rich neighborhood. When I **look back on** that time, I have to laugh. Most people in that neighborhood **were** very **well off** and had big houses, but they all tended to prefer small dogs. Those dogs were little, but they were also mean! In fact, I quit that job **for good** after one of those little dogs bit me.

<sup>2</sup> One thing I learned about dealing with dogs is that you have to **stand up to** them when they start barking at you. Don't **make faces** at them. If you show them your teeth, it will just **result in** making them angry. And, as a rule, it's best not to move, **let alone** turn your back on them.

**Regardless of** how much a dog barks, just stand there and wait for it to get bored. Don't **lose your head** and panic. They usually won't bite unless you do something aggressive.

<sup>3</sup> Once a little dog was barking at me when one of the people from the neighborhood passed by on the other side of the street. He yelled, "Ask the dog if he wants a bath!"

I asked him, "**What for?**"

The man yelled back, "If you ask him, he'll run away."

<sup>4</sup> So I tried it. I asked the dog, "Do you want a bath?" And it stopped barking, looked at me, and then ran away! I told the man across the street, "Wow! That dog must really hate baths."

He said, "No, he loves them. He's running home now to get one."

