

L e s s o n

12

Target Idioms

of course

on and on

on foot

on purpose

on schedule

on the contrary

on the/one's way

on the weekend

on time

once in a while

out of breath

out of date

pass by

pass out

pay a visit

pay attention to

pick out

pick up

piece by piece

play a trick on

❑ **of course** = yes; certainly; sure; no problem

If you are busy, you don't have to come, of course.
"Can we go to the concert?" "Of course we can."

A: Do you like soccer?

B: Of course I like soccer! That's why I play it every day!

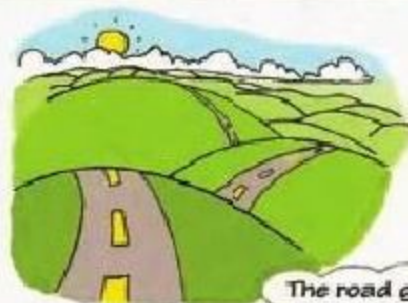


❑ **on and on** = without stopping; continuously

They worked on and on through the night.
It rained on and on for days.

A: Did your aunt call last night?

B: Yes! She talked on and on for three hours!

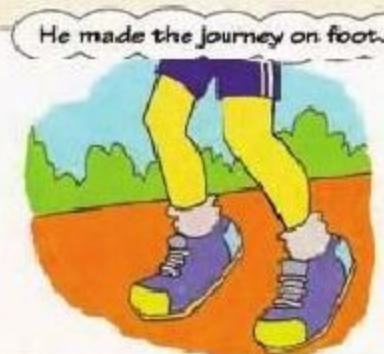


❑ **on foot** = by walking

You can go everywhere on foot in my town.
They had to go on foot after their car broke down.

A: Do you go to school by bus?

B: No, I don't. I go on foot.



❑ **on purpose** = deliberately; intentionally

He missed the school bus on purpose because he didn't like school.

She broke the cup on purpose.

A: Hey! Did you hit me on purpose?

B: No I didn't. It was an accident.



❑ **on schedule** = without delay; on time

The meeting did not start on schedule.
I hope that my plane is on schedule.

A: Will the train be late today?

B: No, it will arrive on schedule.

The bus usually arrives on schedule.



❑ **on the contrary** = no; not at all

"Are you cold?" "On the contrary! I'm quite warm!"
You don't look exhausted. On the contrary, you seem very healthy!

A: Was that movie bad?

B: On the contrary, it was the best movie I've ever seen!



He's not lazy. On the contrary, he's very active.

❑ **on the/one's way** = going or coming; during the journey

On the way to work this morning she saw a deer.
I will stop by the post office on my way home.

A: We don't have any milk. Can you buy some today?

B: Okay. I'll buy some on the way home from school today.

There is a gas station on the way to the next city.



❑ **on the weekend** = on Saturdays and Sundays

We used to go hiking on weekends.
I take my son to the park on the weekend.

A: What are you going to do on the weekend?

B: I'm going to play soccer on Saturday and go to church on Sunday.

SUN	Mon	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20

They are going fishing on the weekend.

❑ **on time** = on schedule; punctually

Most of the people came on time.
This train is always on time.

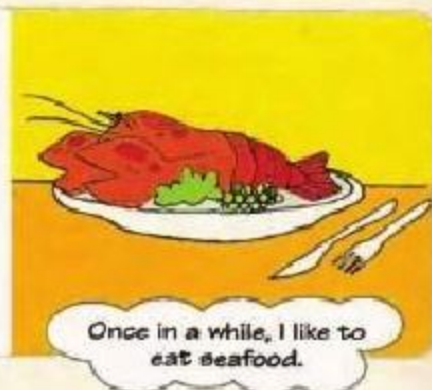
A: Let's go to school now. I don't want to be late for class.
B: Don't worry. We'll be on time.



❑ **once in a while** = sometimes; occasionally; now and then; at times

My old friend calls me once in a while.
Once in a while, he goes to rock concerts.

A: Do you like to go to movies?
B: No, but I rent a video once in a while.



❑ **out of breath** = breathless; hard to breathe

She was out of breath after running up the stairs.
By the time we reached the top, we were out of breath.

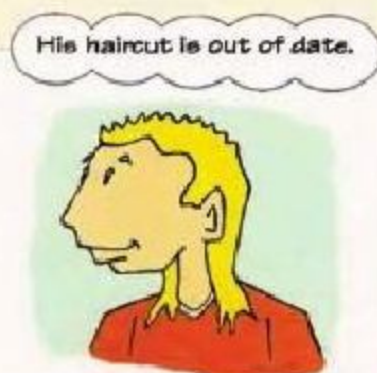
A: Why are you out of breath?
B: Because I ran here from my house.



❑ **out of date** = outdated; old-fashioned

My computer is already out of date.
Don't take medicine that is out of date.

A: I can't find the new road on this map.
B: It's probably out of date.



□ **pass by** = go past

I saw a big dog **passing by** my house around two o'clock.
People along the street waved as the parade **passed by**.

A: Do you know where Ann's house is?

B: Yes, I do. I **pass by** it every day when I walk home from school.



□ **pass out** = faint; become unconscious

She hit her head on the tree and **passed out**.
You will **pass out** if you hold your breath for too long.

A: Is he sleeping?

B: No, he saw some blood and **passed out**!



□ **pay a visit** = visit; call on; pay a call; go to see

We **paid a visit** to our relatives.
Let's **pay a visit** to them sometime.

A: Let's **pay a visit** to Kevin.

B: Good idea! I haven't seen him for a long time.

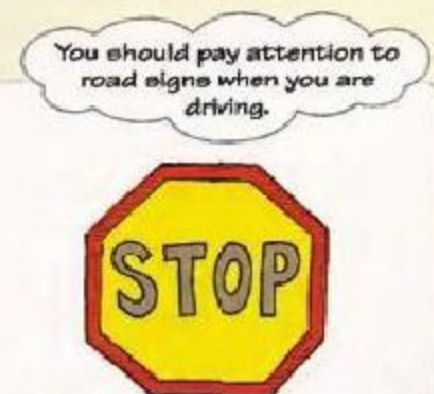


□ **pay attention to** = focus on; concentrate on

He was not **paying attention** in class.
Pay attention to me!

A: Does he **pay attention** to the teacher in class?

B: No, he doesn't. He only talks to his friends and draws pictures on his desk.



□ **pick out** = choose; single out

She **picked out** a nice dress for the party.
I **picked out** the best apple in the basket.

A: I want to buy a shirt, but I don't know which color to get.
B: I'll help you **pick out** a color!



□ **pick up** = lift

He **picked up** the pen and wrote a letter.
She **picked up** her hat and put it on.

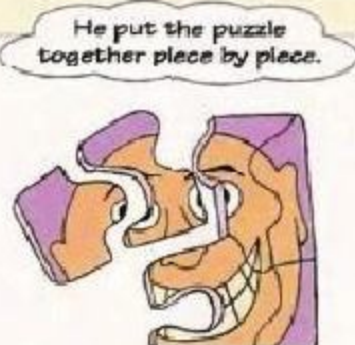
A: This room is a mess! **Pick up** your toys.
B: OK, Mom. I will.



□ **piece by piece** = bit by bit; one by one; piecemeal

She ate the whole cake **piece by piece**.
He **picked up** the broken dish **piece by piece**.

A: How did they move that big sculpture?
B: They took it apart and moved it **piece by piece**.



□ **play a trick on** = play a joke on; play tricks on

He got in trouble for **playing a trick on** his sister.
Don't ever **play a trick on** me again!

A: I like to untie my brother's shoes, hide his pencils, and put frogs in his bed.
B: That's not nice! Do you always **play tricks on** him?



Practice

A. Match each word with its meaning.

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. ____ on foot | a. not modern |
| 2. ____ once in a while | b. by walking |
| 3. ____ out of breath | c. to concentrate |
| 4. ____ out of date | d. sometimes |
| 5. ____ pay attention to | e. breathing very hard |

B. Choose the best answer.

1. **There is no doubt**, you must clean your room!
a. From time to time b. Once in a while
c. Of course d. Now and then
2. The little boy broke his sister's toy **deliberately**.
a. piece by piece b. on purpose
c. on time d. on his way
3. She thinks that I don't like her. **That's not true!** I like her very much!
a. No problem! b. Far from!
c. Nothing but! d. On the contrary!
4. We always stop to buy ice cream **as we go** home from school.
a. on the way b. on the weekend
c. on and on d. on schedule
5. The girl went to the toy box and **took** her favorite toy.
a. paid a visit to b. passed out
c. looked forward to d. picked out

Brer Fox's Shoes

Read the following story.

¹ If you ever *pay a visit* to the south part of the United States, you might hear the stories of Brer Rabbit, Brer Fox, and Brer Bear. In these stories, Brer Rabbit always *plays tricks on* Brer Fox and Brer Bear. If you *pay attention to* the story, you might be able to *pick out* the lesson. These stories are old, but the lessons never go *out of date*.

² *Once in a while*, Brer Rabbit went shopping. One day, he was *on the way* to town when Brer Fox chased him. Brer Rabbit hid in an old log. You might think Brer Rabbit would be scared in the log. *On the contrary*, Brer Rabbit was singing to himself. The singing went *on and on*. Finally, Brer Fox said, "Come out of that log or I'll tear it apart *piece by piece* to get you!"

³ Brer Rabbit told Brer Fox, "*On the weekend*, Brer Bear goes to the river to catch fish. Then he goes home *on foot* with his bag full of fish. If you let me go, I'll show you how to get it."

⁴ Brer Fox agreed and they went to the road. Right *on time*, Brer Bear came walking from the river. Brer Rabbit took off one shoe and put it in the road. Then he hid behind a tree. When Brer Bear saw the shoe he said to himself, "I should *pick it up*. But, *of course*, I don't have the other shoe." So he kept walking.

⁵ Brer Rabbit put on his shoe again and ran ahead to another part of the road. He was *out of breath* from running. He put the other shoe in the road. When Brer Bear saw the shoe in the road he put down his bag of fish to walk back and get the other shoe. Brer Rabbit picked up his shoe and the bag of fish and ran to meet

Brer Fox.

⁶ The next weekend, Brer Fox waited by the road *on purpose* to trick Brer Bear again. Brer Fox put his shoe in the road and hid behind a tree. A few hours later, right *on schedule*, Brer Bear came walking from the river. As he was *passing by* the tree, he saw the shoe in the road. Brer Bear picked it up, put it in his bag, and kept walking.

⁷ Brer Fox was surprised. He ran after Brer Bear and said, "Brer Bear! I lost my shoe. Have you seen it?"

Brer Bear took the shoe out of his bag and asked, "Is this your shoe?"

Brer Fox said, "Yes!"

⁸ Then Brer Bear knew that it was Brer Fox who tricked him the weekend before. Brer Bear grabbed Brer Fox by the neck and beat him until Brer Fox *passed out*.

