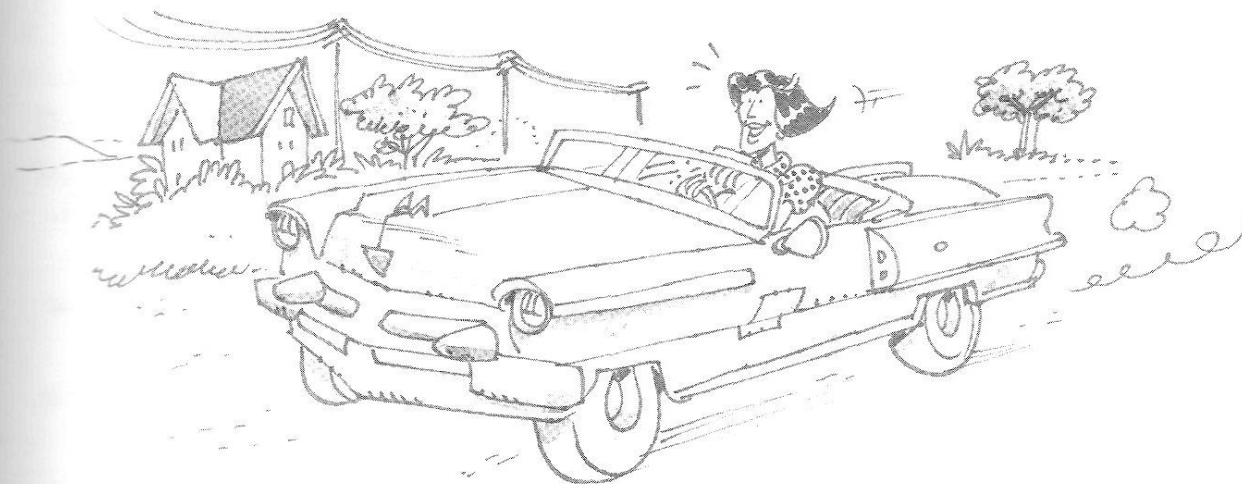


UNIT 9

Idioms with the Word *And*



Reading

Read the story. Then discuss the questions.

Wear and Tear

It's true that my car looks old and worn out. It's eleven years old, and it has a lot of **wear and tear** on it. But I'm tired of my friends telling me to get a new car. **By and large**, my car still runs okay. It takes me where I want to go. I use it to go **back and forth** to work every day, and it doesn't break down very often.

When it does break down, I take it to my mechanics. They know the **ins and outs** of my car. They don't give me a **song and dance**. They tell me exactly what's wrong with the car and how much it will cost to fix it. I know that I can trust them. So I feel confident that when I drive my car, it will get me **safe and sound** to where I'm going.

1. When something has a lot of **wear and tear**, how does it look?
2. To what places do you go **back and forth** often?
3. When you know the **ins and outs** of something, do you know it well? About what things do you know the ins and outs?

Meanings

Each example has an idiom with the word **and**. Read the example carefully to find the meaning of the idiom. Then look at the definitions that follow the examples. Write the idiom next to its definition.

back and forth	Elvis rode the same bus route for years. Every week he went back and forth from San Antonio to Austin.
by and large	By and large , Americans eat a light breakfast. They usually don't eat a lot of food in the morning.
a cock-and-bull story	George and I had a date for Saturday, but he never came to get me. Now he just told me a cock-and-bull story about thinking that our date was on Sunday.
fair and square	I won the checkers game fair and square , but Alex argued that I hadn't followed the rules.
ins and outs	If you know the ins and outs of computers, you should be able to get a good job.
odds and ends	I wanted to buy some clothes at the big sale, but by the time I got there, there were only odds and ends left.
right and left	We had a lot of business last week. The orders were coming in right and left .
safe and sound	I was worried when I first heard my brother had been in a car accident. But no one was hurt. Everyone was safe and sound .
a song and dance	I wish we didn't have to listen to such a long song and dance every time we want to get insurance.
spick-and-span	Calpurnia always cleans the house well before her mother visits so that everything is spick-and-span .
wear and tear	The carpet near the door gets a lot of wear and tear because we all walk on it as we come into the house.

1. _____ damage that happens as something gets old and used
2. _____ mostly, most often
3. _____ all the details
4. _____ a variety of small items, the pieces left over
5. _____ with no damage or injury
6. _____ a long explanation, a long excuse that is often not true

7. _____ an untrue story
8. _____ very clean
9. _____ from one place to another and back to the first place
10. _____ honestly, without cheating
11. _____ in large numbers, from every side

Practice

A. Answer each question with **yes** or **no**. Explain your answer.

1. Students who work hard usually succeed. Do students who work hard by and large succeed?
2. The witness told the truth, and everybody believed him. Was it a cock-and-bull story?
3. All Berta does is clean her house. It is so clean, you feel uncomfortable. Is her house spick-and-span?
4. When we opened the package, the vase was broken in a thousand pieces. Did the vase arrive safe and sound?
5. Every time I ask Ernest for the money he owes me, he tells me the many difficulties he is having with his job. Does Ernest go through a song and dance every time?
6. We got to the store on the last day of the sale. There was nothing special left to buy. Were there only odds and ends left?
7. We put an ad in the paper, but only one person called. Did we get calls from right and left?
8. Every weekday I go from my house to school, then back again. Do I go back and forth to school during the week?
9. The rug looked brand-new. I didn't even know it had been used. Did the rug show evidence of wear and tear?
10. Nassir has been working in that office for twenty-five years. He knows about everybody and everything in it. Does Nassir know the ins and outs of the office?
11. The referee makes sure that all the players follow the rules. Does the referee see that the game is played fair and square?



B. Each example has the correct idiom, but there is one error with each idiom. Find the error and correct it.

1. By or large, people put salt on their food.
2. With the odds and end she found in the garage, she made a chair.
3. No one likes to play with Peter because he doesn't play fair or square.
4. The kitchen was span-and-spick.
5. He always tells bull-and-cock stories.
6. She'll give you a song and dances as usual.
7. He goes from his bedroom to the kitchen, back and forward every morning, when he's getting ready for work.
8. I was really worried, but then they arrived safely and sound.
9. Ask Sandra. She knows all the in and outs.
10. These shoes can take a lot of wear and tore.
11. There were reporters all around the movie star. They were asking her questions right to left.

Conversation

Practice each conversation with a partner.

SITUATION 1

Terry is in a furniture store. She's looking for a sofa.

TERRY: These sofas are nice, but I need one that can take a lot of wear and tear. You see, I have four children, two dogs, and a cat.

SALESPERSON: I have just the thing for you.

TERRY: That's not a bad-looking sofa.

SALESPERSON: And it's very strong and well made.

SITUATION 2

Ted and Bob are at work.

TED: Did Chuck hand in his work yet?

BOB: He called to give us the usual song and dance about how difficult it is to find people.

TED: I'm tired of always having to wait for his work.

SITUATION 3

Marta is talking about her new apartment.

PILAR: Is your apartment all ready?

MARTA: By and large, it is. I still have a few odds and ends to do.

PILAR: Can I help you with anything?

MARTA: Well, can you put up curtains?

On Your Own

Work with a partner. Choose three idioms. Write a short conversation for each idiom. Then act out your conversations.

Discussion

Work with a partner or in a small group. Do the following activities.

1. The idioms in this unit all use the word **and**. Do you know any other English idioms with **and**?
2. Are there idioms in your native language that use the word **and**? Are any idioms like the ones in English?
3. We use the idiom **safe and sound** when things or people are not harmed or hurt. Tell a story using this idiom.