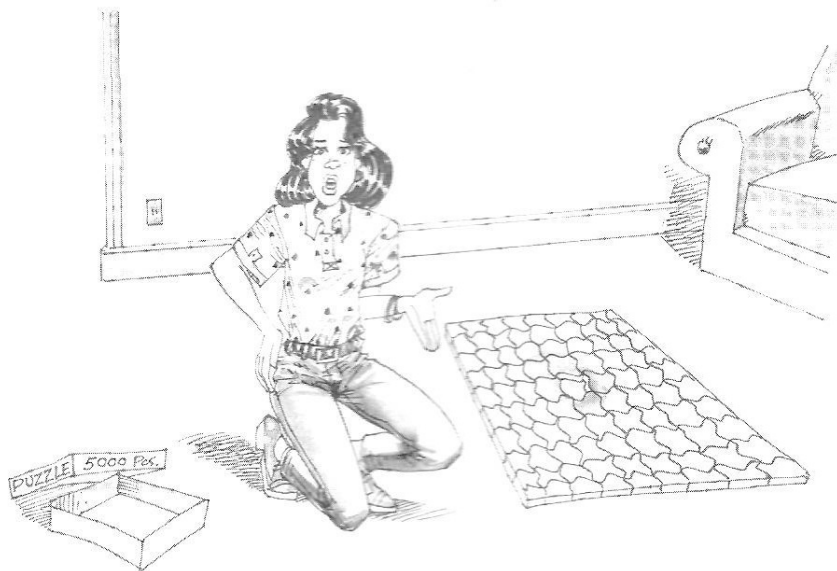


UNIT 19

Idioms with Words That Go Together I



Reading

Read the story. Then discuss the questions.

A Big Puzzle

A while ago, I decided to put together one of those five thousand-piece jigsaw puzzles all by myself. I was sure that I could do it because I'm good at all kinds of games—from crossword puzzles to video games. But it wasn't so easy **after all**. First, I put all the pieces on the table, and I started to work on the sky part of the puzzle. But **every other** piece was blue and seemed to fit in the sky. I must have stared at the pieces for two hours. "**Take it easy**," I told myself. "**Sooner or later** you'll put some pieces together." And I was **right**. **Before long**, I had several pieces together. But finishing the entire puzzle was a project that took me **quite a few** months. Of course, at the end, I learned the most important fact about putting together puzzles. The last piece is always missing! Just **the other day** I found that missing piece behind the sofa. **No wonder** I hadn't found it before!

1. When you tell someone to **take it easy**, how are you telling the person to act?
2. If something is going to happen **sooner or later**, will it happen immediately?
3. Does **quite a few** mean "many" or "not many"?

Meanings

Each example has an idiom made up of words that go together. Read the example carefully to find the meaning of the idiom. Then look at the definitions below. Write the idiom next to its definition. **Note:** You will use the same definition for two idioms.

above all	My mother told me to pack warm clothes for the trip, but above all , not to forget my toothbrush.
after all	I thought that I could complete my homework and go to the movie. But I didn't have time to do both after all , and I missed the movie.
before long	Isn't Doug here at the party yet? Don't worry. He's coming. He'll be here before long .
every other	One card for you. One card for me. One card for you. One card for me. . . . We each get every other one.
more or less	I've more or less finished painting the kitchen. There's just one small corner left.
never mind	Never mind about the broken vase. It wasn't very expensive, and I can buy another.
no wonder	No wonder the TV wasn't working. It wasn't plugged in.
the other day	Lee won the grand prize the other day . He's already bought a new car.
quite a few	I've asked those children quite a few times not to play football near my window. But they don't pay attention to me.
sooner or later	I know that Frank is always late, but sooner or later he'll get here.
take it easy	Take it easy . You don't have to drive so fast. We'll get there on time.

1. _____ recently, a short time ago
2. _____ not completely, but almost

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 3. _____ | this one but not the next, then the next but not the one after that, and so on |
| 4. _____ | many |
| 5. _____ | don't worry, don't give it a thought |
| 6. _____ | eventually, after some time |
| 7. _____ | calm down, relax, don't worry |
| 8. _____ | most important (reason) |
| 9. _____ | different from what you expected |
| 10. _____ | not surprising |

Practice

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

1. Sally calls her mother long distance on Sunday, but not every Sunday. She calls one Sunday but not the next; then she calls the Sunday after that, and so on. Does she call her mother every other Sunday?
2. Amy is a brilliant student, but whenever there's a test, she worries and spends hours and hours studying. Does she take it easy before a test?
3. After one week in bed with the flu, today I feel better. But I need a few more days to feel my best. Do I feel more or less okay?
4. Tyler got a very low grade on his composition because of his terrible grammar. Did he make a few mistakes?
5. I saw Barbara at the supermarket recently, but I can't remember when. Did I see her the other day?
6. If Jerry didn't call by now, he won't call. Will he call before long?
7. When we saw the big black clouds, we thought it would rain. But it didn't rain. Did it rain, after all?
8. The landlord is slow about making repairs, but he does make them. Does the landlord make repairs sooner or later?
9. Rick doesn't care about his family or friends. For him, money is the most important thing. Does Rick love money above all?
10. Jesse used to come to work late every day. He never did anything right. Is it correct to say no wonder he received a large raise?

11. Catherine offered to bring some food for the party, but Keith told her not to bring any because there would be enough. Did Keith tell her to never mind about bringing food?

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

1. There are quite a many tornadoes in our state each year.

2. Guess who I saw another day.

3. Look at the dark sky. I think it's going to rain after any.

4. Take it relax. This exercise is fun. Don't work so hard.

5. I'm more and less sure they'll vote for us.

6. Never mind, dad; I can fix the car.

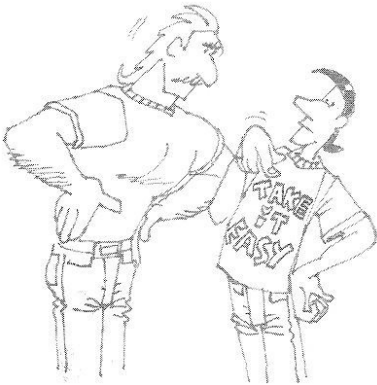
7. Before all, remember to be polite when you meet them.

8. You go skiing and soon or later you fall down.

9. Never wonder you feel sick. You ate too much.

10. Try our banana-chocolate-raisin-nut ice cream sundae, and before longer you'll want another one!

11. We worked as a pair on the idioms exercise. Each of us did any other example.



Conversation

Practice each conversation with a partner.

SITUATION 1

Mike is very worried about his job interview tomorrow.

MIKE: I'm so worried I'm going to do the wrong thing.

JENNY: Just take it easy, Mike. I'm sure everything will be fine.

MIKE: I hope so.

JENNY: When you meet the boss, above all, look him in the eye, smile, and shake hands.

SITUATION 2

Ted and Laura enter their apartment on a hot summer day.

LAURA: It's really cold in here.

TED: No wonder it's so cold. The air conditioner was on high.

SITUATION 3

Frank and Mario are talking about the game.

FRANK: What do you think of the game so far?

MARIO: It's great! At first, I thought we'd lose for sure. But now I think we'll win after all.

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. **Take it easy** and **never mind** are both intended to calm people down. What idioms do you have in your native language to calm people down?
2. **Before long** and **sooner or later** can both be used to describe situations in which people have to pay for the consequences of their actions. What stories or proverbs do you know where these idioms could be used?
3. We use **no wonder** when something suddenly becomes clear. Tell a story where you can use this idiom.