

Idioms with Words That Go Together II



Reading

Read the story. Then discuss the questions.

For a Change

No one is lucky all the time. But **once in a while**, something really good happens. **As a matter of fact**, something really good happened to me recently.

Each week my brother and I buy one lottery ticket. We **take turns**. One week he buys. The next week, I buy. This week it was different. **For a change**, my brother gave the money to his girlfriend, and she bought the ticket. He didn't see any problem. We never win. So he thought he **might as well** let her go buy the ticket. And we won forty-six million dollars and seven cents!

Now we have to share it three ways. Even so, I think we got a good deal.

1. When you do something **once in a while**, do you do it often?
2. When you **take turns** with someone doing something, how are the two of you working?

3. Why do people do things **for a change**? What would you like to do for a change?

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.

all of a sudden	I was halfway to work, when all of a sudden I remembered that I'd left the water running in the bathtub. I turned around and went back home to turn it off.
as a matter of fact	Jimmy loves motorcycles. As a matter of fact , he has three of them in his garage.
even so	Lydia is good at math. Even so , she had trouble doing the last homework problem.
for a change	We always have hamburgers on Thursdays. Let's have snails for a change .
for a start	I had a really bad morning. For a start , my alarm clock didn't ring. And that was just the first in a series of disasters.
in fact	Yes, I have lost weight. In fact , I've lost twenty-two pounds.
might as well	If we can't think of anywhere to go on Saturday, we might as well stay home.
once in a while	I don't see my old friends often these days. We see one another only once in a while .
on purpose	Don't tell me that was an accident. You did that on purpose .
on the whole	I sometimes have eggs for breakfast. But, on the whole , I try to avoid eating them.
to take turns	Let's take turns washing the dishes. You do them this year, and I'll do them next year.

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| 1. _____ | not often |
| 2. _____ | in truth, really (often used to restate something more exactly) |
| 3. _____ | first you do it, then someone else does it, then you, then the other person, and so on |

4. _____ in order to do something different
5. _____ because there is nothing better
6. _____ although there is a reason why not
7. _____ beginning with the first of many reasons
8. _____ suddenly
9. _____ mostly but not always
10. _____ not by accident, by plan

Practice

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

1. Dave likes to drink coffee during the day, but sometimes he'll drink tea. Does he drink coffee on the whole?
2. Rush and Tina drove to San Francisco from Los Angeles. Tina drove all the way because Rush was afraid to drive on the highway. Did they take turns driving?
3. Mom always bakes a cake for my birthday. This year she went to the bakery to get one. Did she buy one for a change?
4. When I was young, we used to go to the mountains on weekends, but we don't go anymore. Do we still go to the mountains once in a while?
5. Carl told us he ran a long distance this morning but that was all. Did he in fact say how far he ran?
6. Rick Lorenzo loves to collect antique cars. He has eleven of them. As a matter of fact, does Rick have eleven antique cars?
7. The man walking in front of me had thick brown hair. Then came a strong wind. When I looked at him a moment later, he had no hair. Did his hairpiece come off all of a sudden?
8. Donna promised to bring me a cup of coffee, but she accidentally spilled it on the way. Did she spill it on purpose?
9. We don't have enough time to finish cleaning the garage today. It's a good idea to stop and finish tomorrow morning. Is it true that we might as well finish tomorrow?
10. We should move from this apartment. First, we have to travel a long way to work. And that's just one reason. Is it true that, for a start, we should move because the apartment is too far from work?

11. Scott's father is very busy at work. But he coached the baseball team this year. Is it true that Scott's father is busy, but he made time to coach the team even so?

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

1. All a sudden it started to rain.
2. Arthur hurt his ankle as he was playing tennis. Even, that didn't stop him from winning the game.
3. I took a different route to school today for change.
4. We left the lights on in the house by purpose.
5. He's very tall. On fact, he is six feet, five inches.
6. It's getting late, and so we as well might go home.
7. We take turn doing the laundry.
8. There are a few things wrong with my new apartment. But, on a whole, I like it.
9. As a matter fact, it took three hours and twenty-one minutes to get here.
10. We usually watch television. Once in while we go to the movies.
11. Terry needs to get better grades. At a start, he should spend less time watching TV and more time studying.



Conversation

Practice each conversation with a partner.

SITUATION 1

A mother and daughter are at home.

LIN: May I go out with Maggie after dinner?

MOM: No, you may not. For a start, you haven't done your homework, and you haven't cleaned up your room.

LIN: As a matter of fact, Mom, I just finished my composition for my English class, made my bed, and put my clothes in the closet.

SITUATION 2

Two people who work together are talking.

TOM: Do you ever go hiking?

JERRY: Funny you should say that. Last Sunday, Beth and I decided to go hiking in the mountains near our house just for a change.

TOM: How was it?

JERRY: As a matter of fact, we both loved it, and we're going to go again this weekend.

SITUATION 3

Cam and Jean are at home.

CAM: Is there anything good on television?

JEAN: Nothing that you'd like.

CAM: Well, I might as well go to bed and read my book.

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. **As a matter of fact** and **in fact** are both used before we say something more exactly. What words do you use in your native language before you say something exactly?
2. **For a start** begins the first of many reasons. Think of something that is necessary for you to do. Make a list of reasons why you should do it. Use **for a start** to begin your reasons.
3. When somebody does something **on purpose**, it is not an accident. He or she wanted to do it. Tell a story using this idiom.