

# VI13 TIMING



## BEGINNER

a good time  
ideal time  
a long time ago  
on time

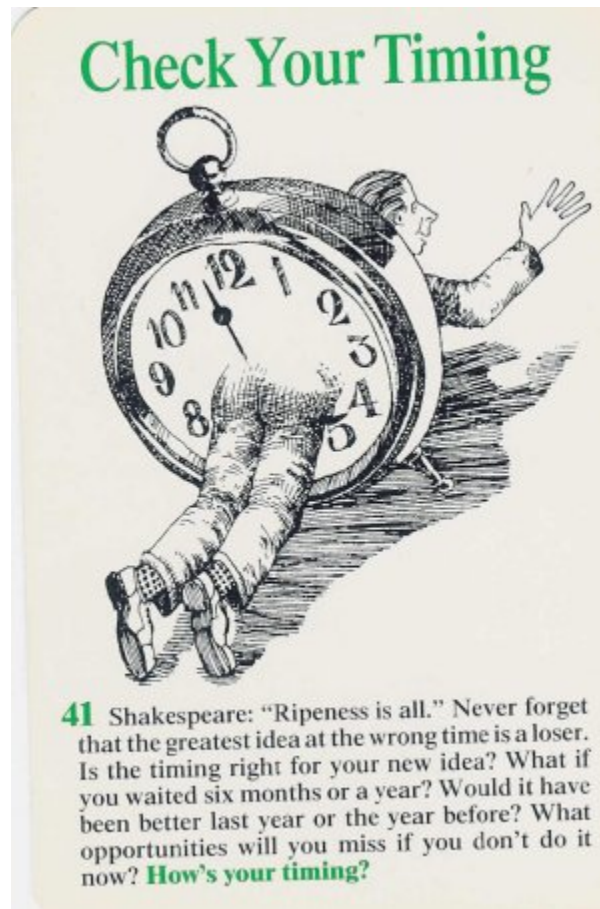
For a short time  
Once upon a time  
in time  
a waste of time

Time was  
not a good/best time  
for the time being

## Activity 1 Fill in the blanks

1. \_\_\_\_\_ when it was considered unacceptable for English girls to live with their boyfriends without being married.
2. \_\_\_\_\_, there lived a fairy queen called Prunella.
3. The Pyramids were built \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Did you have \_\_\_\_\_ at the party?
5. What \_\_\_\_\_! I've waited all day for the plumber to arrive and he's still not here.
6. \_\_\_\_\_, we will have to make do with the camping cooker as a temporary measure until the other one is repaired.
7. Beverley is very punctual; she always arrives \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Am I \_\_\_\_\_ for my appointment, or am I too late?
9. This is \_\_\_\_\_ to discuss this Will; grandma has only been dead for four hours.
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ to chat with strangers is when they are waiting for a bus, or waiting to be served in a supermarket queue.
11. \_\_\_\_\_, I wondered how deaf people could dance \_\_\_\_\_ to disco music, but then I realised they could feel the vibration from the music.

# TIMING



## INTERMEDIATE

**All of a sudden** -- sudden, without warning.

èYvette was driving on the highway when all of a sudden her engine quit.

èThe lightning flashed, and all of sudden there was no electricity in the house.

**Activity 1 Pronunciation Guide**

**Activity 2 Use the phrase in a sentence describing real situations**

**Activity 3 Look at the picture and answer the questions written there.**

## ADVANCED

# TIMING



**All of a sudden** -- sudden, without warning.

èYvette was driving on the highway when *all of a sudden* her engine quit.

èThe lightning flashed, and *all of a sudden* there was no electricity in the house.

**In no time** ----- very quickly, not taking much time, in a flash.

èThe excited children got ready for the trip to the zoo *in no time*.

èthe small humming bird slowly flew close to us and then, *in a flash*, it was gone

Not miss a beat -- to continue doing something without hesitation. Or despite of any interruption. Doing things  
Continuously.

Usage note: other negative forms; **NEVER/WITHOUT/DIDN'T miss a beat**

èEven though angry demonstrators shouted during his speech, the politician didn't miss a beat

When the teleprompter failed, the TV newscaster kept reporting without missing a beat.

**In the long run**---eventually, in the future, in the end.

èIf you work hard and do your best, in the long run you will succeed.

èEven though the Madisons almost got divorced, they managed to reconcile in the end.

At the last minute-at the last possible minute/moment

Usage note: used when someone is almost too late to do something or to be somewhere.

èMinu was planning to go with us but changed his mind at the last minute.

èAt the last minute the manager had to cancel the meeting because of illness.

**Activity 1 : Develop a real or imaginary presentation about your busy day and use the idioms above:**

Situations:      How fast you did things.  
                         If you're doing something and were interrupted  
                         The order in which you did something  
                         If something happened suddenly

**Activity 2: Let's talk about you...Try to use the idioms in a complete sentence:**

1. What kind of unpleasant task would you tend to do at the last minute?
2. Things that you do continuously, without missing a beat despite the interruption.
3. Things that you want to accomplish in the long run.
4. Daily activities that you do in a flash.