

Idiom and Definition	Usage	Example	Language notes	Similar expressions	Opposite expressions
after a while (6) later; at some time in the future	informal	You'll get bored with that video after a while.		in a while later on	right away
again and again (10) many times; repeatedly		I read the story again and again, but I still don't understand it.		over and over time after time time and time again	
(as) easy as pie (11) very simple, easy	informal	Mathematics may be easy as pie for you, but I think it's hard.	The first <i>as</i> can be omitted. The expression usually occurs with the verb <i>be</i> . You can also say: <i>It's easy as apple pie!</i>	a piece of cake (informal) a breeze (informal)	tough a bear (informal)
as for someone or something (9) regarding, concerning someone or something		a. Tatjana likes cola. Ruben likes tea. As for me, I prefer coffee. b. I want to keep this shirt. As for the dress, it's too small.			
as well as (7) in addition to; and also		I enjoy tennis as well as golf.	<i>As well as</i> is used at the middle of a sentence to connect two things. <i>As well</i> is used at the end of a sentence: <i>I enjoy tennis and golf as well.</i>	in addition to	
at home (3) in your house or apartment		Tomas is at home now. Why don't you call him there?	The verb <i>go</i> is simply followed by <i>home</i> — <i>I'm going home now.</i> The expression <i>feel at home (with)</i> means <i>feel comfortable with.</i>		on the road out of town

LEXICON

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Idiom and Definition	Usage	Example	Language notes	Similar expressions	Opposite expressions
at least (13) a minimum of; no fewer than		Cehan studies at least five hours a night.	<i>At least</i> is followed by a number: <i>at least five hours; at least \$100; at least ten students.</i>		at most
at once (13) immediately		If we don't leave at once, we'll be late for the movie.		right away	after a while in a while later on
at times (14) sometimes; occasionally		I'm usually happy, but at times I get sad and depressed.		now and then now and again once in a while from time to time off and on every so often	(a)round the clock day and night all the time
be at death's door (12) be near death	informal	After the car accident, Jeff was at death's door, but he is getting better.		be on one's last legs not be long for this world be between life and death	be healthy be fit feel like a million dollars
be back (4) be again in a place you were before		Selma went to Peru for a month, but she's back now.	After you <i>go back</i> to a place, you <i>are back</i> .		be away be gone
be crazy about someone or something (7) like someone or something very much	informal	I'm crazy about mambo dancing. Do you like it?	Use a noun or gerund after the expression.	be mad/nuts/wild about someone or something (informal) be into something	can't stand something be turned off by something (informal) be lukewarm about something (informal)

Idiom and Definition	Usage	Example	Language notes	Similar expressions	Opposite expressions
be dirt poor (15) have very little money	informal	He's dirt poor; he doesn't know how he'll find the money for college.	<i>Dirt cheap</i> means very inexpensive.	be broke be as poor as a church mouse be penniless	be well-off be well-to-do be loaded (informal)
be fast asleep (4) be sleeping deeply		Five minutes after the plane took off, Jimmy was fast asleep and snoring.		be sound asleep be sleeping like a baby be sleeping like a log (informal) be dead to the world (informal)	be wide awake be wired (slang)
be fed up (with someone or something) (10) be tired of; be at the end of your patience with someone or something	informal	I'm fed up with cooking; let's go to a restaurant.	Don't confuse this expression with <i>be full</i> , which means <i>unable to eat any more food</i> .	be sick (and tired) of someone or something can't take it (something) anymore can't stand someone or something anymore	can't get enough of something be ready for more
be frightened by someone or something (6) be afraid of someone or something		I was frightened by that loud noise.	You can also <i>be frightened of someone or something</i> .	be terrified of someone or something be scared of someone or something	be comfortable with someone or something be at ease with someone or something
be horrified by something (3) feel shock and horror at something		The citizens of the small town were horrified by the murder.	You can also <i>be horrified at something</i> .	be shocked by someone or something	be comfortable with someone or something feel at ease with someone or something
be in (14) be in fashion; be popular	informal	Blue jeans never go out of fashion; they are always in.		be hot be cool be in fashion be hip be the rage be the thing be the in thing	be out be out of fashion/style be old fashioned be old hat

LEXICON

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Idiom and Definition	Usage	Example	Language notes	Similar expressions	Opposite expressions
be in big trouble (9) have (big) problems; be in a difficult situation	informal	The little girl is in big trouble because she painted on the kitchen walls.	The expression can be followed by <i>with</i> : <i>The little girl is in big trouble with her parents.</i> It can also be followed by <i>for</i> + gerund: <i>The little girl is in big trouble for painting on the kitchen walls.</i>	be in trouble be in hot water (informal) be in a tight spot/jam/pickle (informal)	get out of trouble be in the clear
be into something (7) be very interested in something	informal	Roberto is into science fiction; he reads all the books and sees all the movies.		be hot/stuck/ hooked on something or someone (informal) dig something or someone (informal) be turned on by something or someone (informal) be crazy/wild/nuts about something or someone (informal)	not give two hoots about something (informal) be down on something (informal) be turned off by something or someone (informal) can't stand something or someone
be over (11) be finished; end		When dinner was over, everyone helped with the dishes.		be through be all wrapped up (informal)	start up
be red in the face (2) be embarrassed	informal	The waiter spilled cola on me. I was sticky and he was red in the face!		have a red face (informal) have egg on one's face (informal) be ashamed (of something)	be proud of something

Idiom and Definition	Usage	Example	Language notes	Similar expressions	Opposite expressions
be steaming (10) be angry	informal	Hassan was steaming when he missed the plane.	When water gets very hot, it's steaming.	be mad (as hell) (informal) be hot under the collar (informal) be fuming (informal) be ticked off (informal)	be cool (informal) be mellow (informal)
be well-off (15) have a lot of money; be rich		Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft, is extremely well-off.		be well-to-do be loaded	be dirt poor be as poor as a church mouse be penniless be low on funds
belong to someone (12) be the property of someone		The motorcycle belongs to Silvio, and the car belongs to me.	Phrasal verb (transitive, inseparable) The example could also be written: <i>The motorcycle is Silvio's and the car is mine.</i>		
break into something (9) enter illegally by force		The thieves broke into the car last night.	Phrasal verb (transitive, inseparable) Common words following the expression include: <i>a car, a house, a building, a bank, a store, and a computer system.</i>	force one's way into something	

LEXICON

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Idiom and Definition	Usage	Example	Language notes	Similar expressions	Opposite expressions
calm down (5) become calm and quiet		Don't get so excited about this! Calm down!	Phrasal verb (intransitive) The expression <i>calm someone down</i> means <i>make someone calm</i> , and is transitive and separable.	chill (out) (informal) cool down (informal)	freak (out) (informal) lose it (informal) flip(out) (informal)
can't stand something (1) dislike something very much		When I was younger I liked to exercise, but now I can't stand it!	Sometimes the expression is expanded to <i>can't stand the sight/smell/sound/thought of something</i>	can't bear something	be crazy/wild/nuts about something (informal) be into something (informal)
cheer someone up (7) make a sad person happier		Seher was feeling bad about her exams, so I tried to cheer her up.	Phrasal verb (transitive, separable)	lift someone's spirits give someone a boost make someone's day (informal)	dampen someone's spirits bum someone out (slang) drag/bring/get someone down (slang)
come across something (13) find something by chance		Did you come across my keys when you cleaned the house?	Phrasal verb (transitive, inseparable)	happen upon something stumble upon something happen to find something	look (high and low) for something
congratulations on something (5) I commend/salute you for something important.		I heard the great news, Zoran. Congratulations on your engagement!	Some common phrases with this expression include: <i>Congratulations on your engagement/marriage/new baby/new job/promotion/award/graduation.</i>		

Idiom and Definition	Usage	Example	Language notes	Similar expressions	Opposite expressions
do one's best (8) perform as well as you can		I worked day and night on the project. I did my best!	This expression can be followed by <i>on</i> + noun, as in <i>I did my best on the project</i> or by <i>to</i> + verb as in: <i>I did my best to contact you.</i>	give it (or something) your best shot (informal) give it (or something) all you've got (informal) give it 100% (informal) work like a dog (informal)	fall down on the job slack off (informal = not work hard)
drop by (a place) (6) visit (a place) for a short time		a. I'll drop by at 2 o'clock. Will you be there? b. I dropped by the library.	Example a: Phrasal verb (intransitive) Example b: Phrasal verb (transitive, inseparable)	drop in stop by stop in come by pay a quick visit	
drop in (at a place) (13) visit for a short time, often unexpectedly		a. Guess who dropped in today? My old friend Jorge! b. Guess who dropped in at/to the office today? My old friend Jorge!	Example a: Phrasal verb (intransitive) Example b: Phrasal verb (transitive, inseparable)	drop by stop by stop in come by pay a (quick) visit	
drop out (of something) (15) quit (school, a race, etc.)		a. He dropped out of college after 3 years. b. He dropped out before he graduated.	Example a: Phrasal verb (transitive, inseparable) Example b: Phrasal verb (intransitive) Other common words following <i>drop out of</i> include: <i>a group, a competition, an organization.</i>		stick with something (to the bitter end)

LEXICON

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Idiom and Definition	Usage	Example	Language notes	Similar expressions	Opposite expressions
fall asleep (3) begin to sleep		I went to bed at 10 PM and fell asleep right away.		go to sleep doze off nod off	wake up
freak out (5) lose one's self control	slang/ informal	Jason lost a day's work on his computer, and he freaked out!	Phrasal verb (intransitive)	lose it lose one's cool flip out	calm down cool off/down chill out pull oneself together
get along (with someone) (10) have a good relationship with someone		Celine loves her job and gets along well with her coworkers.	Phrasal verb (transitive, inseparable) You can also use the expression <i>get along</i> as follows: <i>Celine and her coworkers get along.</i>	get on (well) with someone click with someone see eye to eye with someone	be at odds with someone lock horns with someone be at loggerheads with someone
get better (4) improve; become healthier		Solange had the flu last week, but she's getting better.	The expression is often used when referring to health, but it can also be used as follows: <i>Business is getting better</i> or <i>I'm getting better at English.</i>	make progress get over something, get well, be on the mend (when referring to an illness)	get worse go from bad to worse get sick (when referring to an illness)
get in (something) (8) enter (a car, bed, bathtub, shower, or small boat)		When you get in the boat, put on a life jacket.	Phrasal verb (transitive, inseparable) <i>Get in</i> can also mean <i>arrive</i> , as in: <i>What time does the plane get in?</i> Note that <i>get on</i> is used to mean <i>enter</i> when referring to a train, bus, plane, or large boat.	hop in (informal)	get out (of something)

Idiom and Definition	Usage	Example	Language notes	Similar expressions	Opposite expressions
get mad (at someone) (14) become angry (at someone)	informal	I'm sorry I'm late. Don't get mad at me.		be steaming get hot under the collar be mad as hell at be mad as a hornet see red	see eye to eye with someone keep (one's) cool
get on (something) (4) enter (an elevator, a plane, a train, a bus, or a ship)		I usually get on the bus at the corner of First and Main.	Phrasal verb (transitive, inseparable) Don't confuse <i>get on</i> with <i>get in</i> , which is used when referring to: <i>a car, a small boat, a bathtub, a shower, or a bed.</i>		get off (something)
get out (of something) (4) leave (a bed, a car, a bath, work, class, school)		It's so cold that I don't want to get out of the car.	Phrasal verb (transitive, inseparable) Don't confuse <i>get out of</i> with <i>get off</i> , which is used with other forms of transportation: <i>get off a bus, a train, a plane, a large ship.</i>	get up (=get out of bed)	get in (something)
get over something (4) recover from an illness		I can't get over this cold; I've had it for two weeks!	<i>Get over</i> can also mean recover from an emotional shock. You <i>get over</i> a shock, a surprise, grief, or a love affair.	shake an illness get better	come down with an illness catch an illness (a cold, the flu)

LEXICON

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Idiom and Definition	Usage	Example	Language notes	Similar expressions	Opposite expressions
get rid of something (1) remove something		I cleaned my closet and got rid of my old clothes.	Phrasal verb (transitive, inseparable)	throw something away do away with something toss something away/out	hold on to/hang on to (=keep) something
get up (12) rise from a sitting or lying position		I'm tired; I don't want to get up!	Phrasal verb (intransitive) <i>Get up</i> usually refers to getting out of bed, but you also <i>get up</i> from a chair, a sofa, or the floor.	get out of bed	lie down go to bed hit the hay/sack sit down
get worse and worse (1) become very bad		Another murder! Crime is getting worse and worse here.	An illness, a problem (such as crime), or the weather can <i>get worse and worse</i> .	go from bad to worse	get better and better
give something away (15) give something as a gift		a. When she got her new computer, she gave away her old one. b. When she got her new computer, she gave her old one away.	Phrasal verb (transitive, separable)		
go after someone or something (10) try to get or catch someone or something		a. The thief ran away, but the police went after him. b. Tarik wants to go after a job at IBM.	Phrasal verb (transitive, inseparable)		
go back (to a place) (2) return (to a place)		I want to go back to Mexico City. I haven't been there for 5 years.	Phrasal verb (transitive, inseparable)		take off (=leave)

Idiom and Definition	Usage	Example	Language notes	Similar expressions	Opposite expressions
go shopping (5) shop		Boris likes to go shopping at Bell's because the prices are low.	Other common expressions using <i>go</i> include <i>go skiing</i> , <i>go swimming</i> , and <i>go fishing</i> .		
hang on for dear life (9) hold something very tightly	informal	The sea was rough and our boat was small. We hung on for dear life.			let go (of something)
have second thoughts (about something) (14) have doubts (about something)		Susan wanted to study architecture, but now she's having second thoughts.		get second thoughts (about something) change one's mind (about something)	be (100 percent) sure (about something) be certain (about something)
have trouble doing something (12) find something difficult to do		I have trouble learning languages, but I keep trying.		have a hard time doing something	take to something like a duck takes to water
head for a place (5) go in the direction of a place		I'm tired; I'm heading for bed now.	Phrasal verb (transitive, inseparable)		go away from a place
in addition (15) also		Keiko speaks English and Japanese. In addition, she knows French.	<i>In addition to</i> is used as follows: <i>In addition to English and Japanese, Keiko speaks French.</i>	as well (as)	

LEXICON

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Idiom and Definition	Usage	Example	Language notes	Similar expressions	Opposite expressions
just in time (6) just before the last minute; just soon enough		The report was due on Monday at 12:00 noon. We finished it at 11:50—just in time!		(just) in the nick of time just under the wire at the eleventh hour at the last minute	too late
later on (11) later; at some time in the future		I can't talk now, but let's have coffee later on.		after a while in a while	right away at once (=immediately)
laugh at someone or something (7) show joy at someone or something		I know I look ridiculous in these clothes, but please don't laugh at me!	Phrasal verb (transitive, inseparable) You can <i>laugh at</i> a person, a joke, a funny story, a comedy, etc.	smile at someone or something	frown at someone or something
let someone out (11) allow someone to leave		The boss won't let us out until we solve the problem.	Phrasal verb (transitive, separable) To follow <i>let out</i> with a place, use <i>let out of</i> , as in: <i>The boss won't let us out of the office until we solve the problem.</i>		keep in
lie down (12) rest in a horizontal position		I'm tired, so I'll lie down on the sofa for a while.	Phrasal verb (intransitive)		get up stand up get to one's feet

Idiom and Definition	Usage	Example	Language notes	Similar expressions	Opposite expressions
listen to someone or something (6) use your ears carefully to hear someone or something		Did you listen to the news this morning?	Phrasal verb (transitive, inseparable) You can <i>listen to</i> a person, music, the radio, a CD, a tape, etc.	lend an ear to someone	turn a deaf ear to (someone)
look for someone or something (8) try to find someone or something		I looked for a birthday gift for my father, but I couldn't find the right thing.	Phrasal verb (transitive, inseparable) You can put adverbs such as <i>everywhere</i> or <i>all over</i> between <i>look</i> and <i>for</i> , but you can't separate them with a noun or pronoun: <i>I looked everywhere for my glasses, but I couldn't find them.</i>	search for someone or something	
look into something (13) investigate; examine something		The mayor is looking into the traffic problem and will report the findings next week.	Phrasal verb (transitive, inseparable) You can <i>look into</i> a problem, a crime, an issue, a matter, a question, a possibility of something, etc.	check into something	
look like someone or something (7) be similar in appearance to someone or something		Francoise looks like her mother.	Often the words <i>just</i> or <i>exactly</i> occur in this expression: <i>She looks exactly like her mother</i> or <i>She looks just like her mother.</i>	look alike (<i>Francoise and her mother look alike.</i>)	look different from someone look nothing like someone look nothing alike

LEXICON

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Idiom and Definition	Usage	Example	Language notes	Similar expressions	Opposite expressions
lose it (1) become excited; lose one's self-control	informal	When I heard the bad news, I totally lost it.	This expression is usually used in the past tense: <i>I lost it; He lost it, etc.</i> The words <i>totally, really, or completely</i> often occur before the expression. <i>He really lost it!</i>	lose one's cool freak out (informal) flip out (informal) go bananas (informal)	calm down cool off/cool down (informal) chill out (slang) pull oneself together
lots of (6) many	informal	I should do the laundry. There are lots of dirty clothes.	<i>Lots of</i> is followed by a noun: <i>There's lots of water, There are lots of books.</i> You can also use <i>lots</i> by itself, as in <i>Friends? I have lots!</i>	a lot of quite a few	precious few
make a living (15) earn money for food, housing, etc.		a. Sandra makes a living as a painter. b. Sandra makes a living by painting.	After the expression, you can use <i>as</i> + job or <i>by</i> + <i>gerund</i> as in the examples. The expression is also used as follows: <i>She makes a good/ decent living as a painter.</i>	make a buck (informal) bring home the bacon (informal) earn one's keep (informal)	
make a mistake (11) do something incorrectly		I made a big mistake. I burned our dinner!	Other common expressions with <i>make</i> include <i>make the bed, make dinner, make money and make a living.</i>	mess up (informal) screw up (informal) goof up (informal)	

Idiom and Definition	Usage	Example	Language notes	Similar expressions	Opposite expressions
make oneself at home (3) make yourself comfortable in someone else's home		When Seville visited us, she made herself at home. She cooked her favorite food and joined all our family activities.	This expression is often used as a welcoming command: <i>Please make yourself at home!</i>	make oneself comfortable	feel ill at ease feel out of place feel uncomfortable feel like a fish out of water (informal)
not believe one's eyes (8) be very surprised to see something	informal	I can't believe my eyes! You got a new car!	This expression often starts with <i>I can't, I couldn't, I don't, I didn't, and I could hardly.</i>	be dumbfounded not believe one's ears (=be very surprised to hear something)	
on the way (to a place) (5) along the route (to a place)		Did you know Charles is on the way to China?		en route to a place	
on vacation (8) away from work or school; on holiday		I'll be on vacation next week, so I can't attend the meeting.	You can <i>be on vacation</i> or <i>go on vacation</i> .	on a break (from work or school) on holiday	at work
one in a million (15) unique; very special		Berta is really one in a million; she helps everyone with their problems.		one of a kind	a dime a dozen (=very common)
pay for something (5) give money for something		I paid for the shoes with my credit card.	Phrasal verb (transitive, inseparable) Note that you <i>pay for</i> dinner, a new car, a new TV, etc., but you <i>pay</i> bills, tuition, and rent. <i>Pay for</i> can also mean <i>be punished for something</i> , as in: <i>The criminal is paying for his crime in prison.</i>		

LEXICON

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Idiom and Definition	Usage	Example	Language notes	Similar expressions	Opposite expressions
pick something up (2) take or lift something off the floor (or a chair, etc.)		a. Children! Pick up your toys! b. Children! Pick your toys up!	Phrasal verb (transitive, separable) <i>Pick up</i> has other meanings too, such as: <i>go to a place and take a person in a car</i> , and <i>clean a room</i> . <i>Pick up the check</i> means to pay the bill in a restaurant.		throw down something
put something on (7) wear clothes		a. It's cold outside. Put on your coat. b. It's cold outside. Put your coat on.	Phrasal verb (transitive, separable) <i>Put on</i> has additional meanings: <i>put on weight</i> means to gain weight and <i>put on a play</i> means to perform a play.		take something off (=remove clothing)
right away (6) immediately		Where are my car keys? I have to leave right away for the meeting.		at once in a jiffy (informal)	later on after a while in a while
run away (3) leave quickly; escape		The thief grabbed the woman's purse and ran away.	Phrasal verb (intransitive)	slip away take off get away make a run for it take to one's heels	come back

Idiom and Definition	Usage	Example	Language notes	Similar expressions	Opposite expressions
save the day (12) produce excellent results when things are going badly		You found my passport? You saved the day!		come to someone's rescue save someone's skin/neck (informal)	let someone down make a mess (of something) mess something up (informal) screw something up (informal) blow it (informal)
see eye to eye (14) agree completely		Victor and his wife like the same kind of movies, books, and music. They see eye to eye on almost everything!	You can <i>see eye to eye with someone</i> , <i>see eye to eye about a specific matter</i> , or <i>see eye to eye on a general question or issue</i> .	agree (with someone) be of one mind (about something) be at one with someone	disagree with someone be at odds (with someone) lock horns with someone be poles apart
show up (12) appear; arrive		I waited and waited for John. Finally, he showed up three hours late.	Phrasal verb (intransitive)	turn up	vanish into thin air (=disappear) go away, take off (=leave)
sit down (2) sit; be seated		My feet hurt. Can we sit down for a few minutes?	Phrasal verb (intransitive) Often used as a welcoming phrase when someone enters a room: <i>Please sit down!</i> Don't confuse the expression with <i>set down</i> , which means <i>put something down</i> .	have a seat take a seat	stand up get up

LEXICON

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Idiom and Definition	Usage	Example	Language notes	Similar expressions	Opposite expressions
slow down (9) go more slowly		Slow down! You're walking too fast.	Phrasal verb (intransitive) <i>Slow it down!</i> is an informal way to say <i>Slow down</i> . The expression is also used when talking about slowing down one's life: <i>You're working too hard. You should slow down.</i>	slow up (informal)	speed up hurry up
smell a rat (13) think there may be something wrong or illegal	informal	When I couldn't find my car keys, I smelled a rat. Sure enough, my car was missing!		I think something is fishy. (=I smell a rat.)	
so far (11) until now; up to the present time		I have seen 10 movies so far this month.	This phrase is used with the present perfect.	up to now	from now on (=from this moment into the future)
speed up (9) go faster		We're late. Could you speed up a little?	Phrasal verb (intransitive) <i>Speed it up</i> is an informal way to say <i>Speed up</i> .	pick up speed	slow down slow up (informal)
spend time (with someone) (11) use time (with someone)		Petra spends a lot of time with her friends.	You can <i>spend an hour with someone</i> , <i>spend a day with someone</i> , <i>spend a few minutes with someone</i> , etc.		

Idiom and Definition	Usage	Example	Language notes	Similar expressions	Opposite expressions
<p>stare at someone or something (14)</p> <p>look at someone or something with wide eyes</p>		I'm sorry to stare at you, but you look so much like my brother!	Phrasal verb (transitive, inseparable)	look at someone or something	look away look down take a quick look at someone or something glance at someone or something
<p>take a ferry (a bus, a train, or a plane) (2)</p> <p>go by ferry (bus, train, or plane)</p>		I usually walk to school, but today I took a bus.		get on (a ferry, bus, train, or plane)	get off (a ferry, bus, train, or plane)
<p>take a look (at something) (1)</p> <p>look quickly (at something)</p>		Will you take a look at this letter before I send it?		have a look at something	
<p>take a nap (3)</p> <p>sleep for a short time during the day</p>		I didn't get much sleep last night; I'm going to take a nap now.		take a siesta (informal) take a snooze (informal) catch 40 winks (informal) catch some Zs (slang) get some shut-eye (slang)	stay up stay awake
<p>take a picture (of someone or something) (8)</p> <p>use a camera to get a photograph (of someone or something)</p>		I want to take a picture of you; please smile!	The expression is often followed by <i>of + person</i> , as in the example; however, <i>take a picture with someone</i> means <i>be in the picture with someone</i> .	take a photo of someone or something snap a photo of someone or something (informal)	

LEXICON

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Idiom and Definition	Usage	Example	Language notes	Similar expressions	Opposite expressions
take a vacation (8) have time away from work or school		We plan to take a vacation in August.		go on vacation take time off take a trip get away	work day and night work like a dog (informal)
take something away (10) remove something		Please take these dishes away. I want to work at the table.	Phrasal verb (transitive, separable) You <i>take away</i> an object that is <u>on</u> something. Compare this expression with <i>take out</i> , which means remove an object that is <u>inside</u> something.	take out (of) (=remove an object that is inside something)	
take off (9) leave (by car, on foot, by plane)		Mitsu took off right after class.	Phrasal verb (intransitive) You can indicate <u>how</u> a person <i>took off</i> : <i>He took off on his bike/in his car/on foot.</i> <i>Take off</i> has another common meaning. As a transitive, separable phrasal verb it means to remove clothing; in this sense it is the opposite of <i>put on</i> .	go away	show up

Idiom and Definition	Usage	Example	Language notes	Similar expressions	Opposite expressions
<p>take something out (of a place) (2) remove (from a place)</p>		Please take the eggs out of the refrigerator.	<p>Phrasal verb (transitive, separable)</p> <p>You <i>take out</i> an object that is <u>inside</u> something. Compare this expression with <i>take away</i>, which means remove and object that is <u>on</u> something.</p>	take away (=remove an object that is on something)	put (back) in
<p>think about someone or something (14) consider; anticipate; form a mental image of someone or something</p>		I'm thinking about dinner; what shall we have?	<p>Phrasal verb (transitive, inseparable)</p> <p><i>Think about</i> can be followed by a noun, as in the example, or a gerund (verb + <i>ing</i>), as in: <i>I'm thinking about cooking dinner.</i></p>	think something over	
<p>turn something down (10) make something less loud or less strong</p>		The TV is much too loud. Please turn it down!	<p>Phrasal verb (transitive, separable)</p> <p>You can <i>turn down</i> the volume, the TV, the stereo, the music, the heat, the temperature, the air conditioner, the oven, etc. <i>Turn down</i> has another common meaning: <i>refuse an invitation.</i></p>		turn up

LEXICON

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Idiom and Definition	Usage	Example	Language notes	Similar expressions	Opposite expressions
turn something off (4) stop a machine or the flow of water, electricity, etc.		a. Did you turn off the water? b. Did you turn the water off?	Phrasal verb (transitive, separable) In informal usage, <i>turn someone off</i> means <i>disgust</i> , as in <i>I hate that music; it really turns me off.</i>	switch something off	turn something on switch something on
turn something on (1) start a machine or the flow of electricity, water, etc.		a. I can't see. Will you turn on the light, please? b. I can't see. Will you turn the light on, please?	Phrasal verb (transitive, separable) In informal usage, <i>turn someone on</i> means <i>interest or excite</i> , as in: <i>Chocolate doesn't turn me on. I don't like it.</i>	switch something on	turn something off
turn over (3) turn to the other side		a. The car was going too fast on the ice and turned over. b. Please turn your paper over and write on the other side.	Example a: Phrasal verb (intransitive) (A car can <i>turn over</i> or a person can <i>turn over</i> in bed.) Example b: Phrasal verb (transitive and separable) Here, <i>turn over</i> refers to <i>someone turning something over.</i>		

Idiom and Definition	Usage	Example	Language notes	Similar expressions	Opposite expressions
<p>What is going on? (13) What is happening?</p>	informal	What is going on? Why don't you call me?	Also used as an informal greeting: <i>Hey man, what's going on?</i> A negative answer to this question is <i>Nothing (is going on)</i> .	What is happening? What's up? (informal) What's cooking? (informal)	
<p>What's the matter (with someone or something)? (1) What's wrong (with someone or something)?</p>		What's the matter with Lily? She hasn't been in class for a week.	The expression is often followed by <i>with</i> + person, as in the example.	what's up (with someone or something) (informal) what's going on (with someone or something) (informal)	nothing's the matter (with someone or something) nothing's wrong (with someone or something)
<p>walk off (2) walk away; walk in the other direction</p>		When I told John the truth, he just walked off.	Phrasal verb (intransitive) People often <i>walk off</i> because they're angry, as in the example. Don't confuse <i>walk off</i> with <i>walk out</i> , which means to abandon or leave someone. Note that <i>walk off with something</i> means to steal something.	take off	