

Beginners Idioms

Note: If an idiom includes a verb, remember to put it in the proper tense in your sentence. Idioms marked with an () inseparable. Remember if you use a pronoun, it must go between the two words. It cannot go at the end.*

Midterm Idioms

1. **To do over** = to repeat, to do again
 - The teacher made all of us *do* our exercises *over* because there were so many mistakes.
 - The letter was so badly typed that I *did* it *over*.
2. a. **To keep out (of)** = to not enter, to stay out
 - *Keep* that dog *out of* this store!
 - She told her younger brother to *keep out of* her room.b. **To keep off** = to stay off of a surface
 - The policeman told the children to *keep off* the grass.
 - Keep your cat off of my new furniture.c. **To keep away from** = to stay away from
 - You should *keep* your child *away from* that dog; he might bite her.
3. **To pass out** = (1) to lose consciousness *; (2) to distribute
 - Richard started to get out of bed, but he was still so weak that he *passed out*.
 - Please help me *pass out* a test to each student.
4. **Right away** * = immediately, very soon
 - Dad says that dinner will be ready *right away*, so we should wash our hands.
 - Can William come to my office *right away*? I must see him immediately.
5. a. **Right here */Right there** * = exactly here/exactly there
 - He said that he would meet us *right here* on this street corner.b. **Right now** * = immediately
 - Let's do it *right now*. I'm tired of waiting.
6. **All day** * = the entire day, continuously through the day
 - I have been working on my income tax form *all day*. I started after breakfast and now it's time for bed.
7. **To get back (from)** = (1) to return from a place *; (2) to receive again
 - Mr. Harris *got back from* Chicago last night.
 - When do you expect to *get back from* your trip?
 - Please *get* my sweater *back* from your sister, so I can wear it tonight.
8. a. **To hurry up** * = to go more quickly
 - Please *hurry up*, or we will be late!b. **To slow down** * = to go more slowly, to reduce speed
 - Please *slow down*. You make me nervous when you drive so quickly.
 - That racing car is so powerful that it is impossible to *slow* it *down* to a normal speed.

9. **To look up** = to search for a word, a price, a telephone number, etc., especially in a dictionary or catalog where one must turn pages
 - Students should *look up* new words in their dictionaries.
 - Ellen didn't know Robert's number, so she *looked it up* in the telephone directory.

10. **To show up** * = to appear, to come
 - He promised to come on Tuesday, but he never *showed up*.
 - Not one student *showed up* for the scheduled meeting.

11. **To get on/To get off** * = to enter/leave an airplane, bus, train, subway, bicycle
 - I always *get on* the bus at the corner of Colon and Seis and *get off* at Patria.

12. **To look at** * = to watch, to direct the eyes toward
 - The teacher told us to *look at* the blackboard and not at our books.
 - I like to walk along a country road and *look at* the stars at night.

13. **On purpose** * = for a reason, intentionally, with bad intent
 - Do you think he spilled the soup *on purpose* so that he wouldn't have to eat it?

14. **Out of order** * = not in working condition
 - The elevator was *out of order* and we had to walk to the tenth floor.

15. a. **To hand in** = to submit or deliver something that is due
 - Every student has to *hand in* an essay *in* on Monday.
 - All the salespeople *hand in* weekly reports.
 b. **To turn in** = (1) to submit or deliver something that is due; (2) to go to bed*
 - The teacher asked us to *turn in* our reports *in* next week.
 - I'm very sleepy; I think I'll *turn in* now.

16. **To make up** = (1) invent; (2) to compensate for some loss or absence; (3) to become reconciled after a quarrel *
 - That story John told wasn't true; he *made it all up*.
 - If you miss a lesson, we can *make it up* later. Those unexcused absences must be *made up*.
 - Why don't you two children *make up* and forget all about your argument.

17. a. **To turn on** = to begin a machine, light, faucet
 - Please *turn on* the radio; I'd like to hear some music.
 b. **To turn off** = to stop a machine, light, faucet
 - Should I *turn* the stereo *off* or are you still listening to it?

18. **To put on/To take off** = to place on oneself/to remove (usually clothes)
 - Mary *put* her hat and coat *on* and left the house.
 - Is Helen *taking off* her coat because it is too hot in the room?

19. **To take care of** * = to watch, to give attention to
 - Who will *take care of* your dog while you are away on vacation?
 - Don't worry; I'll *take care of* everything.

20. **To change (one's) mind** = to alter one's decision or opinion
 - We have *changed* our *minds* and are going to Canada instead of California on our vacation.