

LEVEL I Idioms

1. in the morning, etc.

I prefer to exercise *in the morning* before I go to work.

2. at night, noon, etc.

In some cities, it is dangerous to walk *at night*.

3. on Monday, etc.

I have a doctor's appointment *on Monday*.

4. in March, 1970, etc.

I was born *in March*. My son was born *in 1970*.

5. to take after (someone)- to resemble a parent or close relative in appearance or character

With her light hair and blue eyes she seems *to take after* her mother, but in her character she *takes after* her father.

6. to be born

Teresa *was born* in the summer. I *was born* on December 18. Mike and Tom *were born* at 1:13 am and 1:19 am.

7. in a moment, minute

I can help you *in a moment*.

8. to find out- to ask for information, to discover, to learn something new.

I was unable *to find out* the name of the man who called.

Will you please *find out* what time the train arrives? Yes, I'll try to find out.

9. at present, at the moment- right now, at this time in life in general

At present, I am studying English at the Fulbright Commission.

What are you doing? *At the moment*, I am reading a book.

10. to figure out- to find the answer by reasoning (using your brain), to study carefully in order to understand, to calculate

This letter is so badly written that I can't *figure out* what the writer is trying to say.

How long did it take you *to figure* the cost *out* of that new product?

Her job is interesting and it pays well, and yet Alexandra is quitting. I can't *figure* her *out*.

11. to cheer up- to make someone feel happy or better
We all tried to **cheer** Katie **up**, but she continued to feel sad.
I have some good news which I am sure will **cheer** her **up**.

12. to let (someone) down- to disappoint, to defraud
I **let** Carol **down** when I didn't give her emotional support after her divorce.
Joe promised his father that he would work in the family business after graduating from college. When he joined a different company instead, he really **let** his father **down**.

13. to pick out- to select, to separate as choice or desirable
I want to **pick out** a good book to give to my brother as a Christmas present.
There are many pretty sweaters at this store. Why don't you **pick** one **out**, and I'll buy it for you.

14. Never mind! - Don't worry about it. Don't pay attention to it. Forget about it. (needs to be its own sentence)
When he spilled his drink on my coat, I said, "**Never mind**. It needed to be cleaned anyway."

15. to take (one's) time- to work or go leisurely, avoid hurrying
There is no hurry. You can **take** your **time** doing those exercises.
William never worked rapidly. He always **took** his **time** in everything that he did.

16. to take a walk- to go for a walk
Last night we **took a walk** around the lake.
It's a beautiful day. Let's **take a walk** along Amazonas Street.

17. to take back- to return something bought or rented
That dress is too big. If I were you, I'd **take** it **back** and exchange it for a smaller one.
I **took back** the book to the library yesterday.

18. to put back- to return something to its exact original place
The librarian **put** the books **back** on the shelves where they belong.
Please **put back** the dishes in the kitchen cabinet after you wash and dry them.

18b. to put away- to remove something and put it in another place, to set aside out of sight
After John finished reading the report, he **put** it **away** in the desk.
Our mother always told us to **put away** our toys when we finished playing.
Students need to **put** their stuff **away** before an exam.

19. to try on- to put on something to see if it fits or suits one. (able to take off)
He **tried on** several suits and finally picked out a navy blue one.
Try these shoes **on**. I think they will be the most comfortable.

20. to get together- to meet socially
Sally, Maria and Sarah always **get together** on Saturday mornings to exercise and then have lunch.