

Idioms

all the time in the world to have a lot of time so you don't need to hurry: *No need to rush – we've got all the time in the world.*

blockbuster (movie / novel etc.) a movie or novel that is very well-known and commercially successful: *The latest Hollywood blockbuster is making a lot of money.*

cost the earth to cost a very large amount of money: *What a beautiful necklace! It must've cost the earth!*

earth-shattering surprising and shocking and very important: *We heard the earth-shattering news about the assassination.*

get off the ground (of a plan or business) to start to become real or successful: *It took a while for the business to get off the ground, but now we're making a profit.*

good number (+ of) a fairly large quantity of something: *She had a good number of friends in the area.*

go global become known or available throughout the world: *Japanese food was hardly known abroad until the 1990s, but now it has truly gone global and you can get it anywhere.*

ground sbdy to punish somebody by not allowing them to go out: *My son was late home again, so I grounded him for a week.*

keep your feet on the ground to think in a sensible and practical way and not have ideas which are impossible to achieve: *I'm afraid not all Nigel's plans are realistic. He really needs to keep his feet on the ground.*

on top of the world extremely happy: *It was a lovely day and I was feeling on top of the world.*

out of this world informal so good or enjoyable, it is unlike anything you usually experience: *Tracy showed us her holiday photos last night, the hotel she stayed in was out of this world.*

pick up to learn something by chance rather than by studying it: *I picked up a few words of Greek while I was there on holiday.*

stick to sth to stay with sth, e.g. an idea or principle even if it is difficult: *I really want to lose some weight, so I'm determined to stick to this diet.*

think the world of sbdy to have great love and respect for someone: *I don't speak to my father now, but I always thought the world of him when I was little.*

wax (euphoric/lyrical/eloquent etc) about to become very enthusiastic about something: *She waxed euphoric about her new job.*

Exercise

Complete the sentences with a suitable idiom.

- 1 Although there has been a lot of criticism of his handling of the economy, the Prime Minister is determined to _____ his original policy.
- 2 Becoming a millionaire at such a young age might've changed him, but his family have helped him to _____.
- 3 I've _____ a lot of English slang by watching TV, films and listening to pop songs.
- 4 He _____ as he described his plans for the new house.
- 5 After winning the gold medal, Lukic looked _____ as he spoke to reporters.
- 6 It needn't _____ to travel to Prague, you can get there by bus for only €180.
- 7 We thought about opening a restaurant, but unfortunately the idea never really _____.
- 8 Everyone in the office _____ of Rosalind, and we are all very sorry to see her leaving.
- 9 Antonia is a real genius in the kitchen: the meal she cooked for us last time was absolutely _____.
- 10 Everyone is still shocked and horrified at the _____ events that have taken place over the last few weeks.
- 11 There's no need to hurry: we've got _____ to get to the airport.
- 12 As a result of his irresponsible behaviour, Kevin's parents _____ him for a week so he couldn't go to the party.
- 13 From its origins in a small Los Angeles factory, the Lucky 7 clothing firm has now _____ and can be found in shops throughout the world.
- 14 A _____ of people said they would support the new proposals.
- 15 He was responsible for the special effects in a number of Hollywood _____ such as *Titanic* and *Jurassic Park*.

a I'm the kind of person who...	1 ... about my pronunciation.
b One thing I'm good at is...	2 ... aiming to read more widely in English.
c One of my worst faults is I never...	3 ... is very useful.
d I feel pretty happy...	4 ... my main priorities.
e I don't feel that learning idioms...	5 ... needs to see things written down.
f Personally I'd like to concentrate...	6 ... on spoken English.
g My main aim is...	7 ... is grammar.
h Reading longer texts is one of...	8 ... watch English-language films in class.
i Another important area for me...	9 ... to improve my writing.
j So, for that reason I'm...	10 ... at some of the most common phrasal verbs.
k Another thing I thought might be a good idea is to...	11 ... working out the meaning of words I haven't seen before.
l I'd find it really useful to look...	12 ... remember to write down new vocabulary.

Phrasal verbs

belt out [T] *informal* to sing a song or play an instrument loudly: *She was belting out some of her favourite songs.*

die down [I] to become less active, strong or violent: *The sea is a bit calmer now. I think the storm is beginning to die down.*

go away (for the weekend / for a while etc.) [I] to spend some time in another place, especially for a rest or holiday: *Are you planning to go away at Easter?*

go on (+ to do) [I] to do something after you have finished doing something else: *After passing her exams, she went on to become an extremely successful lawyer.*

launch into [T] to start something very lively or energetic: *After lunch the Prime Minister launched into a lengthy speech about immigration, which caused lots of debate.*

let down [T] to disappoint somebody who was relying on you: *I'm counting on you to help me – don't let me down!* Also **to be / feel let down**: *I felt really let down when I didn't get my promotion.*

put off [T] to delay doing something because you do not want to do it now: *I put off telling him about the bill until he felt better.*

roll down (your window) [T] to open the window of a car: *Roll down the window, will you? It's hot in the back.* (opposite = **roll up**: *He rolled his trouser legs up and went for a walk on the beach.*)

send up [T] *BrE informal* to show how silly something or somebody is by imitating them in a funny way: *The film sends up all those Hollywood blockbuster movies.*

sing along (+ with) [I] to sing at the same time as somebody else who is already singing: *Sing along if you know the words.*

sell out (+ of) [I] to have no more of something to sell: *I'm afraid that tonight's performance is completely sold out.*

stand out [I] to be clearly better than the rest: *There are some very talented musicians in the orchestra at the moment, but Nigel really stands out.*

turn into [T] to change somebody or something into something else: *You'll never turn me into a salesman. I'm not made for it.*

turn out [I] to happen in a particular way that you did not expect: *Don't worry, I'm sure things will turn out fine in the end.*

turn up [I] *informal* to appear or arrive: *The party was a huge success. We really didn't expect so many people to turn up.*

Exercise

Complete the sentences with a suitable phrasal verb.

- 1 After he had started the tournament so well, all his fans were extremely _____ by Kolinsky's defeat in the semi-finals.
- 2 We had expected an audience of up to fifty- so imagine our disappointment when just seven people _____.
- 3 You should've filled in your application form weeks ago: you can't _____ it _____ any longer or you'll miss the deadline.
- 4 When she saw a passer-by, Jenny _____ the car window to ask for some directions to the nearest bank.
- 5 Everyone knew the words to his last song, so most of the audience _____.
- 6 What everyone had expected to be a pleasant, relaxing evening _____ to be a real nightmare.
- 7 We always _____ in August, usually to our holiday home by the sea.
- 8 Even at the age of 65, Billie Lee showed she still has a powerful voice, when she _____ all of her old hits from the 1960s.
- 9 It seems that the minister wasn't too pleased about that comedian who _____ him _____ on TV the other night.
- 10 It took a while for the shouting to _____, allowing him to continue his speech about the unpopular immigration laws.
- 11 He was a shy young man at first, but several years in the army _____ him _____ a completely different person.
- 12 There are a lot of excellent entries for this year's art competition: but for me there is one painting which really _____, and fully deserves first prize.
- 13 The whole audience suddenly _____ a rousing version of the national anthem which lasted for several minutes.
- 14 After leaving the group in 1999, he _____ to record a number of extremely successful solo albums.
- 15 The show was _____ weeks ago- you'll never get a ticket now.

