

LESSON 5

TED GOES OUT FOR THE EVENING

Ted leaves to go visit his girlfriend Amber. Ted's mother Susan says she doesn't really like Amber. She wishes him a good time anyway.

Ted: See you later, Mom!

Susan: Where are you going, Ted?

Ted: I told Amber I'd **drop by**.

Susan: What are you two going to do?

Ted: Maybe go to the movies or to a party. Our plans are still **up in the air**.

Susan: Why don't you invite her over here?

Ted: I don't want to **hang around** here. Dad is really **down in the dumps**.

Susan: Is Amber the girl with the nose ring and the purple hair?

Ted: Yeah. I'm **crazy about** her!

Susan: Don't **take this the wrong way**, but she's not exactly my **cup of tea**.

Ted: **Take it easy**, Mom. We're not **about to** get married. We just enjoy **hanging out** together.

Susan: I guess **there's no accounting for taste**. **Have a good time**.

Ted: Don't worry. We'll **have a blast!**

Susan: (**under her breath**) That's what I'm afraid of!



IDIOMS – LESSON 5

about to – see *Lesson 1*

(to be) crazy about – to like very much

EXAMPLE 1: Amy is so **crazy about** golf, she'd like to play every day.

EXAMPLE 2: I'm sure Katie will agree to go out on a date with Sam. She's **crazy about** him!

cup of tea – the type of person or thing that one generally likes

EXAMPLE 1: Hockey isn't Alan's **cup of tea**. He prefers soccer.

EXAMPLE 2: I know Joy is nice, but she's simply **not my cup of tea**.

NOTE: This expression is almost always used in the negative. She's **not my cup of tea**.

(to be) down in the dumps – to feel sad; to be depressed

EXAMPLE 1: It's not surprising that Lisa is **down in the dumps**. Paws, the cat she had for 20 years, just died.

EXAMPLE 2: It's easy to feel **down in the dumps** when it's raining outside.

(to) drop by – to pay a short, often unannounced visit

EXAMPLE 1: If we have time before the movie, let's **drop by** Bill's house.

EXAMPLE 2: "Hi, I was in the neighborhood so I thought I'd **drop by!**"

(to) hang around – to spend time idly; to linger

EXAMPLE 1: We had to **hang around** the airport for an extra six hours because our flight was delayed.

EXAMPLE 2: Nina's boyfriend Boris is coming over soon. She hopes her parents aren't planning on **hanging around** the house.

(to) hang out – to spend time (often doing nothing)

EXAMPLE 1: Ted spent all of last summer **hanging out** by his friend's pool.

EXAMPLE 2: Kathy and her friends like to **hang out** at the mall.

NOTE: "Hang out with" means to keep company with someone.

(to) have a blast [slang] – to enjoy oneself very much

EXAMPLE 1: Last summer, Nicole **had a blast** backpacking through Europe with some friends.

EXAMPLE 2: Heather spent her spring break in Fort Lauderdale with millions of other college students. She **had a blast!**

(to) have a good time – to enjoy oneself

EXAMPLE 1: Marcy and José **had a good time** salsa dancing at Babalu, a nightclub in Manhattan.

EXAMPLE 2: Nora and Jake **had a good time** on their honeymoon in Maui.

take it easy – relax; don't worry

EXAMPLE 1: You lost your keys? **Take it easy**, I'm sure you'll find them.

EXAMPLE 2: Stop yelling and **take it easy**. I'm sure there's a good explanation for why Joe borrowed your car without asking first.

(to) take something the wrong way – to take offense

EXAMPLE 1: Don't **take this the wrong way**, but I liked your hair better before you got it cut.

EXAMPLE 2: Jessica is offended. I guess she **took it the wrong way** when I told her she should exercise more.

NOTE: This expression is often used in the negative form: "Don't take this the wrong way, but..."

there's no accounting for taste – it's impossible to explain individual likes and dislikes

EXAMPLE 1: Ted likes to put sugar on his spaghetti. I guess **there's no accounting for taste**.

EXAMPLE 2: Tiffany has a tattoo of a squirrel on her leg. **There's no accounting for taste**.

under one's breath – quietly; in a whisper

EXAMPLE 1: "Amber is strange," muttered Nicole **under her breath**, as Ted was leaving the room.

EXAMPLE 2: Mike agreed to take out the garbage, saying **under his breath**, "I always do the dirty work around here."

(to be) up in the air – not yet determined; uncertain

EXAMPLE 1: It might rain later, so our plans for the picnic are **up in the air**.

EXAMPLE 2: Our trip to Russia is **up in the air**. We aren't sure we'll get our visas in time.

PRACTICE THE IDIOMS

Fill in the blank with the missing word:

- 1) Bob was fired. It's not surprising that he's down ____ the dumps.
a) at b) in c) with
- 2) Ted thinks Amber is wonderful. He's just crazy ____ her.
a) about b) around c) into
- 3) "Don't ____ this the wrong way, but I really don't like your girlfriend," said Susan to Ted.
a) understand b) put c) take
- 4) Ted likes to hang ____ with Amber. She's fun to be with.
a) on b) out c) in
- 5) Ted decided to go over to Amber's house. He'd promised her he'd drop ____.
a) by b) around c) near
- 6) Bob and Susan don't know where they'll go on vacation. Their travel plans are still up ____ the air.
a) around b) in c) above
- 7) Judy muttered something nasty ____ her breath, but I couldn't quite hear it.
a) about b) under c) below
- 8) Why are you hanging ____ the house on such a beautiful day? You should be outside enjoying the weather.
a) inside b) from c) around

ANSWERS TO LESSON 5, p. 160



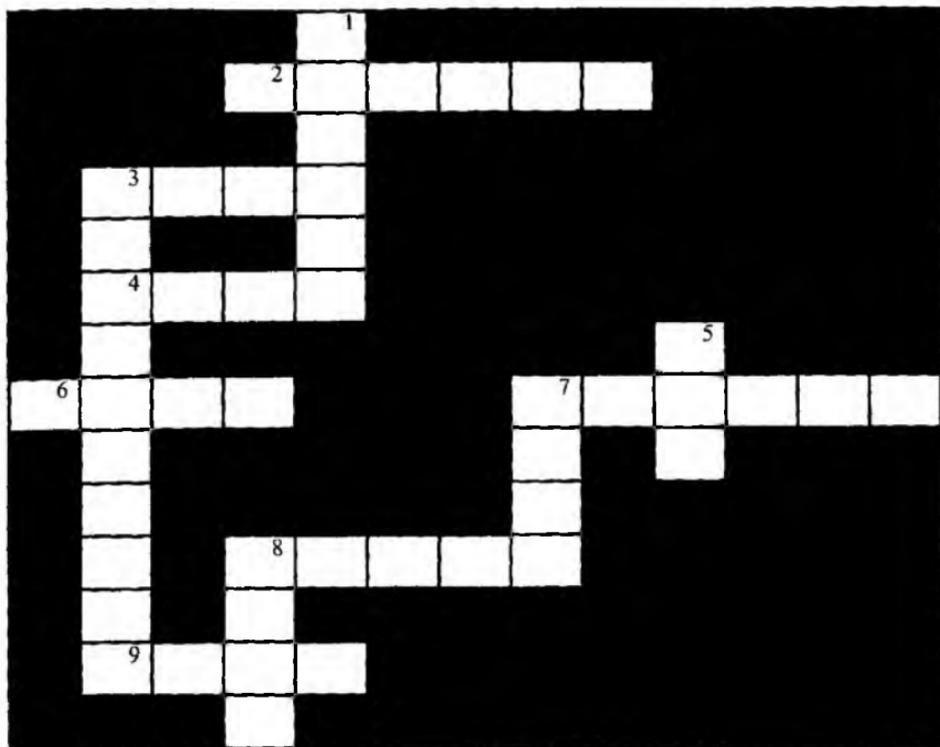
Review for Lessons 1-5

Fill in the blank with the missing word:

- 1) After copying from his friend's paper during the test, Ted was on ____ ice with his chemistry teacher.
a) thick b) thin c) dangerous
- 2) Ted's teacher hit the ____ on the head. Ted should spend less time playing guitar and more time studying.
a) tack b) nail c) screw
- 3) I'm not really crazy about my friend's husband. He talks too much, and he never listens to what anybody else is saying. He's just not my cup of ____.
a) coffee b) cocoa c) tea
- 4) If Ted has his ____ set on going to New York University, he's going to have to buckle down and start studying more.
a) life b) brain c) heart
- 5) It's not surprising that Nicole gets such good grades. She's as ____ as a tack.
a) smart b) sharp c) clever
- 6) When Peter ____ his temper, it's very scary. He throws furniture everywhere.
a) loses b) finds c) opens
- 7) After Jane started hitting the ____, her grades started improving immediately.
a) work b) books c) teachers

- 8) Nicole said something ____ her breath, but I couldn't hear it. When I asked her to repeat it, she refused.
- a) on b) about c) under
- 9) Will Ted ever be the best student in his class? Sure, when ____ fly!
- a) sheep b) goats c) pigs
- 10) A positive attitude leads to success. When things get difficult, it's important to keep your ____ up.
- a) chin b) neck c) head
- 11) Bob was all stressed ____ because the traffic was making him late for a doctor's appointment.
- a) over b) out c) up
- 12) Frank knew that the judge had already decided he was guilty. There was no point ____ arguing with him.
- a) in b) around c) about
- 13) Some people think Nicole and Susan are sisters. That really ____ Nicole crazy!
- a) does b) causes c) drives
- 14) Ted has been slacking ____ since the first day of high school, so it's not surprising that he's doing so poorly.
- a) around b) off c) about
- 15) During the Depression in the 1930's, many families in America were living from hand to ____.
- a) arm b) mouth c) hand

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

2. "What's the ____?" Sue asked Bob. "You look very unhappy."
3. Sue doesn't want Bob to be sad. She wants him to keep his ____ up.
4. Bob's boss doesn't want Bob back. He's already made up his ____.
6. After failing his chemistry class once, Ted is taking it again. "Don't ____ it this time!" said his father.
7. Bob doesn't like the people at Honest Abe's Furniture Store. They give him the ____.
8. Ted's father wants him to study more. He tells Ted to hit the ____.
9. You got an "A" in every subject? That's very impressive! You must be as sharp as a ____.

Down

1. Bob was _____. Now he needs to find a new job.
3. Nicole's teacher was pleased with her and paid her a _____.
5. Ted's fancy new CD player cost an arm and a _____.
7. Ted is doing poorly in chemistry because he _____ class so often.
8. I wouldn't trust Lisa. She has a long history of stabbing her friends in the _____.

ANSWERS TO REVIEW, p. 161

I baked
cookies for
you!

You've
got a heart
of gold!

