

## LESSON 24

# AMBER WRITES A SONG

*Ted always writes the songs for the rock band. But now Amber says she wants to start writing songs too. She sings him the first lines of her new song.*

*Amber:* Ted, you know how **all along** you've been **in charge of** all the lyrics for our band?

*Ted:* That's right, Amber. Everybody loves my songs!

*Amber:* Well, I hope they'll love my songs too.

*Ted:* But you don't write songs.

*Amber:* I'm **sick and tired of** singing your songs all the time. I want to sing my own songs!

*Ted:* Okay, no need to **freak out!** **First things first.** Have you written a song yet?

*Amber:* Yes, **as a matter of fact,** I have.

*Ted:* Well, let's hear it then.

*Amber:* Okay, but it's still a work **in progress.**

*Ted:* Stop trying to **buy time.** Let's hear the song!

*Amber:* 🎵 My boyfriend is crazy. **Crazy about** baking cookies.  
I know **for sure** that there is no cure... 🎵

*Ted:* **Cut it out!** Stop teasing me. I *am* cured.

*Amber:* **All better?**

*Ted:* Yes. I'll never bake another cookie again. My parents **made a fortune**. Now we can all just **chill out!**



## IDIOMS – LESSON 24

**all along** – throughout; from beginning to end

EXAMPLE 1: Jenny told Nicole she would vote for her, but **all along** she was planning on voting for Andrea.

EXAMPLE 2: I never believed Joel when he told us he was marrying a princess from Denmark. I knew **all along** that he was lying.

**all better** – completely cured

EXAMPLE 1: “**All better?**” asked Maureen, after her son stopped crying.

EXAMPLE 2: If you're not **all better**, you shouldn't go to work tomorrow.

**as a matter of fact** – see *Lesson 20*

**(to) buy (some) time** – to make more time available (in order to achieve a certain purpose)

EXAMPLE 1: We're not sure yet whether or not we want to buy the house. We'd better **buy some time** so we can think about it over the weekend.

EXAMPLE 2: I'm not sure whether or not I want to take the job offer. I'd better **buy some time** to think about it.

**(to) chill out** [slang] – to relax

EXAMPLE 1: **Chill out!** If we miss this train, we'll just take the next one.

EXAMPLE 2: Your dog ate your homework? **Chill out**, I'm sure your teacher will understand!

**(to be) crazy about** – see *Lesson 5*

**(to) cut it out** – stop it; stop the annoying behavior

EXAMPLE 1: Tracy was chewing gum loudly during the movie. Her boyfriend finally told her to **cut it out**.

EXAMPLE 2: **Cut it out!** Stop trying to pull my shoes off!

**first things first** – let's focus on the most important thing or task first

EXAMPLE 1: You want to work here at Lulu's Dance Club? **First things first**, have you ever worked as a dancer before?

EXAMPLE 2: You want to ask your teacher if you can hand in your paper two weeks late? **First things first**, you'd better think of an excuse.

**for sure** – see *Lesson 19*

**(to) freak out** [slang] – to respond to something irrationally or crazily; to overreact

EXAMPLE 1: Ashley's parents **freaked out** when she told them she was dropping out of college to become an actress.

EXAMPLE 2: Don't **freak out** when I tell you this, but I lost the laptop you lent me last week.

**(to be) in charge of** – having responsibility for

EXAMPLE 1: John is **in charge of** all international sales for his company.

EXAMPLE 2: Who's **in charge of** making sure we don't run out of toilet paper in the bathroom?

**in progress** – happening; under way; going on now

EXAMPLE 1: The play is already **in progress**, so you'll have to wait until intermission to sit down.

EXAMPLE 2: Once the test is **in progress**, you will not be allowed to leave the room.

**(to) make a fortune** – to make a lot of money

EXAMPLE 1: Adam **made a fortune** when he sold his company to Microsoft.

EXAMPLE 2: Emma **made a fortune** selling candy to her classmates after lunch every day.

SYNONYMS: to make a bundle; to make a killing

**(to be) sick and tired of** – completely bored with; sick of

EXAMPLE 1: Ted is **sick and tired of** hearing about what an excellent student Nicole is.

EXAMPLE 2: I'm **sick and tired of** this nasty weather we've been having!

## PRACTICE THE IDIOMS

Fill in the blanks using these idioms:

**buy time**

**chill out**

**freaked out**

**all along**

**cut it out**

**in charge of**

**sick and tired of**

**first things first**

- 1) Nicole really \_\_\_\_\_ when she heard she lost the presidential election. She threw her books across the room!
- 2) Ted, why do you always leave your dirty clothes on the floor? Your mother is \_\_\_\_\_ cleaning up after you.
- 3) Donna, from the National Cookie Company, wanted Susan to sign a contract right away. Susan told her \_\_\_\_\_. She wanted to speak to a lawyer before signing any papers.
- 4) As president of the Spanish Club, Nicole will be \_\_\_\_\_ organizing a trip to Spain in the spring.
- 5) When Nicole saw a group of her brother's friends laughing at her, she told them to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6) After losing the election, Nicole was very upset. She needed to take it easy and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7) Bob and Susan weren't sure yet how much they wanted to sell their cookie company for. They needed to \_\_\_\_\_ so they could get some advice.
- 8) Nicole had assumed \_\_\_\_\_ that she was going to win the election. She was really surprised when she lost.

## ★ BONUS PRACTICE

**Fill in the blank with the missing word:**

- 1) Billy fell down the stairs and started crying. When he finally stopped, his mother asked, “All \_\_\_\_?”  
a) good                      b) better                      c) okay
- 2) Amber was happy when Ted said they didn’t have to bake any more cookies. She was sick and tired \_\_\_\_ baking cookies.  
a) of                              b) with                              c) at
- 3) Ethan hasn’t yet made up his mind whether or not to accept the job offer. He needs to \_\_\_\_ some time.  
a) buy                              b) purchase                              c) get
- 4) The man behind me on the train was whistling loudly. It was giving me a headache. Finally, I told him to \_\_\_\_ it out.  
a) stop                              b) cut                              c) sever
- 5) Chill \_\_\_\_! We’re only going to be a few minutes late.  
a) it                              b) in                              c) out
- 6) Adam \_\_\_\_ a fortune working in computers in the late 90’s. He was able to retire at age 39.  
a) had                              b) made                              c) found
- 7) The students were told that while the test was \_\_\_\_ progress, they wouldn’t be allowed to leave the classroom.  
a) with                              b) in                              c) at
- 8) Victoria has a big job. She’s in charge \_\_\_\_ the marketing department at her company.  
a) at                              b) with                              c) of

*ANSWERS TO LESSON 24, p. 167*

**Ted, come  
to New York and  
I'll foot the bill for  
everything!**

**Wow,  
this is a dream  
come true!**

