

LESSON 25

TED BRINGS HOME MORE GOOD NEWS

Ted tells his family that a talent agent wants to meet with him. The agent will fly Ted and Amber to New York. Nicole announces that she's been named president of the Spanish Club.

- Ted:* Amber and I are going to **break into** the music business. Last night after our concert, a talent agent asked us to meet with him in New York.
- Susan:* Congratulations! We'll give you some **spending money** for your trip.
- Ted:* No need. The agent is **footing the bill** for everything. And when we get there, he's going to **wine and dine** us.
- Susan:* He must think you're the **cream of the crop**.
- Ted:* He thinks we sound like the Goo Goo Dolls.
- Nicole:* Who are they?
- Ted:* You're really **out of it**. They're a popular rock band.
- Nicole:* Our family is certainly on a **winning streak**. I was elected president of the Spanish Club today.
- Ted:* The Spanish Club? **Big deal!**

Nicole: You don't **get it**, Ted. This is only the beginning. Today, president of the Spanish Club. Tomorrow, ambassador to Spain!

Ted: Well, Ambassador, you'll need to **wrap up** my chemistry homework before you leave for the Spanish Embassy.

Susan: A rock star and a diplomat — I'm so proud of both of you!



IDIOMS – LESSON 25

Big deal! – So what? That doesn't really matter.

EXAMPLE 1: You won five dollars in the lottery? **Big deal!**

EXAMPLE 2: Your father has a job with a **big company** in New York City?

Big deal!

(to) break into – to enter or be let into a profession

EXAMPLE 1: If you want to **break into** journalism, it's a good idea to work on a college newspaper.

EXAMPLE 2: These days it's difficult to **break into** investment banking.

NOTE: "Break into" has several other meanings:

1. Interrupt. Boris and I were talking. Please don't try to **break into** our conversation.
2. Enter illegally or by force. Somebody **broke into** Peter's house and stole his DVD player.
3. To suddenly begin an activity, such as singing. After receiving the check from the National Cookie Company, Susan **broke into** song.

cream of the crop – the best of a group

EXAMPLE 1: In the world of women's tennis, the Williams sisters are the **cream of the crop**.

EXAMPLE 2: Of course you'll get accepted to Harvard. Don't forget, you're the **cream of the crop!**

SYNONYM: crème de la crème

(to) foot the bill – to pay

EXAMPLE 1: You paid last time we went to the movies. Let me **foot the bill** this time.

EXAMPLE 2: Fortunately, whenever we go out to dinner with the boss, she **foots the bill**.

SYNONYM: to pick up the tab

(to) get it – see *Lesson 21*

(to be) out of it – not aware or knowledgeable about trends or modern habits

EXAMPLE 1: Don't ask for Susan's advice on fashion. She's really **out of it**. She wears sneakers with everything.

EXAMPLE 2: Betsy has never even heard of Harry Potter. She's really **out of it!**

NOTE: "Out of it" also means "confused" or "disoriented." Example: After staying up all night studying, Ted felt **out of it** the next day.

spending money – money for minor expenses

EXAMPLE 1: Before Tim left for Europe, his parents gave him \$400 in **spending money**.

EXAMPLE 2: Martin's parents are paying his college tuition, but he has to earn his own **spending money**.

SYNONYM: pocket money

(to) wine and dine – to take someone out for an evening or an expensive meal

EXAMPLE 1: Donna **wined and dined** Bob and Susan and then presented them with a contract for the sale of Susan's Scrumptious Cookies.

EXAMPLE 2: Kate was **wined and dined** during her trip to Santiago.

(to be on a) winning streak – a series of wins

EXAMPLE 1: The basketball team hasn't lost a game all season. They're on a **winning streak!**

EXAMPLE 2: You won 10 games in a row? You're on a **winning streak!**

(to) wrap up – to finish

EXAMPLE 1: If you **wrap up** your homework by eight o'clock, we'll have time to catch a movie tonight.

EXAMPLE 2: Okay folks, let's **wrap up** these exercises so we can go home early tonight.

PRACTICE THE IDIOMS

Fill in the blank with the missing word:

- 1) I invited you to dinner, so let me ____ bill.
a) hand off b) arm c) foot
- 2) My friend Kate is really ____ it. She doesn't even know who Oprah Winfrey is.
a) out of b) into c) unaware of
- 3) Ted told Amber he'd need to call her back later in the evening since he was just ____ to have dinner.
a) up b) around c) about
- 4) After Bob and Susan wrap ____ the sale of their business, they can relax for a while.
a) through b) around c) up
- 5) Sally got a job with a law firm in Manhattan? ____ deal!
a) Small b) Big c) Huge
- 6) We love to visit our friends in Florence, Italy. They always ____ and dine us.
a) liquor b) wine c) beer
- 7) Bob and Susan plan to give Nicole \$1,000 per year of spending ____ when she's in college.
a) cash b) dough c) money
- 8) I recommend that you go to a concert at Carnegie Hall. The musicians who play there are always the cream of the ____.
a) crop b) lawn c) lot

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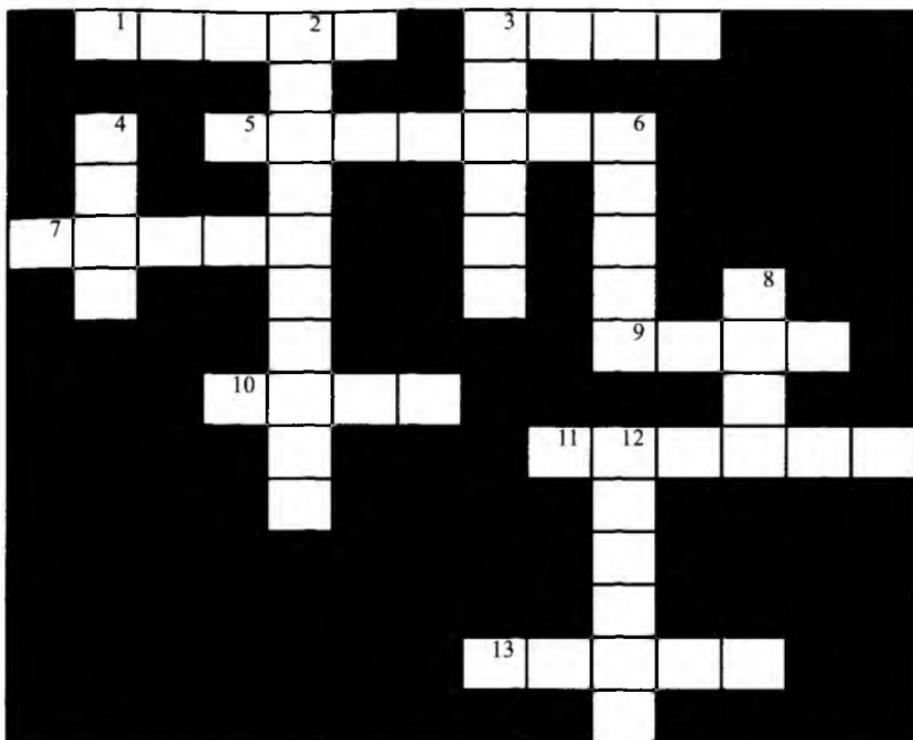
Review for Lessons 21-25

Fill in the blank with the missing word:

- 1) Next year, Ted will be traveling all ____ the world with his band.
a) about b) inside c) over
- 2) After his fifth vodka, Steve was ____ sheets to the wind.
a) five b) three c) two
- 3) For a while, the Johnsons were living ____ a shoestring. They couldn't afford to eat out at restaurants.
a) with b) on c) by
- 4) When my friend lost her favorite necklace, I told her it was no use crying over spilt ____.
a) milk b) juice c) beer
- 5) Joel has a fun job. He's ____ charge of advertising sales for *Mad*, the best humor magazine in America.
a) at b) on c) in
- 6) Please put away your wallet! Let me ____ the bill.
a) arm b) foot c) hand
- 7) My friend was running around like a chicken with its head cut off. I told her to chill ____.
a) out b) in c) down

- 8) Bob worked out the nuts and ____ of the agreement with the National Cookie Company.
a) details b) bolts c) tacks
- 9) After Martha's neighbor chopped down her apple tree, she held a grudge ____ him for years.
a) from b) against c) for
- 10) I arrived late to the stadium. The baseball game was already ____ progress.
a) through b) in c) at
- 11) My friend invited me out for a drink, but I told her I'd first need to wrap ____ some things at the office.
a) through b) along c) up
- 12) I'm ____ and tired of telemarketers calling me in the evening trying to sell me stuff I don't want.
a) sick b) ill c) angry
- 13) Kristen's boss paid her a compliment. He said she was the best salesperson in the company. That really ____ her day.
a) made b) created c) ruined
- 14) The person seated behind me on the airplane kept on kicking my seat. Finally, I told him to ____ it out.
a) stop b) cut c) fly
- 15) Amber hopes to break ____ the modeling business after she graduates from high school. She can definitely model nose rings and tattoos!
a) into b) in c) around

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

1. First things _____. Before we start wandering around the streets of Paris, let's look at a map and plan our route.
3. The company will wine and _____ their top candidates for this position.
5. Nicole was really looking _____ to her school trip to Spain.
7. Ken is an engineer. He tries to understand the nuts and _____ of how things work.
9. When the stock market collapsed, Bob lost his _____ and sold everything.
10. Nicole's boyfriend forgot his wallet, so she had to foot the _____.
11. Bob no longer shops at the Village Market. He holds a _____ against them.
13. I was sick and _____ of watching my co-worker flirt with our boss.

Down

2. We can't afford a new computer for the office. We're running on a _____.
3. Bette Davis may have been a great actress, but she was a _____ lady in real life.
4. Musicians from the Juilliard School of Music are the cream of the _____.
6. Diane and Mike just bought a mansion. They're rolling in _____.
8. Mary left her husband George for a younger man. She told George, "I hope there are no _____ feelings about this."
12. Stephen King has a long track _____ of writing bestsellers.

ANSWERS TO REVIEW, p. 167

Across

- The US team did not win the World Cup, but they gave it their best _____.
- You think AI should tell his boss that she's wrong? Easier said than _____!
- The English teacher gave her students a useful _____ of thumb. She told them not to repeat the same adjectives too many times in one essay.
- You have an exam tomorrow morning? You'd better start hitting the _____!
- Todd doesn't like reading. It's like _____ teeth to get him to read anything.
- Julie was very upset when her landlord increased her rent by 25 percent. Now she doesn't know how she'll make ends _____.
- Eva loves to travel. She's traveled all _____ the world.
- Stop jumping up and down on the bed! If it breaks, it'll be no laughing _____.
- I wanted to buy *The New York Times* this morning, but by the time I got to the store, they had already _____ out.
- Good luck at the casino. Hopefully you'll strike it _____!
- Jay didn't cheat during the Scrabble game. He won _____ and square.
- You look very tired. We'd better call it a _____ and go home.
- You paid \$900 for that cappuccino maker? That's really _____ dollar!
- You're going on vacation to Aruba? I'm _____ with envy.

Down

- On a hot day like today, an ice cream stick is just what the _____ ordered!
- We've only got two hours to finish this project. Let's roll up our _____ and start working.
- Pfizer really wanted to Tanya to accept their job offer, so they agreed to sweeten the _____.
- If you studied your idioms, this crossword puzzle should be a _____ of cake.
- Ted _____ around the bush before telling his parents that he failed his test.
- Mmmm, this chocolate cake is out of this _____!
- Joe wants to join the army, but he hasn't yet broken the _____ to his mom.
- Oh, you're finally home. That's a load off my _____!
- Frank, our best salesman, hasn't made a sale all week. I'm afraid he's lost his _____!
- Mark drove a hard _____ and got two T-shirts for the price of one.
- Vivian is a night _____. She never goes to sleep before midnight.
- I know you had your _____ set on going skiing this weekend, but I'm afraid there won't be enough snow.
- You'd better get up _____ and early to finish your homework.
- Your team won four soccer games in a row? You're on a _____ streak.
- All of Brianna's after-school activities cost money. Her parents are tired of shelling _____ so much money.
- Judy made a list of books for the book club to read, but she told members to feel _____ to make other suggestions.
- Will Democrats and Republicans every stop fighting? When _____ fly!
- Tom doesn't want to go to the rock concert. Jazz is more his cup of _____.

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