



EVERYDAY LIFE *IN* *AMERICA*

进 修 级 6-8 册



總序

中國人學美語，無非是希望能藉此與美國人溝通，然而，多半的人，却總覺得無法與他們暢所欲言。

概以言之，學美語，不外乎背生字、讀文法，再者就是學會話，但是，除非您有十足的美語環境，讓您時時刻刻地去學習，否則，您還是無法講得一口道地的美語，這也就是為什麼一位通過TOFEL考試的留學生，所說的美語，却還是比不上一個六歲美國小孩！

為此，當我們着手進行“Everyday life in America”每日生活美語系列全集這套書時，特地集合了數十位中美權威的語言專家，先行討論如何幫助學美語的朋友，以現有的基礎，而在短期內能夠學好美語，流利地與美國人交談、做朋友。結論是，唯有學習片語、單字、文法、會話是不夠的，還必須從美國的歷史文化、社會人文去瞭解美國之後，這樣才能真正的和美國朋友打成一片。

所以，在這一套書當中，編輯的方針，我們強調教材生活化、實用化外，還編列了許多美國的歷史文化、社會狀況和生活習慣的資料，卻不會令人感到沈悶、枯燥、難以學習，讓您可以從這套包羅萬象、生動有趣的教材中，學習到美國的一切，舉凡美國內戰以來，歷史上所發生的許多大事，社會中各類的趣味軼事，乃至於美國生活中，可能碰到的各類狀況，例如醫院就醫、銀行開戶、求職就業、外出旅遊、子女就學的各類實用教材，當然，這套書當中，我們仍然編列了不少學習單字、片語、文法的教材，但是我們採取了生動、活潑的對答方式，讓您更易於體會，更便於運用。如此，您讀過本套“Everyday life in America”每日生活美語系列全集之後，您將不只是浮光掠影的學習美語，而能經由對美國文化、社會等深入的了解了。

這套教材同樣也考慮到學習的難易，由初級、中級、高級，乃至進修級，讓您在學習當中，循序漸進、按步就班，配合錄音帶，照對練習，絕對可以幫助您在三個月內，學好美語。

“Everyday life in America”每日生活美語系列全集，共計教材42冊、錄音帶18捲，以及隨身學卡卡片式教材一套400張，我們同樣確信，它絕對是目前唯一以美國文化背景與現實生活並重，讓您能一踏上美國就能用得上的一套書——如果您計劃赴美移民、留學、創業、就業、貿易、旅遊——選擇這套書，那就對了！

在此，我們要特別感謝讓這套教材，成為實際的中美友人們：Dr. Daniel B. Freeman、Dr. Steven J. Molinsky、Dr. Tom Parker，以及Dr. Tina Kasloff Carver等12位美國學者，以及許多在美的華人，他們出錢出力，不計報酬，放棄休閒，使“Everyday life in America”每日生活美語系列全集，終能如期在兩年後完成問世。如果讀者朋友確實計劃赴美，希望您能同時參考另一套“1986美國生活百科全書”，將使您在美生活，更加方便，解決您許多莫須有的問題。

進修級 6



單元序

PRACTICE WITH IDIOMS

片語是有規則可循的
從本單元中
您將可清楚的瞭解片語的意義和結構
以及它在句子裡的不同用法
透過這些練習
將讓您更實際的體會片語活用的秘訣
本單元由Dr. Ronald E. Feare執筆。
共編輯成 3 個單元，由進修級第六冊
至第八冊。

EVERYDAY LIFE IN AMERICA

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INTRANSITIVE VERBAL IDIOMS

Intransitive Verbs with Particles

to die down
to come about
to break down
to get ahead
to stand out

to get around
to fall through
to hold on
to open up
to come up

to break in
to catch on
to look on
to settle down
to show up

I. GUESSING THE MEANING FROM CONTEXT

You can learn a lot about an idiom if you look at the *context* of its use. The meaning of the words around it, and the meaning of the whole sentence, can give you a good idea of the idiom's meaning. You don't need a dictionary to understand the *general meaning* of the idiom.

Try to guess the meaning of each idiom as it is used in the following sentences. Provide either a one-word synonym or a definition.

1. For three days the wind blew hard and strong, but on the fourth day it **died down**. _____
2. I thought John and Mary were happy, but they recently got a divorce; how did it **come about**? _____
3. My old car has a very bad engine; it will probably **break down** and need repairs. _____
4. If you want to **get ahead** in life, you have to work hard and save your money. _____
5. His poor clothes really **stood out** at the meeting because everyone else was wearing a suit and tie. _____
6. Since you don't have a car or motorcycle, how do you **get around**? _____

7. Our plans for a trip to Europe **fell through** because we hadn't saved enough money for the plane tickets.
8. Please **hold on**; I'd like to ask a question before you continue your lecture.
9. He told me all of his marriage problems, from beginning to end; he really **opened up**.
10. Because several students didn't understand the teacher's ideas, many questions **came up**.
11. While I was talking, Tom **broke in** to tell me that he disagreed.
12. After I spent two hours trying to explain the difficult idea, John finally **caught on**.
13. While his friends were playing football, poor Joe, who had a broken leg, could only **look on**.
14. At first the students in my class were too noisy, but eventually they **settled down** to work.
15. It's already 10 o'clock and Bill hasn't come yet; if he doesn't **show up** soon, our meeting will fall through.

Now go back to each sentence in this exercise and underline any part of the sentence which helped you to guess the meaning of the idiom. In other words, try to find the *context clues*.

Class discussion:

You probably could guess the meaning of some idioms more easily than others. Decide which idioms were easy to guess and which were difficult. Discuss the importance of context clues in helping you understand the meaning of each idiom.

II. DEFINITION CORRESPONDENCE

Using **Exercise I** to help you, check your guesses by choosing the correct idiom which corresponds to the definition you see on the left side. Be sure to use *context clues* and to use the correct grammar forms.

to die down	to get around	to break in
to come about	to fall through	to catch on
to break down	to hold on	to look on
to get ahead	to open up	to settle down
to stand out	to come up	to show up

Example:

(to move about)
definition

Most animals get around on four legs.
correct answer

(to happen)

1. The newspaper article didn't tell how the accident _____
_____.

(to fail to occur)

2. The planned meeting _____ because several
members were out-of-town.

(to make progress)

3. He studied very hard in school so that he could _____
_____ in his studies.

(to be noticeable)

4. The tall building _____ against the
smaller ones.

(to stop working)

5. The workers had to work twice as hard because the large
machine had _____.

(to diminish)

6. When the President of the U.S. entered the room, all the
noise _____.

(to travel)

7. It is hard for people in wheelchairs to _____
because many buildings don't have elevators.

(to watch)

8. Many people _____ as firemen put out the
burning house.

(to arise)

9. In court, a question _____ about his association
with some criminals.

(to finally understand)

10. At first I was confused, but after much explanation, I
_____.

(to wait)

11. I asked my friends, who were going out the door, to _____
_____ while I got my coat.

(to interrupt)

12. It's very impolite to _____ while someone else is speaking.

(to talk honestly)

13. Don't hide your secrets from your wife; _____ and tell her how your unhappiness came about.

(to become calm)

14. If you _____ and talk more slowly, I'll be able to understand you better; now you're too upset to think clearly.

(to arrive)

15. When the babysitter _____, my parents went out for dinner.

III. EXPLANATION OF THE IDIOMS

You probably have a good idea what each idiom means by now. Study the following explanations so that you can understand them completely.

1. **to die down**—to become more quiet; to diminish, to subside

Usual subjects: *feelings* (excitement, nervousness, anger, love/hatred); *natural events* (storm, wind, fire); *sounds* (music, voices, noises)

My anger at him has **died down** since he apologized to me.

After the storm, the strong winds **died down**.

The loud music **died down** after the police came.

2. **to come about**—to happen, to occur; to be caused

Usual subjects: *events* (accident, death, failure/success, defeat); *situations* (problem, discussion, argument)

This idiom is most often used in a *How-question*, when we want to know the *cause* of something.

How did the automobile accident **come about**?

His success **came about** after he started working harder.

The argument **came about** because they were talking about politics.

3. **to stand out**—to be noticeable, to be prominent; to be clearly seen

Usual subjects: color, tone; figure, shape; people

With this subject, there is a *contrast* with something else.

A very tall man wearing a big hat **stood out** in the crowd of people.

The large black letters on this small white sign really **stand out**.

Joe is so intelligent that he **stands out** in class.

4. **to break down**—to fail to function, to stop working properly

Usual subjects: *machines* (typewriter, engine, air conditioning); *vehicles* (car, truck, plane, train, etc.)

The travelers were delayed because the bus had **broken down**.

It would be very regrettable if the air conditioning **broke down** on a very hot day.

5. **to fall through**—to fail to occur, not to happen

Usual subjects: plan, project, arrangement, agreement, contract

If your new contract agreement **falls through**, the workers in your company will go on strike.

The plan for a new park **fell through** because no citizen wanted higher taxes.

The project is so well planned that it couldn't possibly **fall through**.

6. **to get ahead**—to make progress, to succeed

Usual subjects: people

Anyone can **get ahead** in life if he or she really tries hard.

Can a criminal **get ahead** by stealing money from a bank?

The dream of most politicians is to **get ahead** in national politics.

7. **to get around**—to travel, to move about

Usual subjects: *living things* (people, animals); *information* (news, idea, secret, gossip)

It's difficult for a person with a broken leg to **get around**.

Everyone knows him well; he really **gets around**.

How did my secret **get around** to all my friends so quickly?

8. **to hold on**—to wait, to pause

Usual subjects: people

This idiom is usually used in a polite command form or in indirect speech. It is commonly used when asking someone to wait on the telephone.

Please **hold on**; I'll see if the doctor is in. (polite command)
I asked him to **hold on** before he finally left. (indirect speech)

Unusual: He **held on** before he left.

It is usually followed by a *time expression* such as "a second, a minute."

Please **hold on** a second!

Could you **hold on** a minute? (A question form is possible.)

9. **to open up**—to talk honestly and freely; to reveal a secret

Usual subjects: people

This idiom basically means that one doesn't hide his true feelings.

Their marriage plans fell through because neither one of them could ever **open up** to the other.

In court, you are expected to **open up** about what you know.

10. **to come up**—to arise

Usual subjects: a problem, question, issue

A serious problem **came up** after the project had been started.

Many questions **came up** about the quality of the project.

A political issue **came up** which embarrassed the candidate.

11. **to break in**—to interrupt (someone who is already speaking)

Usual subjects: people

While I was explaining my point of view, he **broke in** to argue with me.

During the regular TV program, the newsman **broke in** to tell about the recent disaster.

When your teacher is speaking, you shouldn't **break in**.

12. **to catch on**—to finally understand

Usual subjects: people

This idiom means that someone had difficulty in understanding something, but finally was able to understand.

After two hours of trying to learn the new game, he **caught on**.

The lady in the back of the room repeated her question several times but I still couldn't **catch on**.

13. **to look on**—to watch, to observe, to be a spectator

Usual subjects: people

I **looked on** as they tried to fix the machine which had broken down.

The shopkeeper could only **look on** as the armed robbers stole all of his money.

When people are playing sports, I don't enjoy **looking on**; I would rather play also!

14. **to settle down**—1) to become calm, quiet, or peaceful
2) to begin a normal, stable life

Usual subjects: *living things* (people, animals)

#1—The children **settled down** when their teacher entered.

The barking dogs **settled down** after the loud truck passed by.

#2—Many young people are now getting steady jobs, getting married, and **settling down** in their own homes.

Many people **settle down** in San Diego because of the fine weather.

15. **to show up**—to arrive, to appear

Usual subjects: people

This idiom is often used when someone appears somewhere late.

He finally **showed up** an hour late.

I hope our teacher doesn't **show up** so that we can leave.

Class discussion:

Now that you have learned the meanings of the idioms and how to use them in sentences, go back to **Exercise I** and **Exercise II** and check your answers. As you do this, consider the following questions:

1. How many idioms did you guess correctly in **Exercise I**?
2. How much better did you do in **Exercise II**?
3. Are there any idiom meanings which are still not clear to you?
4. Is there anything you have noticed about the grammatical usage of these idioms?

IV. LEARNING THE GRAMMAR RULES

Part A Verbs are a part of English grammar which are often used in idioms. Some verbs are called *transitive* because they are followed by an object, which is always a noun phrase. Some verbs are called *intransitive* because they are not followed by an object.

Examples:

transitive verb: **to hit**

The child hit the ball.

subject verb object

intransitive verb: **to go**

Mary goes to her favorite restaurant tomorrow.

subject verb prepositional phrase (p.p.) time adverb

1. Can intransitive verbs be followed by other parts of grammar?

_____ Yes _____ No

2. What other kinds of adverbs could follow an intransitive verb?

In this chapter, verbs which are *intransitive*, because objects do not follow them, are used with words such as *around*, *on*, *through*, and *up*. Such words are called *particles* because they cannot be separated from the verbs by adverbial forms (see **Part B**, Set 2, below.) A particle joins with an intransitive verb to form an *intransitive verbal idiom*.

Example:

intransitive verb + particle: **to stand out**

A large carnation stood out on his suit.

subject verbal idiom p.p.

1. Is the verbal idiom followed by an object?

_____ Yes _____ No

2. Why is a word like *out* called a particle in this idiom?

Part B Look carefully at the following sets of sentences. Some sentences are correct and some are incorrect. An asterisk (*) means that a sentence is incorrect. Write your best answers to the questions by comparing the sentences.

Set 1

1. *The student got ahead his school.
 2. The old man got around with difficulty.
 3. *The company fell through its plan.
 4. The student got ahead in school.
 5. The company's plan fell through.
- a. Which sentence is the correct form of #1?
 - b. Which sentence is the correct form of #3?
 - c. Circle the correct answers:
 1. The verbal idioms in this chapter (can or cannot) be followed by an object.
 2. The verbal idioms (can or cannot) be followed by a prepositional phrase.
 3. A verb which does not take an object is (transitive or intransitive).

In the incorrect sentences above (#1 and #3), the verbal idioms were followed by objects, which is not possible for intransitive forms. Other parts of grammar, such as adverbs and prepositional phrases, often occur with these verbal idioms.

Set 2

1. *My friend caught slowly on.
 2. *The chairman showed early up.
 3. My friend caught on slowly.
 4. *The chairman early showed up.
 5. My friend slowly caught on.
 6. The chairman showed up early.
- a. Which sentences are correct forms of #1?
 - b. Which sentence is the correct form of #2 and #4?

c. Try to explain why #5 is correct but #4 is incorrect: What is the difference in adverbs?

d. Circle the correct answer:

Words like *early* and *slowly* are called (adjectives or adverbs).

No adverb can be placed between the verb and particle, which shows that the verb and particle are one unit of grammar. Only a *manner* adverb, which tells how something was done (quickly, quietly, slowly), can be placed both before and after the verb + particle, if it ends in *-ly*. A manner adverb such as *well* cannot be placed before the verb + particle. Most adverbs, including time adverbs such as *early*, are placed after the idiom.

My friend caught on <i>slowly</i> .	(correct position)
My friend <i>slowly</i> caught on.	(correct position)
*My friend <i>well</i> caught on.	(incorrect position)
My friend caught on <i>well</i> .	(correct position)
*The chairman <i>early</i> showed up.	(incorrect position)
The chairman showed up <i>early</i> .	(correct position)

If you have any difficulty with the grammatical terms used in this section, such as "subject, object, noun phrase," you can refer to the **Appendix** at the end of this book for further explanation.

V. MULTIPLE-CHOICE EXERCISE

Choose the idiom which has the best meaning in the context below. No idiom is used twice as a correct answer.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1. An elephant in a circus really _____. | a. falls through
b. stands out
c. shows up |
| 2. If you weren't so careless, your typewriter wouldn't _____
_____. | a. break down
b. come about
c. break in |
| 3. He tries to _____ by studying his lessons every-day. | a. die down
b. get around
c. get ahead |
| 4. I'm sorry that our date with each other _____. | a. held on
b. got around
c. fell through |

5. If the wind _____, we won't be able to fly our kites.
a. breaks down
b. dies down
c. opens up
6. Do you know how the murder _____?
a. came about
b. pitched in
c. got around
7. Because San Diego has a poor bus system, it is difficult to _____ if you don't have a car.
a. come about
b. get around
c. get ahead
8. You have to listen to me carefully if you want to _____.
a. get ahead
b. catch on
c. come up
9. Many problems _____ in our serious discussion.
a. showed up
b. came up
c. opened up
10. When Mary finally _____ we were able to leave immediately.
a. got around
b. came about
c. showed up
11. Please _____; you shouldn't get so upset!
a. settle down
b. die down
c. pitch in
12. If you have any questions while I'm talking, feel free to _____.
a. look on
b. come up
c. break in
13. Don't leave without me! Please _____.
a. get ahead
b. hold on
c. catch on

VI. WRITING EXERCISE

Answer each question or statement by using the idiom in a meaningful, grammatical sentence.

- How do you usually get around?
- When might you wish that some noise would die down?
- Explain why a plan might fall through.