

Idioms Exercises: Idioms about Time

Idioms to communicate urgency or a lack of time

now or never

Now or never communicates that something must be done now because there will not be another opportunity in the future.

make up for lost time

To make up for lost time means to work hard/quickly to compensate for the fact that little progress has been made.

the eleventh hour

At the eleventh hour means at the last minute.

Idioms to communicate a lack of urgency

put something on the back burner

If something has been *put on the back burner*, it has been suspended temporarily. This idiom is similar to **put something on hold**.

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If something has been *put on hold*, it has been suspended temporarily. This idiom is similar to **put something on the back burner**.

for the time being

For the time being means for now.

Idioms to talk about a long stretch of time

Rome wasn't built in a day

We say *Rome wasn't built in a day* to communicate that great accomplishments take time.

until the cows come home

Until the cows come home means for a very long time.

Other Idioms about Time

long time, no see

We often say *Long time, no see* when we greet someone we haven't seen in a long time.

lose track of time

To lose track of time means to not realize how much time is passing

crack of dawn

The crack of dawn means very early in the morning.

once in a blue moon

Once in a blue moon means very infrequently.

spur of the moment

Something *spur of the moment* is spontaneous or unplanned.

better late than never

self explanatory

miss the boat

To miss the boat means to be too late to take advantage of an opportunity.

in the nick of time

In the nick of time communicates that something happened with little time to spare.

days are numbered

If something's (or someone's) *days are numbered*, it means that it will not exist for much longer.

Let's call it a day/Why don't we call it a day?

We can say *Let's call it a day* (or *Why don't we call it a day?*) to suggest that we stop working for the day.

1. I don't think now is the right time to talk about this project. Let's put it on the ____ burner for now and we can revisit it next week.

2. Hi, Paul. Long time, no _____. How have you been?

3. I was working on the presentation and all of a sudden I realized it was 7:30. I was so involved in what I was doing that I completely lost _____ of time.

4. I've been jogging before work. It's hard waking up at the crack of _____, but I feel much healthier and have more energy.

5. I'm too tired to be productive. Let's call it a _____ and go home.

6. We don't have to make a decision today, but sooner or _____ we're going to have to decide.

7. We're in the desert. It only rains here once in a blue _____.

8. Your English is fine. You just need to have some patience and keep working hard. Remember, Rome wasn't _____ in a day.

9. It took Immigration ten months to process Kim's application for a work visa. She was frustrated, but better late than ____, right?

10. Deciding to leave town for the weekend was a spur of the ____ decision. We just got in the car and drove to the beach.

11. We don't have the funding for this project right now. We're going to have to put it on ____ for now.

12. By the time I found out my favorite band was in town, the concert had already sold out. I completely missed the ____.

13. I almost missed my flight to London. I got to the gate in the nick of _____. Had I arrived five minutes later, I would have missed it.

14. I think we need to move on and talk about something else. Otherwise, the two of them will be arguing until the ____ come home.

15. It's only a matter of time before they fire him. His ____ are numbered.

16. Eventually, we're going to need to move into a bigger house, but for the time ____ we have enough space.

17. We have to make a decision now. The offer will be off the table tomorrow. It's now or ____.

18. I often wait until the last minute to finish my assignments. I feel like I often do my best work at the eleventh ____.