

I. Students: Explain what is going on in these paragraphs. Give a definition for the underlined words or phrases. **Teachers:** Let the students try to figure out the answers before volunteering an explanation.

a-I'm done with you Alex. You've disobeyed me and been disrespectful since you arrived. I will not put up with it any more. Pack your bags and hit the road. You'll have to figure out how to survive on your own. I'm tired of being your patsy.

b-The elephants are wreaking havoc on the crops of the farmers at the edge of the forest. We've got to address this issue head on or support for the elephant sanctuary will dwindle. What do you suggest?

c-Mark went off on Sharon in the office today. Everyone knows Mark has a short fuse and today Sharon's clueless questions got to him. He couldn't take it any more and blew up. He'd better watch it. He could end up in hot water with management. They won't put up with him using abusive language to his underlings.

d-The police are trying to catch the assailant, but they have few clues to go on. The few witnesses left the scene before the police could take down their names. The victim's dad took it upon himself to interview the shopkeepers in the area, but to no avail. No one saw anything.

e-On the face of it, it seems an open and shut case. But on reflection, it's more complex. The driver was facing the sun and thus temporarily blinded. That corner is particularly dangerous. On average there are two accidents there every month. So, on the whole, I think there is a good chance the driver will get off. Though, if the judge lets her off scot-free, there will be an uproar from the concerned citizenry.

II. Finish these sentences. Discuss the "on" expressions.

1. I can always gain weight on a diet of _____.
2. I (would/wouldn't) buy a car that ran on electric power because _____.
3. If I have to, I can make do on _____ a month.
4. The one thing I would prefer to buy on credit is _____.
5. When I travel on business I prefer to stay in _____.
6. On the recommendation of my spouse, I _____.
7. I'd like to write a book on _____.
8. We got a good buy on _____.
9. Living in the U.S. has had a bad effect on our _____.
10. I wish I could get a discount on _____.
11. If I could choose between being on the championship sports team or on the honor roll, I'd pick _____.
12. The first thing I did on arrival in Austin was _____.
13. On occasion, I like to indulge myself with _____.
14. I am on edge when I know _____.
15. I'm on my best behavior when _____.
16. I'm on the fence about _____.
17. I would go on a date with someone I had never met on the condition that _____.
18. The means of communication I prefer is _____.
19. If drinks were on the house, I'd order a _____.

20. If I could, I'd like to add on a _____ to my apartment or house.
21. Before I go out on a dinner date, I always put on _____.
22. My _____ was very easy on me growing up.
23. I don't like to dwell on _____.
24. I can't concentrate on my work when _____.
25. I sometimes put pressure on my spouse to _____.
26. My _____ was bad about tattling on me when I was little.
27. Since living here, I've come to depend on _____.
28. When I log on to the internet, the first thing I do is _____.
29. I hope I don't miss out on _____.
30. Teachers who pick on students should _____.

III. Use the prepositions: off, on, onto, on top of, and opposite to complete the sentences below.

1. Be sure to park your car _____ the side street.
2. Don't worry, you can rely _____ me.
3. He put his coat _____ mine.
4. He shaved _____ his beard last week.
5. Let's go _____ the bus instead of taking a taxi.
6. Right now she's concentrating _____ her final exams.
7. She can't see you now; she's _____ the phone.
8. She moved the groceries _____ the counter.
9. The frog hopped _____ the lily pad.
10. The truck dropped a load of cement _____ the sidewalk.
11. There is a big sale _____ flat screen T.V.'s tomorrow.
12. They live _____ the outskirts of town.
13. We have to shovel _____ the driveway every time it snows.
14. We were seated _____ the president of the company at the banquet.
15. What day is your birthday _____ this year?
16. Where are you going _____ your honeymoon?
17. Would you please take your things _____ my property?
18. You can take a nap _____ the couch.