

**I. Discussion with idioms:**

1. If you “throw in the towel” you quit. You give up. Describe a time when you threw in the towel.
2. If you are “thin-skinned” you are easily upset or hurt. You are sensitive to criticism. Would you describe yourself as thin-skinned. Is your spouse more thin-skinned than you are?
3. If you “swallow your pride” you forget your pride and accept something humiliating (something that humbles you). Sometimes, I have had to swallow my pride and admit to my husband that I was wrong. Don't we all hate admitting error! Describe a time when you had to swallow your pride and admit you were wrong.
4. A “standing joke” is a subject that regularly causes amusement. For example, in my family, my son's lateness is a standing joke. We know he will always be late, so we tell him to come 15 minutes before we tell everyone else to come. That way, he will be on time.

Do you have any standing jokes in your family?

5. A “mecca” for something is a place that is frequently visited by a particular group. It comes from Mecca, the religious center of Islam. People might say, “New York city is a mecca for theatre goers.” Austin is a live music mecca. What is your town known for or famous for? Explain why I should visit there.

**II. Unusual Conjunctions:**

Students: Read the sentences under each conjunction. Explain what all the sentences mean. Then make a sentence of your own using that conjunction.

Teachers, correct the students sentences as needed.

As well as:

He has a motorcycle as well as a car. She's clever as well as beautiful. Smoking is dangerous as well as making you smell bad.

Not only:

She not only has money, but she is beautiful too. Not only is Sam an Olympic skier, but his brothers are too. She not only writes the stories, she illustrates them too.

Usually, but not always:

I usually, but not always, go straight home from class. John usually, but not always, does well in school.

As if:

She talks about Jim as if she loves him. It looks as if it will snow. As if the flood wasn't bad enough, now they have to deal with rattlesnakes looking for a new burrow. Jill got invited to her party and I didn't. As if I care!

Yet:

Jim's plays basketball very well, yet his favorite sport is tennis. The visitors complained about the heat, yet they continued to spend hours in the sun each day.

But for:

But for my uncle's help, I wouldn't be here today. But for her kindness, I would have gone hungry.

Even though:

Even though I ate a big breakfast this morning, I'm looking forward to a large lunch. Even though he made good grades, he couldn't get in the university.

If only:

If only we had worn our raincoats, we wouldn't be soaking wet now. If only I could go on vacation with you. If only he would call us. Then we wouldn't worry about him.

Rather than:

Rather than study grammar, let's just practice conversation. We ought to invest in machinery rather than buildings.

But instead:

He talked of going to Greece, but instead he visited Turkey.

He wanted to ask out Emma, but instead he went to a movie by himself.

### III. Idioms with "As"

1. As a last resort: as the last choice
  2. As a matter of course: normally, as part of the normal procedures
  3. As a matter of fact: actually
  4. As a token of my esteem: to show my gratitude
  5. As bad as all that: as bad as reported
  6. As blind as a bat: can't see well
  7. As clear as mud: not at all clear
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- a) Come on now! Stop exaggerating. It can't be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b) Call the doctor at home \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c) \_\_\_\_\_, please accept this check for \$100.00
  - d) I'm \_\_\_\_\_ without my glasses.
  - e) His directions were \_\_\_\_\_. I'll never find my way there if I follow them.
  - f) You are expected to make your own bed \_\_\_\_\_.
  - g) I'm very enthusiastic about work. \_\_\_\_\_, I'm the first one to the office every day.