

On the Job Idioms

all of a sudden: without warning, suddenly

All of a sudden, the boss came in the door. We were very surprised!

at least: a minimum of, no less than

I study English *at least* two hours every night.

back and forth: to go backwards and forwards

They argued *back and forth* before their supervisor told them to get back to work.

brush up on: to review, to help your memory

Before I came to America, I *brushed up on* my English.

by heart: to memorize. Remember without mistakes

He knows the employee handbook *by heart*.

call it a day/night: to stop working for the rest of the day/night

We have been doing this for hours. Let's *call it a day* and start again tomorrow.

dress up: to wear formal clothes, to dress very nicely

You have to *dress up* for the interview.

few and far between: unusual, not very often

I don't want to leave my job because really good jobs are *few and far between*.

find out: to get information about, to discover something

He *found out* about the job by looking in the newspaper.

for the time being: temporarily, not for very long

For the time being, Janet is working as a waitress. She wants to be an actress.

get along with: to work well with, to complete something

Marvin isn't *getting along with* his new boss.

get back: to return

What time did you *get back* from your interview?

get in touch with: to speak with, to contact

You can *get in touch with* me by calling me at my office number.

have nothing to do with: not connected to

Juan said he *had nothing to do with* the accident at work.

in a hurry: to have little time, in a rush

I'm *in a hurry* to get to the job fair before all the good jobs are gone!

in no time: very quickly, rapidly

The meeting was over *in no time*. Now I can get back to work.

keep track of: to know where something is

There are so many files on her desk. I don't know how she *keeps track of* them all.

look over: to examine, to look at closely

Take time to *look over* this document before you sign it.

never mind: to ignore, do not think about

I don't know what she said; *never mind*, it probably wasn't important.

out of order: not operating correctly, not in working order

We didn't use the drink machine because it was *out of order*.

out of the question: impossible

You want more money? That's *out of the question*!

so far: until now, until the present time (often with present perfect tense)

So far, this year has been good for me

sooner or later: eventually, after some time

I'm too tired to do look for a job now: I'll do it *sooner or later*.

would rather: prefer to

I *would rather* find one job making \$15 an hour than two jobs making \$8 an hour.