

20 COMMON AUSTRALIAN IDIOMS

Instructions: Fill in the blanks with the correct idiom from the list, using the meanings in brackets to help you.

1. He arrived just as the meeting was ending, but everyone agreed it was _____ . (*It is better to do something late than not to do it at all*)
2. I won't be coming to work today because I'm feeling _____ . (*Feeling sick*)
3. She accidentally _____ about the surprise party. (To reveal a secret by accident)
4. I had to _____ to finish the project on time. (To work late into the night)
5. Losing that job turned out to be _____ ; I found a much better one. (*Something that seems bad at first but turns out to be good*)
6. Don't worry about the test; it's a _____. (*Something very easy to do*)
7. The new smartphone is amazing, but it _____. (*Very expensive*)
8. My cousin lives abroad, so I only see him _____. (*Very rarely*)
9. Even though I was scared, I decided to _____ and get the surgery. (*To endure a painful situation that is unavoidable*)
10. I've done all I can to help. Now, _____. (*It is your decision or responsibility to take action*)
11. I'm exhausted after the long trip; I think I'll _____ early tonight. (*To go to bed*)
12. We were just talking about Sarah, and then she walked in! _____ ! (*The person we were talking about has just arrived*)

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13. I usually _____ at the café after work, waiting for my friends to join me. (*To stay in a place for a while doing nothing in particular*)
14. You really _____ with your analysis of the problem. (*To be exactly right about something*)
15. The old tree in our backyard finally _____ during the storm. (*To die*)
16. To _____ at the party, I asked everyone to share an interesting fact about themselves. (*To start a conversation in a social setting*)
17. I worked so hard on that project, and then my colleague presented it as his idea. He really _____. (*To take credit for someone else's achievement*)
18. He'll stop being messy _____. (*Something that will never happen*)
19. After years of hard work, she finally _____ and became a successful entrepreneur. (*To succeed or achieve something*)
20. They tried to _____ by using cheaper materials, but it backfired. (*To do something the easiest or cheapest way*)

Discussion Questions

1. Can you think of a time when something bad happened to you but later turned out to be "a blessing in disguise"? Share your experience with the class. What did you learn from that experience?
2. Describe a situation when you or someone you know decided to "cut corners." What were the consequences? Do you think it was a good decision? Why or why not? What would you do differently if you faced a similar situation again?
3. Have you ever had to "bite the bullet" and do something difficult or uncomfortable? What was it, and how did you handle it? How did you feel after you had completed the task?

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Teacher Guide

1. better late than never
2. under the weather
3. let the cat out of the bag
4. burn the midnight oil
5. a blessing in disguise
6. piece of cake
7. costs an arm and a leg
8. once in a blue moon
9. bite the bullet
10. the ball is in your court
11. hit the sack
12. speak of the devil
13. hang around
14. hit the nail on the head
15. kicked the bucket
16. break the ice
17. stole my thunder
18. when pigs fly
19. make it
20. cut corners