

## Idioms | Lesson 09

vanish into thin air | weed out | back number | One's feet on the ground | have a crack

### Example Dialogue

**Lee** : Hi, Alex, where have you been? You just vanished into thin air in the middle of the ceremony...

**Alex** : I was just weeding out paper and trash from my car.

**Lee** : Why don't you hire a maid or someone who could clean it up?

**Alex** : No, I don't want to. Hiring a maid is a back number. Nowadays, you should take care of yourself, otherwise you're considered a child.

**Lee** : Hmm... I don't agree with that, but suit yourself... Anyway, I'm planning to sing a Japanese song at the reception party. Why don't we have a crack at it?

**Alex** : Okay, but I don't want to lose face in front of people, so let's practice now. We still have enough time until the party starts.

**Lee** : No problem. You always keep your feet on the ground. I like it!

**Alex** : Thanks. Shall we?

 **Try to figure out the meaning of these idioms.**


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### Example Passage

A rich man named Alex vanished into thin air during the wedding ceremony of his friend. When he said he was weeding out some stuff from his car, his friend Lee suggested he should hire someone to do it for him. However, Alex was a man with his feet on the ground, and he thought that doing such things by himself would be faster than asking someone else to help. He thought that hiring a maid was a back number. Lee didn't agree with his idea but said nothing more on the matter. She asked him to have a crack at singing a Japanese song at the reception party, since the bride was Japanese. He concurred.

 *Again, try to figure out the meaning of these idioms.*

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**Definitions****vanish into thin air** | to disappear without leaving a trace*The pizza she bought **vanished into thin air** before I knew it.**She **vanished into thin air** after her company went under.***weed out** | to remove unwanted or undesirable things from a group/collection*Yuki **weeded out** the unnecessary clothing from her closet.**All that mess must be **weeded out** as soon as possible.***back number** | out of date, out of fashion, or no longer relevant*Ever since tablets appeared, notebooks have become a **back number**.**Using a manual sewing machine is considered to be a **back number**.***one's feet on the ground** | to be sensible and practical about one's situation  
and see things as they really are*The newly elected president looks like he keeps **his feet on the ground**.**Despite her fame and wealth, she still keeps **her feet on the ground**.***have a crack (at something)** | make an attempt or have a turn at doing something*Why don't we **have a crack at** this new project?**"You'll only make it worse! Let me **have a crack at** it."**Make sure you can understand the meaning of these idioms.***vanish into thin air** | **weed out** | **back number** | **one's feet on the ground** | **have a crack**

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### Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct **idioms** (in the correct form) to complete the dialogue.

- 1 | When the fog disappeared, the lady had already \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 | The company decided to \_\_\_\_\_ some inept staff.
- 3 | You should change the design, these fonts are a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 | He likes singing, so he wants to \_\_\_\_\_ at becoming a professional singer.
- 5 | I totally rely on her. She always has \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 | Before Sheena left the company, she \_\_\_\_\_ all the documents from her desk.
- 7 | Alex ate so ravenously! The chicken and rice that were on the table \_\_\_\_\_!
- 8 | Will you buy that cellphone? It was good before, but it's already a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9 | I don't really think that Donald Trump \_\_\_\_\_ becoming president.
- 10 | Even if you get rich, don't forget to keep \_\_\_\_\_.



**APPLICATION:** Create your own sentences using these idioms.

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### Exercise

Fill in the blanks with the correct **idioms** (in the correct form) to complete the dialogue.

(Frank and Kris are talking about how to revive the town.)

**Frank** : After the tragedy, everything simply \_\_\_\_\_. There is nothing left.

**Kris** : We need to start with \_\_\_\_\_ all this scrap. Look at this throng! I can't imagine how many days it will take us to remove all of this!

**Frank** : It will be hard, but let's \_\_\_\_\_ at it! We can hire some people, too.

**Kris** : Good idea. We need to find a company that has high-tech machinery, as doing all of this manually will take too much time. That's a already.

**Frank** : Yeah. Although we are facing a lot of hardship, we must keep our \_\_\_\_\_. I believe we can do it!

**Kris** : Indeed. I'm going to call some famous constructors now.



**APPLICATION:** Create your own dialogue using these idioms.

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