

## Idioms | Lesson 17

curiosity killed the cat | call it a day | sit on the fence | from scratch | head to toe

### Example Dialogue

**Jim** : I don't feel very well...

**Dean**: You don't look well, either! You should call it a day and go home.

**Jim** : I will. I probably ate something bad yesterday.

**Dean**: What *did* you eat?

**Jim** : Curiosity killed the cat, you know.

**Dean**: Don't be so mean! I was just asking.

**Jim** : Well, one of my friends made lasagna from scratch. I was sitting on the fence whether to eat it or not, because it smelled strange.

**Dean**: Did you eat it?

**Jim** : Yes, I did.

**Dean**: No wonder you look pale. You should get some medicine on your way home!

**Jim** : I'm shivering head to toe. I should go to the drugstore.

**Dean**: Bye! Get well soon!



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

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**Example Passage**

They say: "**Curiosity killed the cat.**" Although I am a careful person, I can't help being curious about other people's affairs.

It was just another Friday evening. I decided to **call it a day** and head home. I left the office wearing my jacket. On my way to the elevator, I heard laughter. Thereupon, I heard other noises coming from one of the rooms. I **sat on the fence** for a few minutes; I didn't know whether I should enter the room or not. After a while, I decided to go into the room. In an instant, I was covered **head to toe** in paint.

Some of my office co-workers were making huge Christmas decorations **from scratch**. When I opened the door I hit a ladder and Christine, who was on the ladder, dropped a bucket of paint right on my head.

Once again my curiosity got me in trouble.



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

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**Definitions**

**curiosity killed the cat** | “being too curious can get you in trouble” (usually said as a warning)

***Curiosity killed the cat!** So stop asking me so many questions!*

**call it a day** | to stop doing something, especially working

*I think we have done enough. How about we **call it a day**?*

*Let's **call it a day** and go home. It's getting late.*

**sit on the fence** | to delay making a decision; not take sides in a dispute

*I'm **sitting on the fence**: I can't choose between strawberry and cherry bubblegum!*

**from scratch** | starting from the beginning using the basic ingredients

*I didn't buy the cake base. I made it **from scratch** myself.*

*I lost all my work in the fire and had to start **from scratch**.*

**head to toe** | completely

*He was dressed **head to toe** in black.*

*They scrubbed their cat **head to toe** with antibacterial soap.*

**Make sure you can understand the meaning of these idioms.**

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 Practice

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

- 1 | The gangster told the journalist in a menacing voice: " \_\_\_\_\_".
- 2 | I was \_\_\_\_\_ whether to enroll in university or to take a year off.
- 3 | Lily knows how to make pasta \_\_\_\_\_. It's delicious.
- 4 | Jeffrey \_\_\_\_\_ and went home 3 hours earlier than everyone else.
- 5 | A few centuries ago people had to make their clothes \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 | I hate people who always \_\_\_\_\_ instead of making a decision.
- 7 | How much money has she got? She's dressed \_\_\_\_\_ in designer clothing!
- 8 | I've been here long enough. I'll \_\_\_\_\_, I guess.
- 9 | Your dog is covered \_\_\_\_\_ in feathers. Did it eat a bird?
- 10 | My father used to tell me that \_\_\_\_\_ when I asked him something.



**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.

(Shiori and Michelle are talking at the office.)

**Shiori** : Hi, Michelle! What are you doing this weekend?

**Michelle** : Hi, Shiori! I'm leaving town on Friday.

**Shiori** : Where are you going?

**Michelle** : \_\_\_\_\_!

**Shiori** : You're not doing something illegal, are you? (*chuckle*)

**Michelle** : (*chuckle*) Of course not! Peter is taking me to the beach.

**Shiori** : That's nice. You'd better be covered \_\_\_\_\_ in sunscreen!

**Michelle** : I will be. We'll probably just have a picnic. I'll be making bread \_\_\_\_\_!

**Shiori** : Homemade bread is delicious! So what else do you plan on doing?

**Michelle** : At first, I was \_\_\_\_\_. I didn't really want to go anywhere for the weekend, but Peter promised me we would fly kites. I'm looking forward to that. How about we and have a cup of coffee together?

**Shiori** : That would be great!



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

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