
Lesson 1: Sandra's Temp Job

(Joshua and his new girlfriend Sandra are meeting for lunch. Joshua asks about Sandra's latest assignment from a temp agency.)

Joshua: So how's your temp job going?

Sandra: Awful. **I'm out of my league**, that's all. I can't believe that I agreed to take it.

Joshua: What do you mean?

Sandra: Well, I've brought tons of work home the last few nights just to get everything finished. And then I couldn't sleep because I was so nervous about it all.

Joshua: So how long is this job going to last?

Sandra: It'll **be over** in another three weeks. If I survive.

Joshua: Well, what if we **make a point of doing** something relaxing this weekend? For example, why don't we go hiking up in the mountains, near Idyllwild, on Saturday

Sandra: OK. And I know that **there's no point** worrying about it. I just need to do my best and **let the chips fall where they may** ...

Extra Idiom

to be over = to be finished

Exercise 1:1

Directions: Reread the dialogue and put the letter of the best meaning next to each idiom below.

1. ____ to be out of one's league
 2. ____ not to be in the same league as someone/something
 3. ____ to make a point of doing something
 4. ____ There's no point!
 5. ____ to be pointless
 6. ____ to let the chips fall where they may
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- a. not to worry about what the results of a particular action will be
 - b. to have great difficulty doing something, not to be experienced or skilled enough to do something
 - c. to be much inferior to someone/something
 - d. to do something very consciously, to be sure to do something
 - e. This serves no purpose! This is useless!
 - f. to be useless, to serve no purpose

Exercise 1:2

Directions: Reread the dialogue and put “True” or “False” next to each of the following sentences.

1. ____ Sandra is having difficulty at her temp job.
2. ____ Sandra is sorry that she agreed to take this temp job.
3. ____ Joshua is sorry that Sandra’s temp job will soon **be over**.
4. ____ Joshua thinks it is important for Sandra to relax this weekend.
5. ____ Sandra thinks that worrying about her temp job **is pointless**.

Exercise 1:3

Directions: Put an X next to the best answer for each question below.

1. If you are **out of your league** on a ski slope, you will probably
 - a. ____ try to go to an easier slope.
 - b. ____ feel very confident about skiing on this slope.

2. If I say that the Olympics **are out of my league**, you know that I think
 - a. ____ that the Olympics are too difficult for me.
 - b. ____ I am a baseball player.

3. If you say that you **are not in his league** as an artist, you mean that you are
 - a. ____ you **are not in the same league** as he is.
 - b. ____ You want to give him advice on his artistic methods.

4. **“To be in the same league as someone else”** is
- _____ never used in the negative form.
 - _____ usually used in the negative form.
5. If you **made a point of** locking your door this morning, you
- _____ remember locking your door this morning.
 - _____ hope that you locked your door this morning.
6. “Please **make a point of** mailing that document today,” means
- _____ “Be sure to mail that document today.”
 - _____ “Try to mail that document today.”
7. People never say that they **make a point of**
- _____ **locking a door.**
 - _____ **breathing.**
8. If I tell you that **there’s no point** asking her to help you, which one is probably true?
- _____ She is not a helpful person or she is not able to help you.
 - _____ She is ready and eager to help you.
9. Which action is **pointless**, in the opinion of most people?
- _____ Trying to fly, using only your arms.
 - _____ Earning money so that you can pay for food, clothing, housing, and other living expenses.
10. If you have decided **to let the chips fall where they may**, what do you think?
- _____ That you have done everything possible and can do no more.
 - _____ That you haven’t done enough and should try harder.

Exercise 1:4

Directions: Put an idiom from Exercise 1:1 into each sentence below.

1. I think that you should tell him your decision and then let the chips fall where they _____.
2. Sometimes I remember to take vitamins in the morning and sometimes I don't but my mother always makes a point _____ taking vitamins each morning. She never forgets.
3. I'll be 95 years old next year and I still spend money on makeup and new clothes every month. Do you think that this is _____ or do you think that this is reasonable? Really? Why?
4. Some people dream of racing a car in a Formula One race even though they know that it is _____ of their league.
5. That's a good university but it's not in the _____ league as Stanford.
6. Uncle Don's advice was to just tell the truth and _____ the chips fall where they may.
7. In the United States, almost everyone makes _____ point of serving turkey on Thanksgiving Day. Some people also make a _____ of preparing a particular meal on Christmas Day, such as ham, turkey, or goose, but some people choose to vary their menu for Christmas Day from year to year. Think of your favorite holiday. What does your family make a point _____ doing on that day?
8. Ben knows that that job is out of _____ league right now. That's why he's trying to get more training.
9. If I am not _____ Michelle's league as a pianist (that is, I am not in the same league _____ Michelle), I will not be able to compete with her at a piano competition; she will always win.
10. How do you feel about this idiom book? Do you feel that you are out _____ your league and so you need to go through it very slowly and very carefully? Do you think that it is just about right for your level of English? Or do you think that it's a piece of cake (extremely easy)?
11. "Could you be sure to get Brian's new telephone number when you see his sister today?" "Sure. I'll _____ a point of it!"

12. “To let the chips fall where they _____ ” is an expression that comes from the game of poker; poker players gamble with poker chips.

13. I started to panic as I drove to the airport, thinking that maybe I had forgotten my passport. But then I remembered making a _____ of putting it in my bag.

14. “There’s no _____ crying over spilt milk” is an old saying which means that it’s _____ to spend time regretting the past instead of concentrating on doing better in the future.

15. “There’s _____ point waiting for Adam” means “Waiting for Adam is _____.” These two expressions have the same meaning, but have different grammatical structures.

16. What do you make a _____ of doing almost every day, every week, or every month? Since you make a point _____ doing it, we know that you almost never forget it.

17. In the movie *Bedazzled*, when his coworkers realizes that Eliot “has a thing for” the beautiful Allison, one of them says that Allison is _____ of his league and then another one says that plant life is out _____ his league! This is an insult but Eliot doesn’t respond to it.

18. Some people are motivated to do better when they feel that they are out of _____ league but others get discouraged and want to give up.

19. After Kristin mentioned that she thought that Brandon was out of his league, Brandon’s friend Christopher made a point _____ saying something encouraging to Brandon whenever he could.

20. We can say that Yao Ming and Shaquille O’Neal are _____ same league because they are both extremely talented basketball players.