

Unit 12 Coincidences

Clichés related to time

Learn the expressions

1 In this unit, we studied time adverbials like *subsequently* or *simultaneously*. Let's look at some clichés related to time. Read the sentences, paying close attention to the boldfaced expressions. Choose the correct ending to each sentence. Circle *a* or *b*. Then check your answers in the Answer Key on this page.

- If someone is **ahead of their time**, they _____.
a) use new ideas that others won't think of until later b) have finished something very quickly
- If you do something **at the eleventh hour**, you do it _____.
a. after waiting 11 hours b. at the latest possible time
- If someone tells you they'll be arriving **in no time**, they mean _____.
a. they're not coming at all b. they'll be there very soon
- When you tell a coworker **you're calling it a day**, you mean _____.
a. your workday is over b. you're taking the day off
- Something done **in the nick of time** is done _____.
a. slowly and carefully b. just before it's too late

2 An idea or a phrase that is used very often—usually to give advice—is called a cliché. Match the clichés with their meanings. Then check your answers in the Answer Key on this page.

1. Time heals all wounds. ____	a. wasting time or delaying something costs money
2. Only time will tell. ____	b. Deal with problems when they first happen and before things get worse.
3. A stitch in time saves nine. ____	c. Your pain will go away someday.
4. Rome wasn't built in a day. ____	d. It will not become clear until the future whether something is true or right
5. Time is money. ____	e. Large and/or important projects take a long time to complete.

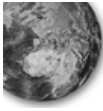
Answer Key

Exercise 1

- a
- b
- b
- a
- b

Exercise 2

- c
- d
- b
- e
- a



Use the expressions

3 Complete the conversations with appropriate forms of the expressions and clichés in the box.

at the eleventh hour	Time is money	Rome wasn't built in a day
ahead of its time	in no time	A stitch in time saves nine
in the nick of time	Time heals all wounds	Only time will tell
call it a day		

- A: Why don't you come over tonight and watch the game? It should be exciting.
B: I can't. I have to work late, and you know the saying, "_____."
- A: Oh, man. My head hurts. I can't believe I still have this headache.
B: Here, take two of these. It will be gone _____!
- A: My new cell phone has too many features. I had to spend an hour reading the user's manual.
B: This company is way _____ on technology. It will be years before other companies come up with anything similar.
- A: I'm exhausted. We've been working on this report for hours.
B: I'm tired, too. Let's _____. We can get a fresh start tomorrow.
- A: Why does Alyson always do everything _____?
B: I have no idea. She's just now starting to study for her exam. And it's tomorrow at 9 a.m.
- A: Poor Kelly! Her dog Rufus was hit by a car, and it died.
B: That's very sad, but she'll get over it in a few months. After all, _____.
- A: I'm having trouble in my math class. I'm falling behind and I don't know what to do.
B: The semester is almost half over. You should talk to your professor and ask for help. You know what they say, "_____."
- A: Do you think the Internet will completely replace books in the future?
B: Well, I don't think so, but _____.
- A: I understand that Terry wants to get his degree in two years, but going to school every night probably isn't a good idea.
B: I agree. He's going to burn out if he goes so fast. Someone should remind him that _____.
- A: Wow! That was lucky! We almost had a terrible accident!
B: I know. Thank goodness you put your foot on the brake _____.

Make the expressions your own

4 Which of these expressions do you relate to most? Why?

- Rome wasn't built in a day.
- Time heals all wounds.
- A stitch in time saves nine.
- Time is money.