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As the Saying Goes

A. Complete the sentences. Use the words in the box for each group.

although despite

1. Despite the bad traffic, we arrived early for the concert.
2. Although Jonas drives slowly, we weren't late for the movie.
3. Albert wasn't at the party although he had said that he would come.

because because of

4. We help each other because we're friends.
5. Everyone arrived late because of the snow.
6. Because his car wasn't working, he took the bus.

as if like

7. You look as if you need a rest.
8. Your room looks like a pig sty.
9. The baby looks as if / like she is going to cry.

during while

10. While I was making the food for the party, Tom cleaned the living room.
11. During the party, we played a lot of old songs.
12. Were you nervous while you were waiting to go on stage?

B. Complete the chart with the words in the boxes in Exercise A.

	Conjunctions	Prepositions
Reason	<i>because</i>	<i>because of</i>
Contrast	<i>although</i>	<i>despite</i>
Manner	<i>as if</i>	<i>like</i>
Time	<i>while</i>	<i>during</i>

C. Complete the sentences using the correct conjunctions and prepositions at the right.

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| 1. Joe arrived _____ <i>a</i> _____ we were having the cake. | a. while |
| 2. Your grandmother looked very well _____ <i>f</i> _____ her recent operation. | b. like |
| 3. _____ <i>e</i> _____ the bad weather, we couldn't have the party in the garden. | c. because |
| 4. They didn't give Simon the job _____ <i>h</i> _____ his computing skills are very good. | d. during |
| 5. I met Rachel _____ <i>d</i> _____ my stay on the farm. | e. because of |
| 6. _____ <i>c</i> _____ you speak French, you should do the talking. | f. in spite of |
| 7. You look _____ <i>g</i> _____ you haven't slept a wink. | g. as though |
| 8. You act _____ <i>b</i> _____ a child sometimes. Why don't you act more maturely? | h. even though |

D. Cross the conjunctions and prepositions that are used incorrectly. Write the correct ones in the blanks. Some sentences are correct.



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|---|--------------------|
| 1. I couldn't buy the candles although the store had already closed. | <u>because</u> |
| 2. The shoppers dashed for cover as the rain started. | <u>P (correct)</u> |
| 3. Jeff got into college because his bad grades. | <u>in spite of</u> |
| 4. She seemed very happy. She looked as though she had won the lottery. | <u>P (correct)</u> |
| 5. I talked with Luke in the hall while lunch break. | <u>during</u> |
| 6. Because of the storm, flights at the airport were delayed. | <u>P (correct)</u> |
| 7. Sherry offered to do the artwork for our project since she draws well. | <u>P (correct)</u> |
| 8. Because she likes music, she can't play a musical instrument. | <u>Although</u> |
| 9. Jay didn't get the job although his good qualifications. | <u>despite</u> |
| 10. I wasn't able to finish my report because my computer crashed. | <u>P (correct)</u> |

E. Complete the conversation between Jake and Virginia. Use the words in the box.

because of during even though like in spite of since while

Virginia: Why didn't you call me last night, Jake?

Jake: (1) Since you go to bed so early, I thought you would be asleep.

(2) Because of the bad weather, I arrived home very late and went straight to bed.

Virginia: (3) in spite of it was late, you could've called me!

Jake: Well, (4) while I was stuck in traffic, I was thinking of you and about how wonderful and understanding you are.

Virginia: (5) Even though my a heavy day at work, I wrote you a letter and I couldn't stop thinking of you (6) during the day...

Jake: Oh, Virginia! You're the best! You're the most wonderful person I've ever met.

Virginia: Stop it, Jake! Sometimes you treat me (7) like a princess!

Jake: You are a princess to me, Virginia!



F. Complete the sentences. Use your own ideas. *Answers will vary.*

1. I don't like _____ because _____ .

2. Although _____ .

3. _____ as though _____ .

4. While I was sleeping, _____ .

5. Despite _____ .

6. Because of _____ .

7. I _____ during _____ .

G. Read the situations. Underline the idioms. Match them to their definitions.

1. it was a piece of cake - e
1. _____ Helen thought the test was very difficult, but I thought it was a piece of cake. I answered every question on the paper easily. Helen really ought to work harder.
2. I'm completely broke - d
2. _____ Tony, I've told you I can't lend you any money! I'm completely broke until I get paid again. I bought Julie a birthday present, paid for my mother's hospital costs, and I still owe on my credit card. You have to ask someone else for money.
3. you've bitten off more than you can chew - g
3. _____ Nancy, I need to talk with you. You said you were able to cope with the workload and handle the extra demands, but now I'm starting to think you've bitten off more than you can chew. I'm going to ask Cindy to help since it's clear you can't manage on your own.
4. living from hand to mouth - a
4. _____ Gillian and Ron have been living from hand to mouth since the baby arrived. Ron lost his job at the factory and had to take a low-paying job. I feel sorry for them and wish I could help, but we're all finding it hard these days, aren't we?
5. her personality rubs me up the wrong way - c
5. _____ I like Joanna, but sometimes her personality rubs me up the wrong way. She never has a pleasant word to say about anyone and is constantly complaining. These days I try and avoid her whenever I can.
6. blowing his own trumpet - f
6. _____ Carl told me that he got a promotion and that he's the best salesperson in the company. His new sales campaign idea is going to earn the company millions. Carl is always talking about himself and blowing his own trumpet.
7. to sleep on it before... - b
7. _____ Sir, the job you're offering me sounds fantastic — the pay, the big office, the team of coworkers — but I'd like to sleep on it before I give you an answer. It would be a big change in my personal life.

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|--|---------------------------------------|
| a. survive on very little money | e. be without money |
| b. take time to think about something before making a decision | f. be very easy |
| c. bother or annoy someone | g. praise oneself for what one does |
| | d. try to do more than one can manage |

H. Writing Corner

Choose several of the idioms from Exercise G and write other situations to show their meanings.

Answers will vary.
