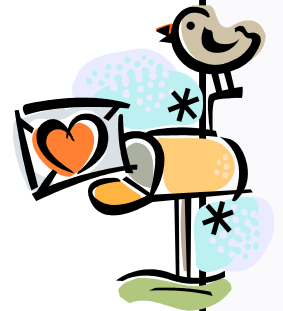


We hope you fall in love with these!*

February 14th is Valentine's Day, the most romantic day of the year. It's a day to tell our loved ones how much they mean to us. Most people give gifts of flowers and chocolates, and exchange cards (valentines), sometimes sending them anonymously. Hearts and cupids are the symbols of the day.

Below are sentences with commonly used idioms related to love and romance. See if you can guess the meaning of each from its context. (The answers are below.)

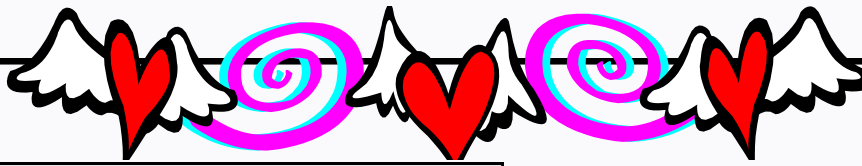
- 1) The newlyweds are obviously **head over heels in love** because they always talk about each other.
- 2) That new restaurant is so popular that I can't get a reservation there **for love or money**.
- 3) Building his boat himself was hard work, but he considered it a **labor of love**.
- 4) I can't go to your party, so please **send my love** to your family.
- 5) When Romeo met Juliet, **it was love at first sight**.
- 6) My brother hates going on **blind dates** because he prefers to choose his own girlfriends.
- 7) After my wife and I have an argument we always try to **kiss and make up** quickly.
- 8) Many people never **get over** their first love.
- 9) Pierre **broke Julie's heart** when he suddenly stopped calling her.
- 10) Even though they just got divorced, their relationship had been **on the rocks** for many years.
- 11) Atsushi and Mariko have been dating for years, but I doubt they'll ever **tie the knot**.
- 12) My sister doesn't want to have a serious boyfriend because she thinks she's too young **to settle down**.
- 13) Antonia recently **split up** with her boyfriend, so she's not interested in celebrating Valentine's Day.
- 14) Many women join online dating services hoping to find **Mr. Right**.
- 15) Because they had only known each other for a short time, Emily was surprised when Jack **popped the question**.
- 16) They were so compatible that Juan was convinced Maria was **the one**.



* like these very much

Answers:

1. love each other very much 2. no matter what I try 3. difficult activity that he did because he enjoyed it
4. give my best wishes 5. there was an immediate and strong attraction between them 6. dates with people he has never met before 7. apologize and become friends again 8. forget or stop caring about 9. caused her emotional pain 10. in trouble 11. get married 12. to get married 13. ended her relationship 14. the perfect man 15. proposed marriage 16. the right woman for him to marry



Grammar Exercise

FEBRUARY PASTIMES

(Simple Past Tense vs Present Perfect Tense)

Simple past tense describes an action that is finished or something that happened in a time period already finished.

I went to the supermarket last weekend.

Present perfect tense is formed by combining "to have" with the past participle, and describes something that happened in a time period not yet finished or at a time that is not specific.

I have gone to the supermarket twice this week.

Fill in the blanks, using the correct verb tense: simple past or present perfect.

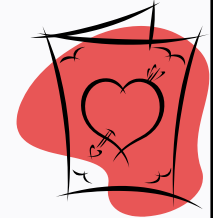
- I _____ (to bake) three pies yesterday.
- I _____ (to bake) ten pies so far this week.
- Last week, my friend _____ (to call) to invite me for a Valentine's Day dinner.
- She _____ (to invite) me every year since I moved to the U.S.
- Since last winter, all my clothes _____ (to get) too tight!
- My roommate thinks I _____ (to gain) a lot of weight over the past year.
- Yesterday, I finally _____ (to buy) a new pair of jeans.
- I thought I could wear my new jeans to dinner, but my friend _____ (to call) to tell me to wear something more formal.
- She also _____ (to ask) me not to bring any more pies!

Answers: 1. baked; 2. have baked; 3. called; 4. has invited; 5. have gotten; 6. have gained; 7. bought; 8. called; 9. asked

Culture Corner

Rhymes

On Valentine's Day, it is customary to send cards expressing feelings of love and affection for the recipient. Sometimes these valentines are sent anonymously. Valentine's Day cards often contain requests to "Be Mine" or "Be My Valentine," and many are written in rhyme. The most famous of all is this traditional rhyme:



Roses are red
Violets are blue
Sugar is sweet
And so are you.

Talk to your conversation partner about traditional rhymes from your country. Do you know any of them *by heart*?*

*memorized

OTHER FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS



The birthdays of two important American presidents are in February. George Washington, the first president of the United States, was born on February 22, 1732. Abraham Lincoln, born on February 12, 1809, was the sixteenth U.S. president. Both presidents are honored on Presidents' Day, observed this year on Monday, February 18th.

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Editor: Karen Ruelle

The English-Speaking Union of the United States
144 East 39th Street, New York, NY 10016
(tel.) 212-818-1200 (fax) 212-867-4177
www.esuus.org