**Lesson 7**

**to break down**: to stop functioning

o I just bought my new car yesterday and already it has *broken down*.  
o The elevator *broke down*, so we walked all the way up to the top floor.

**to give up**: to stop trying, to stop a bad habit (**S**); to surrender (**S**)  
o I'm sure that you can accomplish this task. Don't *give up* yet!  
o If you *give up* smoking now, you can certainly live a longer life.  
o The soldiers *gave* themselves *up* in the face of a stronger enemy forces.

**to take for granted**: not to appreciate fully (**S**); to assume to be true without giving much thought (**S**)  
A noun or pronoun often follows the verb *take*.

o John *took* his wife *for granted* until once when he was very sick and needed her constant attention for a week.

o He spoke English so well that I *took* it *for granted* he was an American. o He *took for granted* that I wasn't American because I spoke English so poorly!

**to take into account**: to consider a fact while evaluating a situation (**S**) Again, a noun or pronoun often follows the verb *take*.

o The judge *took* the prisoner's young age *into account* before sentencing him to three months in jail.

o Educators should *take into account* the cultural backgrounds of students when planning a school curriculum.

**to make clear**: to clarify, to explain (**S**)  
o Please *make clear* that he should never act so impolitely again.  
o The supervisor *made* it *clear* to the workers that they had to increase their productivity.

**clear-cut**: clearly stated, definite, apparent  
o The president's message was *clear-cut*: the company had to reduce

personnel immediately.  
o Professor Larsen is well known for his interesting and *clear-cut*

presentations.

**to call for**: to require; to request, to urge  
o This cake recipe *calls for* some baking soda, but we don't have any. o The member of Congress *called for* new laws to regulate the banking

industry.

**to look after**: to watch, to supervise, to protect (also: **to take care of**, **to keep an eye on**)

o Grandma will *look after* the baby while we go to the lecture.  
o Who is going to *take care of* your house plants while you are away? o I'd appreciate it if you'd *keep an eye on* my car while I'm in the store.

**as a matter of fact**: really, actually (also: **in fact**)  
o Hans thinks he knows English well but, *as a matter of fact*, he speaks

very poorly.  
o I didn't say that. *In fact*, I said quite the opposite.

**to look forward to**: to expect or anticipate with pleasure This idiom can be followed by a regular noun or a gerund.

o We're greatly *looking forward to* our vacation in Mexico. o Margaret never *looks forward to* going to work.

**to come true**: to become reality, to prove to be correct  
o The weatherman's forecast for today's weather certainly *came true*. o Everything that the economists predicted about the increased cost of living has *come true*.