

ON AGAIN, OFF AGAIN

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Here are fifty idioms you can work on -- easy once you catch onto the fact that each one is on about a phrase in which the word ON is featured:

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| 1. honest | 26. teetotaling |
| 2. alternately | 27. predatory |
| 3. free | 28. in suspense |
| 4. improving | 29. haughty |
| 5. secretly | 30. careful |
| 6. promptly | 31. friendly |
| 7. freely going | 32. decrepit |
| 8. considering all | 33. reprimanded |
| 9. alone | 34. likely |
| 10. out for fun | 35. patrolling |
| 11. charged to credit | 36. with it |
| 12. intermittently | 37. expecting |
| 13. over ice | 38. busy |
| 14. crawling | 39. recovering |
| 15. quietly | 40. evading pursuit |
| 16. without hesitation | 41. without a partner |
| 17. in flight | 42. decreasing |
| 18. righteously | 43. roaming around |
| 19. nervous | 44. discovered something profitable |
| 20. punctually | 45. prepared to act |
| 21. broadcasting | 46. exhibited |
| 22. available for duty | 47. tramping |
| 23. watchful | 48. exiting |
| 24. failing | 49. working |
| 25. just about | 50. not working |

We offered fifty idioms which featured the word ON. Now we're off on a hunt for idioms featuring OFF. Ready? You're off -- but don't go off the subject:

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| 1. spoiled | 26. truncated |
| 2. casually | 27. distant |
| 3. ready-made | 28. very incorrect |
| 4. impromptu | 29. mentally deranged |
| 5. misled | 30. mistaken |
| 6. unprepared | 31. vulgar or obscene |
| 7. unconsidered | 32. unofficial |

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| 8. irrelevant | 33. auspiciously begun |
| 9. angry | 34. curt |
| 10. crazy | 35. remote |
| 11. unreasonable | 36. obscure |
| 12. started | 37. commenced |
| 13. expressed | 38. abduct |
| 14. wandering | 39. take the loss |
| 15. lost | 40. cease transmitting |
| 16. rejected | 41. unfavorable time |
| 17. delirious | 42. light shade |
| 18. intermittently | 43. betting office activity |
| 19. killed | 44. behind the scenes |
| 20. first stroke | 45. slight likelihood |
| 21. very wrong | 46. depart |
| 22. cancelled | 47. displease |
| 23. cured of addiction | 48. reward |
| 24. unusually bad (sports) | 49. aloof |
| 25. holiday | 50. improper |

Answers can be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of the issue.

ACCIDENTAL ACROSTICS

In the May 1979 Kickshaws, Will Shortz asked Word Ways readers "What is the longest word you can find spelled in order by the initial letters of any series of consecutive paragraphs in any book on your shelf?" In thirty minutes of searching, the best he could find was TIGHT in a Lord Peter Wimsey story. The query subsequently appeared as a Games Magazine contest in July/August 1980, resulting in the seven-letter acrostics ACACIAS, ASSISTS, ATTAINT, DITTIES, EARTHLY, SITTING and THRIFTY. Despite a prize of \$150, only 77 entries were received. In an effort to generate more interest, a further prize of \$150 was offered to the first reader to find an eight-letter example; the March/April 1981 issue presented SYNONYMS by Shirley Tierney of Johnson City, Wisconsin, who found it on page 10 of Elizabeth Graham's Heart of the Eagle (Harlequin Books, 1978).