

Chapter 4 : Concepts

‘Talking About the Past’

Idioms to talk about time

- A blast from the past is someone or something that reminds you of an earlier time in your life, giving you a sense of nostalgia:

“I bumped into one of my old school friends today – what a blast from the past!”

- The idiom all along means from the beginning or the entire time:

“I knew all along that he would succeed one day.”

Idioms to talk about time

- In the good old days refers to a time in the past when you remember life being better in some way:

“In the good old days children didn’t have smartphones and video games; they played outside together.”

- The phrase let bygones be bygones is said when you want to tell someone to forget about something unpleasant from the past:

“I know he hurt you but that was two years ago. Let bygones be bygones.”

Idioms to talk about time

- Long time no see simply means that it has been a long time since you last saw someone. You'd say this directly to them either in writing, on the phone, or when you do finally see them:

"Hi John, long time no see! We should meet up soon."

- If you make up for lost time, you work extra hard to compensate for previous delays or you spend a lot of time doing something that you were unable to previously:

"The two friends hadn't seen each other for years so they are making up for lost time by taking a holiday together."

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- You might have heard the phrase once upon a time used as the opening line of a fairy tale. In everyday speech, it is used to talk about a time long ago, usually by way of reminiscing:

"Once upon a time, it was safe to walk around this town at night."

Idioms to talk about time

- Something that stands the test of time continues to work well or be well regarded for a long period of time. This could be something physical, like a piece of furniture, or something more abstract like a political policy or a piece of literature:

“I never thought they were a good match but their marriage has stood the test of time.”

- To take a trip down memory lane is to spend time reminiscing about the past, especially about happy memories:

“My grandmother loves to take a trip down memory lane and tell me about her childhood.”

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