

Lesson 4: Multiple meanings of CUT

Exercise 1:

Complete each sentence with the correct expression. Careful – two aren't used!

a cut of	cut class	cut it in half
an old cut	cut down on	cut me deeply
couldn't cut it	cut expenses	cut that sentence
cut a check	cut in line	cut to

- Hey, I was already here and it's my turn next - you can't _____!
- I _____ in New York City, so I moved back to a small town.
- Several people sued the company for damage caused by their products, and the CEO just _____ to settle each case.
- If you don't want the whole sandwich, you can _____ and save the rest for later.
- I'm trying to _____ screen time; I don't want to have my face in my phone all day.
- My best friend is normally so kind and gentle, so her angry words _____.
- That scar on my hand is from _____ - an accident in the kitchen.
- You might want to _____ from your cover letter because it's not really relevant to the topic.
- I used to stay up too late and then _____ in the morning because I wanted to sleep in.
- _____ We're trying to _____ so we can save up for a nice vacation next year.

Exercise 2:

Complete each sentence with the correct expression. Careful, one is not used!

a cut above	cut in	cut my losses
cut across	cut it close	cut out for
cut back	cut it out	cut to the chase
cut corners	cut me off	have my work cut out for

1. I can't stop myself - when I hear someone saying something wrong, I have to _____ and correct it.
2. The guys who installed our plumbing definitely _____ - it's only been a month and there are already a few leaks.
3. I prepared my presentation at 5am on the day I had to give it - so I _____, but I got it done!
4. The bartender saw that I was drunk, so he _____ and refused to serve me any more cocktails.
5. My neighbors in the house on the corner put up a fence so that people wouldn't _____ their yard to get to the bus stop.
6. She's very shy, so I don't think she's _____ a job in telemarketing.
7. The boss keeps reminding me of the deadline even though I'm fully aware of it and the project is on track - I wish he'd _____.
8. I'd tried to train my new employee for a year, but he still wasn't getting the hang of the job - so I finally _____ and fired him.
9. These organic vegetables from a local farm are really delicious - they're definitely _____ what you buy in the supermarket.

10. I'm trying to organize 20+ years of files. It's thousands of documents, so I definitely _____ me.

11. I don't need to hear all the context - just _____ and tell me exactly what happened.

Answers – Exercise 1:

1. cut in line
2. couldn't cut it
3. cut a check
4. cut it in half
5. cut down on
6. cut me deeply
7. an old cut
8. cut that sentence
9. cut class
10. cut expenses

Answers – Exercise 2:

1. cut in
2. cut corners
3. cut it close
4. cut me off
5. cut across
6. cut out for
7. cut it out
8. cut my losses
9. a cut above
10. have my work cut out for
11. cut to the chase