



# Topic

Conversation  
for Idioms

Lesson 5  
Lifestyle

# Lead-in

Match the picture with the correct idiom.



**A** live beyond one's means

**B** live from hand to mouth

**C** keep up with the Joneses

**D** keep up appearances

1. Jane **keeps up with the Joneses** by buying expensive things even though she doesn't need them.

## Origin

The phrase originates with the comic strip “**Keeping Up with the Joneses**”. The strip depicts the social climbing McGinis family, who struggle to "keep up" with their neighbors, the Joneses of the title.



2. Despite his disappointment with his test results, he **keeps up appearances** by smiling.

**Q** Why do you think some people keep up appearances?

**💡** Describe a situation where you had to keep up appearances.



3. Felix **lives beyond his means** so he is facing bankruptcy now.

Q What does the idiom mean?

- spending more money than one can afford
- working hard to earn more money



4. When my father lost his job,  
we **lived from hand to mouth**.

Q Which picture best describes the meaning of the idiom?



# Quick Review

**live beyond  
one's means**  
spending more money  
than one can afford



**keep up with  
the Joneses**  
not to be outdone  
with one's neighbors



“live”

Lifestyle

“keep up”

**live from  
hand to mouth**  
have hardly enough  
food or money to live on



**keep up  
appearances**  
to hide something  
bad by pretending  
that nothing is wrong



# Practice

Arrange the idioms and match them to their correct meanings.

1. up keep appearances

2. from to mouth live hand

3. beyond live one's means

4. up keep Joneses the with

- a. not to be outdone by one's neighbors
- b. spending more money than one can afford
- c. have hardly enough food or money to live on
- d. to hide something bad by pretending that nothing is wrong



## Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct idioms.  
Change their forms if necessary.

live beyond one's means

keep up with the Joneses

live from hand to mouth

keep up appearances

1. I used to  resulting in huge debts.
2. The reason why I bought this car is to .  
I don't want to lose to them.
3. We  when our business went bankrupt  
due to the pandemic.
4. Though they are fighting, they  in front  
of their teacher by acting all nice.



**Who keeps up appearances most often, the rich or the poor?**  
**Describe the disadvantages of living beyond one's means.**