



Topic

Conversation
for Idioms

Lesson 16
Time

Lead-in

Fill in the missing word to complete each idiom.



around the



once in a blue



a race against

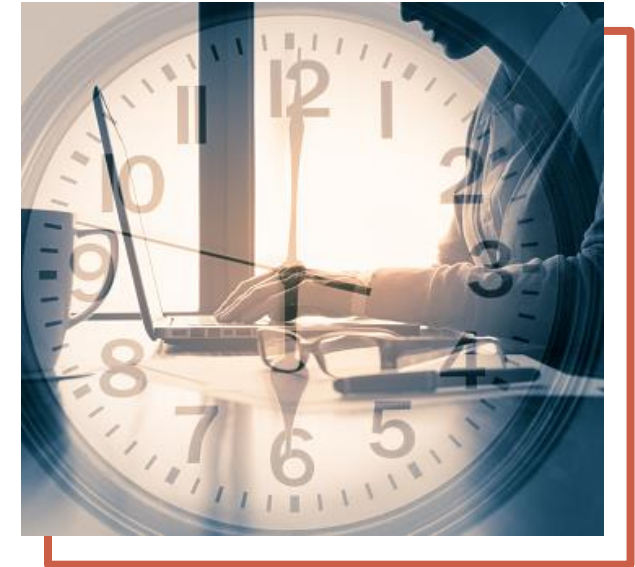


in the nick of

1. He works **around the clock** because he needs to finish the report as soon as possible.

Q Which is **true** about the statement?

- He works nonstop all day and night to finish the report as soon as possible.
- He occasionally takes a break from work, even when he has a report to finish.

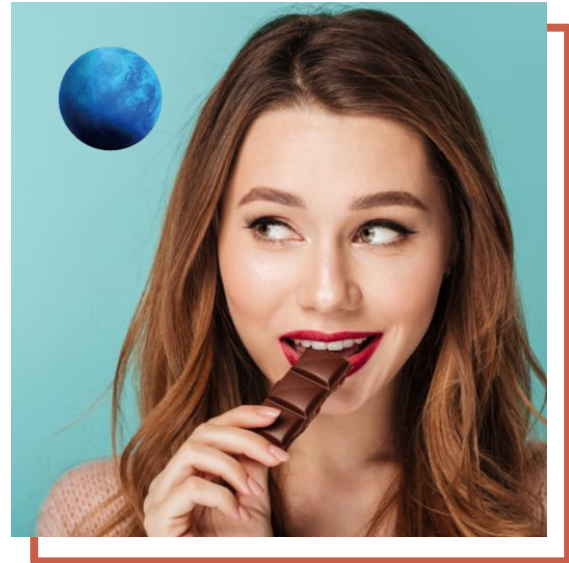


2. Her doctor advised her to eat chocolate only **once in a blue moon** due to her health condition.

Q What is something that you do only once in a blue moon? Why?

Origin

The origin of this idiom is based on the second but rare appearance of the full moon in the same month.



3. It's always **a race against time** for me to get to work.

Q What does the idiom mean?



to do something in a hurry,
as quickly as possible



to delay doing something



4. There were only a few seconds left but my team scored **in the nick of time**.

Q When do we use the idiom?



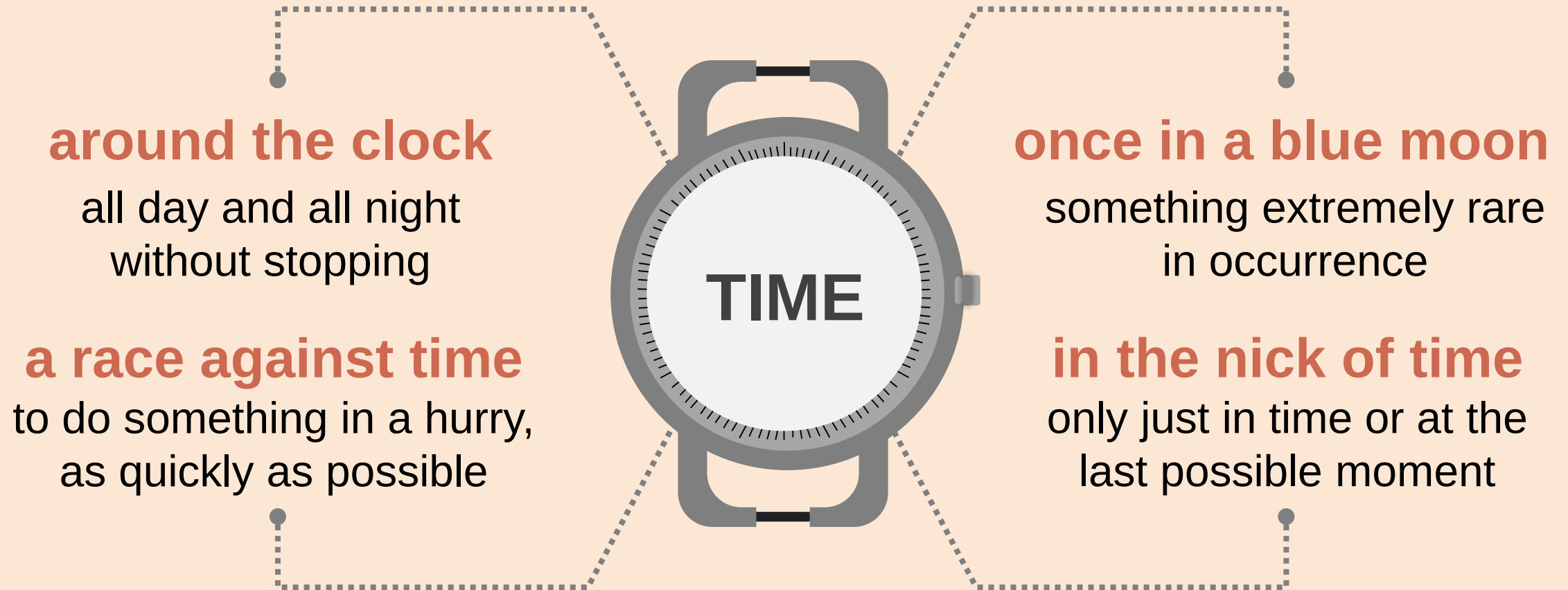
when something happens a little late



when something happens only just in time or at the last possible moment



Quick Review



Practice

Match each idiom with its meaning.

1. around the clock

a

do something in a hurry,
as quickly as possible

2. a race against time

b

something extremely
rare in occurrence

3. once in a blue moon

c


only just in time or at the
last possible moment

4. in the nick of time

d

all day and all night
without stopping

- 1 She must study beside the clock because she will be taking exams.
- 2 Fast food is unhealthy and should be consumed only once in a black moon.
- 3 For most people, catching an early train is a race with time.
- 4 The ambulance arrived in the nick of clock after the woman passed out.

A man in a dark suit, white shirt, and black tie is looking at his wristwatch. He is wearing sunglasses and has a serious expression. He is holding a coffee cup in his left hand. The background is a blurred train station with a train and people walking.

**How important is punctuality in your country?
In your opinion, is it good to do things **in** just
the nick of time? Why or why not?**