

# MAIN CHARACTERS

The author would like to thank the Johnson family for graciously agreeing to appear in this book.

## The Johnson Family





**Good-bye to  
you and good-bye  
to this dead-end  
job!**





## LESSON 1

### BOB'S DAY AT WORK

*Bob works as a manager in a furniture store. Peter, his boss, is not happy about sales. Bob's new advertising campaign hasn't helped. Peter decides to fire him.*

*Peter:* Bob, I hate to **break the news**, but our sales were down again last month.

*Bob:* Down again, Peter?

*Peter:* Yeah. These days, everybody's shopping at our competition, Honest Abe's Furniture Store.

*Bob:* But everything in there **costs an arm and a leg!**

*Peter:* That's true. They do charge **top dollar**.

*Bob:* And their salespeople are very strange. They really **give me the creeps!**

*Peter:* Well, they must be doing something right over there. Meanwhile, we're **about to go belly-up**.

*Bob:* I'm sorry to hear that. I thought my new advertising campaign would **save the day**.

*Peter:* **Let's face it:** your advertising campaign was a **real flop**.

*Bob:* Well then I'll **go back to the drawing board**.

*Peter:* It's too late for that. You're fired!



**Bob:** What? You're **giving me the ax**?

**Peter:** Yes. I've already found a new manager. She's as **sharp as a tack**.

**Bob:** Can't we even **talk this over**? **After all**, I've been working here for 10 years!

**Peter:** There's **no point in** arguing, Bob. I've already **made up my mind**.

**Bob:** Oh well, **at least** I won't have to **put up with** your nonsense anymore! Good-bye to you and good-bye to this **dead-end job**.

**Peter:** Please leave before I **lose my temper**!



## IDIOMS – LESSON 1

**about to** – ready to; on the verge of

EXAMPLE 1: It's a good thing Bob left the furniture store when he did. Peter was so angry, he was **about to** throw a dining room chair at him.

EXAMPLE 2: I'm glad you're finally home. I was just **about to** have dinner without you.

**after all** – despite everything; when everything has been considered; the fact is

EXAMPLE 1: You'd better invite Ed to your party. **After all**, he's a good friend.

EXAMPLE 2: It doesn't matter what your boss thinks of you. **After all**, you're going to quit your job anyway.

**at least** – anyway; the *good* thing is that...

EXAMPLE 1: We've run out of coffee, but **at least** we still have tea.

EXAMPLE 2: Tracy can't afford to buy a car, but **at least** she has a good bicycle.

NOTE: The second definition of this phrase is "no less than": There were **at least** 300 people waiting in line to buy concert tickets.



**(to) break the news** – to make something known

EXAMPLE 1: Samantha and Michael are getting married, but they haven't yet **broken the news** to their parents.

EXAMPLE 2: You'd better **break the news** to your father carefully. After all, you don't want him to have a heart attack!

**(to) cost an arm and a leg** – to be very expensive

EXAMPLE 1: A college education in America **costs an arm and a leg**.

EXAMPLE 2: All of the furniture at Honest Abe's **costs an arm and a leg**!

**dead-end job** – a job that won't lead to anything else

EXAMPLE 1: Diane realized that working as a cashier was a **dead-end job**.

EXAMPLE 2: Jim worked many **dead-end jobs** before finally deciding to start his own business.

**(let's) face it** – accept a difficult reality

EXAMPLE 1: **Let's face it**, if Ted spent more time studying, he wouldn't be failing so many of his classes!

EXAMPLE 2: **Let's face it**, if you don't have a college degree, it can be difficult to find a high-paying job.

**(to) give one the creeps** – to create a feeling of disgust or horror

EXAMPLE 1: Ted's friend Matt has seven earrings in each ear and an "I Love Mom" tattoo on his arm. He really **gives Nicole the creeps**.

EXAMPLE 2: There was a strange man following me around the grocery store. He was **giving me the creeps**!

**(to) go back to the drawing board** – to start a task over because the last try failed; to start again from the beginning

EXAMPLE 1: Frank's new business failed, so he had to **go back to the drawing board**.

EXAMPLE 2: The president didn't agree with our new ideas for the company, so we had to **go back to the drawing board**.

**(to) go belly-up** – to go bankrupt

EXAMPLE 1: Many people lost their jobs when Enron **went belly-up**.

EXAMPLE 2: My company lost \$3 million last year. We might go **belly-up**.

**(to) give someone the ax** – to fire someone

EXAMPLE 1: Mary used to talk to her friends on the phone all day at work, until one day her boss finally **gave her the ax**.

EXAMPLE 2: Poor Paul! He was **given the ax** two days before Christmas.



**(to) lose one's temper** – to become very angry

EXAMPLE 1: Bob always **loses his temper** when his kids start talking on the telephone during dinner.

EXAMPLE 2: When Ted handed in his essay two weeks late, his teacher really **lost her temper**.

**(to) make up one's mind** – to reach a decision; to decide

EXAMPLE 1: Stephanie couldn't **make up her mind** whether to attend Harvard or Stanford. Finally, she chose Stanford.

EXAMPLE 2: Do you want an omelette or fried eggs? You'll need to **make up your mind** quickly because the waitress is coming.

**no point in** – no reason to; it's not worth (doing something)

EXAMPLE 1: There's **no point in** worrying about things you can't change.

EXAMPLE 2: There's **no point in** going on a picnic if it's going to rain.

**(to) put up with** – to endure without complaint

EXAMPLE 1: For many years, Barbara **put up with** her husband's annoying behavior. Finally, she decided to leave him.

EXAMPLE 2: I don't know how Len **puts up with** his mean boss every day.

**real flop or flop** – a failure

EXAMPLE 1: The Broadway play closed after just 4 days – it was a **real flop**!

EXAMPLE 2: The company was in trouble after its new product **flopped**.

**(to) save the day** – to prevent a disaster or misfortune

EXAMPLE 1: The Christmas tree was on fire, but Ted threw water on it and **saved the day**.

EXAMPLE 2: We forgot to buy champagne for our New Year's party, but Sonia brought some and really **saved the day**!

**(as) sharp as a tack** – very intelligent

EXAMPLE 1: Jay scored 100% on his science test. He's as **sharp as a tack**.

EXAMPLE 2: Anna got a scholarship to Yale. She's as **sharp as a tack**.

**(to) talk over** – to discuss

EXAMPLE 1: Dave and I spent hours **talking over** the details of the plan.

EXAMPLE 2: Before you make any big decisions, give me a call and we'll **talk things over**.

**top dollar** – the highest end of a price range; a lot of money

EXAMPLE 1: Nicole paid **top dollar** for a shirt at Banana Republic.

EXAMPLE 2: Wait until those jeans go on sale. Why pay **top dollar**?



## PRACTICE THE IDIOMS

**Fill in the blank with the missing word:**

- 1) I can't believe you bought a couch at Honest Abe's. Everything in that store costs an arm and a \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) foot                      b) leg                      c) hand
- 2) After Bob found out that his advertising campaign failed, he wanted to go back to the drawing \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) board                      b) table                      c) room
- 3) When somebody isn't listening to you, there's no \_\_\_\_\_ in trying to argue with them.  
a) edge                      b) tip                      c) point
- 4) José is really smart. He's as sharp as a \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) tack                      b) nail                      c) screw
- 5) The salespeople at Honest Abe's always look angry and never speak to anybody. No wonder they \_\_\_\_\_ Bob the creeps.  
a) take                      b) give                      c) allow
- 6) Bob got fired. He isn't looking forward to \_\_\_\_\_ the news to his family.  
a) breaking                      b) cracking                      c) saying
- 7) Bob thought his new advertisements would bring in lots of customers and save the \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) morning                      b) night                      c) day
- 8) Fortunately, Bob no longer has to put \_\_\_\_\_ with his stupid boss at the furniture store.  
a) over                      b) in                      c) up

*ANSWERS TO LESSON 1, p. 160*



What's  
the  
matter?

I got  
canned  
today!





## LESSON 2

# BOB RETURNS HOME WITH BAD NEWS

*Bob tells his wife Susan that he lost his job.  
Susan suggests that he start his own business.*

*Susan:* **What's the matter, dear?**

*Bob:* Susan, I **got canned** today at work.

*Susan:* But Bob, you were Peter's **right-hand man**!

*Bob:* Yes, and he **stabbed me in the back**.

*Susan:* **Keep your chin up**. Maybe he'll **change his mind** and take you back.

*Bob:* **When pigs fly!** Once he **makes up his mind**, he never changes it. Besides, I **told him off**.

*Susan:* **Look on the bright side:** you won't have to **set eyes** on Peter ever again.

*Bob:* **Thank goodness** for that!

*Susan:* **Hang in there**. I'm sure you won't be **out of work** for long.

*Bob:* In the meantime, we'll have to **live from hand to mouth**.

*Susan:* Don't get too **stressed out**, Bob. We'll **make ends meet**.



**Bob:** I can always get a job at McDonald's as a **last resort**.

**Susan:** I don't think they're hiring right now.

**Bob:** If **worse comes to worst**, we can sell our home and move into a tent.

**Susan:** Let's **think big**! Maybe you can start your own business.

**Bob:** **Easier said than done!**



## IDIOMS – LESSON 2

**(to) change one's mind** – to change one's opinion or decision

EXAMPLE 1: Brandon wasn't going to take a vacation this year, but then he **changed his mind** and went to Bora Bora for two weeks.

EXAMPLE 2: Why aren't you applying to medical school this year? Did you **change your mind** about becoming a doctor?

**easier said than done** – more difficult than you think

EXAMPLE 1: You want to climb Mount Everest? **Easier said than done!**

EXAMPLE 2: Moving into a new home is **easier said than done**.

**(to) get canned** [slang] – to lose one's job; to get fired

EXAMPLE 1: After Chris **got canned**, it took him a year to find a new job.

EXAMPLE 2: Lisa is a lousy secretary. She deserves to **get canned!**

SYNONYMS: to get sacked; to be given the ax

**(to) hang in there** – to persevere; to not give up

EXAMPLE 1: I know you're four games behind, but you can still win the tennis match. Just **hang in there!**

EXAMPLE 2: **Hang in there**, Don! Your invention will soon be a success.

**if worse comes to worst** – in the worst case; if absolutely necessary

EXAMPLE 1: Ted's car isn't running well. **If worse comes to worst**, he can take the bus to school.

EXAMPLE 2: I know you're running out of money. **If worse comes to worst**, you can always sell some of your jewelry.



**(to) keep one's chin up** – to stay positive

EXAMPLE 1: Even when he was unemployed and homeless, Bill managed to **keep his chin up**.

EXAMPLE 2: **Keep your chin up!** You'll find your lost dog soon.

**last resort** – if there are no other alternatives left; the last solution for getting out of a difficulty

EXAMPLE 1: David was locked out of his house. He knew that as a **last resort**, he could always break a window.

EXAMPLE 2: I don't like taking medicine. I'll only take it as a **last resort**.

**(to) live from hand to mouth** – to barely have enough money to survive

EXAMPLE 1: Jenny was earning \$5 an hour working at the store. She was really **living from hand to mouth**.

EXAMPLE 2: George is really poor. He **lives from hand to mouth**.

**(to) look on the bright side** – to be optimistic; to think about the positive part or aspect of a situation

EXAMPLE 1: Leo was upset that his soccer game was canceled. His mother said, "**Look on the bright side**, now you can stay home and watch TV."

EXAMPLE 2: You lost your job? **Look on the bright side**, now you'll have more free time!

**(to) make ends meet** – to manage one's money so as to have enough to live on; to be okay financially

EXAMPLE 1: Kimberly wasn't able to **make ends meet** so she had to ask her parents to pay her rent.

EXAMPLE 2: If you can't **make ends meet**, you'll need to start spending less.

**(to) make up one's mind** – *see Lesson 1*

**out of work** – unemployed; not working

EXAMPLE 1: Gary was **out of work** for a year before finding a new job.

EXAMPLE 2: Bob is **out of work**. Do you know anybody who might want to hire him?

**right-hand man** – the most helpful assistant or employee

EXAMPLE 1: Juan's **right-hand man** helps him make all of his decisions.

EXAMPLE 2: When Jack Thompson retired as president of his company, his **right-hand man** took over.



**(to) set eyes on** – to look at; to see for the first time

EXAMPLE 1: Ted was in love from the moment he **set eyes on** Amber.

EXAMPLE 2: Susan knew from the moment she **set eyes on** Ted's friend Lucas that he would be trouble.

**(to) stab someone in the back** – to betray someone

EXAMPLE 1: Jill and Heather were friends, until Heather **stabbed Jill in the back** by stealing her boyfriend.

EXAMPLE 2: You're firing me after all I've done for this company? You're really **stabbing me in the back**!

**(to be) stressed out** – under severe strain; very anxious

EXAMPLE 1: Al is so **stressed out** about his job that he can't sleep at night.

EXAMPLE 2: You've been so **stressed out** lately. You really need to take a long vacation!

**(to) tell off** – to scold; to tell someone in strong words what one really thinks

EXAMPLE 1: When Ted showed up for chemistry class a half an hour late, his teacher really **told him off**.

EXAMPLE 2: Patty is going to **tell off** the plumber because the pipes he said he fixed are still leaking.

**thank goodness** – I'm grateful; I'm relieved

EXAMPLE 1: When Ted came home at 4 a.m. last Sunday, his mother said, "**Thank goodness** you're home! I was so worried about you."

EXAMPLE 2: **Thank goodness** you didn't go to California on Monday. It rained there every day this week.

**(to) think big** – to set high goals

EXAMPLE 1: Why run for Governor of New York? **Think big**: run for President of the United States!

EXAMPLE 2: Ken and Sandra hope to sell their house for \$3 million dollars. They always **think big**.

**What's the matter?** – What's the problem?

EXAMPLE 1: **What's the matter**, Bob? You don't look very happy.

EXAMPLE 2: Oscar looks very pale. **What's the matter** with him?

**When pigs fly!** [slang] – never

EXAMPLE 1: Will Ted teach Nicole how to play the guitar? **When pigs fly!**

EXAMPLE 2: Sure, I'll give you my new laptop. **When pigs fly!**

SYNONYMS: when hell freezes over; never in a million years



## PRACTICE THE IDIOMS

**Fill in the blank with the missing word:**

- 1) What's the \_\_\_\_\_? You look upset.  
a) situation              b) issue              c) matter
- 2) I know I can trust you. You would never stab me in the \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) leg                      b) back              c) arm
- 3) If Bob and Susan run out of money, they can always borrow money from Susan's sister as a \_\_\_\_\_ resort.  
a) final                      b) first              c) last
- 4) You look really stressed \_\_\_\_\_. Why don't you sit down, relax, and have a cup of tea?  
a) about                      b) in                      c) out
- 5) Bob, everything will be fine. You just need to keep your chin \_\_\_\_\_ and remember that tomorrow is another day.  
a) up                      b) down                      c) above
- 6) I just can't make up my \_\_\_\_\_ whether to order chicken or fish.  
a) head                      b) brain                      c) mind
- 7) Nicole accidentally stepped on Ted's guitar. Ted got really angry and told her \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) off                      b) out                      c) away
- 8) Your husband left you for his psychologist? Hang \_\_\_\_\_ there! I'm sure he'll realize she's crazy and then come back to you.  
a) up                      b) in                      c) out

*ANSWERS TO LESSON 2, p. 160*





**Ted's chemistry class is way over his head.**



## LESSON 3

### TED'S DAY AT SCHOOL

*Ted tells his parents he did poorly on his chemistry test. They tell him he needs to get serious and study more.*

*Susan:* How was your day at school today, Ted?

*Ted:* Bad. I had a chemistry test, and I **blew it**!

*Susan:* Maybe if you didn't **cut class** so often, you'd do better.

*Bob:* That's right, son. Stop **slacking off** and start **hitting the books**!

*Ted:* But I **can't stand** chemistry class. Besides, it's a **lost cause**. That class is way **over my head**.

*Susan:* You need to **buckle down**.

*Ted:* When I'm a famous musician, people won't **give a hoot** about my knowledge of atoms and molecules.

*Bob:* That's **beside the point**.

*Susan:* We know you have your **heart set on** going to New York University.

*Bob:* And you don't **stand a chance** of getting in there with such poor grades!





## IDIOMS – LESSON 3

### **beside the point** – not relevant; not important

EXAMPLE 1: Whether or not I asked the waiter to bring us water is **beside the point**. Waiters should always bring water to the table.

EXAMPLE 2: The reason you're late is **beside the point**. The fact is, your dinner is now cold.

### **(to) blow something** – to spoil or botch something

EXAMPLE 1: Brenda **blew the interview** and didn't get the job offer.

EXAMPLE 2: Randy managed to get a date with the most popular girl in his class. Now I hope he doesn't **blow it**!

### **(to) buckle down** – to start working seriously

EXAMPLE 1: If Don **buckles down** now, he might be able to graduate from high school this year.

EXAMPLE 2: Team, if we want to win this tournament, we're going to need to **buckle down**!

### **can't stand** – to hate

EXAMPLE 1: Bob **can't stand** bureaucrats, so he'd never do well working at a large corporation.

EXAMPLE 2: Nicole **can't stand** broccoli. She simply refuses to eat it.

### **(to) cut class** – to miss class without an excuse

EXAMPLE 1: Ted often **cuts class** to spend more time with his girlfriend.

EXAMPLE 2: If you keep **cutting French class**, you're going to fail it.

### **Get real!** – be serious or realistic about what's going on

EXAMPLE 1: You think you won't get a speeding ticket when you drive 85 miles per hour? **Get real!**

EXAMPLE 2: You think you're going to win \$1 million in the lottery? **Get real!**

### **(to) have one's heart set on** – to really want something

EXAMPLE 1: Nicole **has her heart set on** going to New York this weekend.

EXAMPLE 2: Did you really **have your heart set on** going to Harvard?

### **(to) hit the books** – to start studying

EXAMPLE 1: Ted partied all weekend. Finally, on Sunday night, he decided it was time to **hit the books**.

EXAMPLE 2: **Hit the books!** I know you have a test tomorrow.



**lost cause** – something hopeless

EXAMPLE 1: Cindy spent five years studying Russian. Finally, she realized it was a **lost cause**. She would never learn it.

EXAMPLE 2: Jack needs to stop drinking so much coffee, but he's so addicted to caffeine that it's a **lost cause**.

**(to) not give a hoot** – to not care about

EXAMPLE 1: Tom likes to walk around town in his pajamas — he doesn't **give a hoot** what people think.

EXAMPLE 2: Stephanie **doesn't give a hoot** if she's the only one wearing a green dress to the high school prom.

SYNONYMS: to not give a damn; to not give a darn

**over one's head** – beyond one's understanding

EXAMPLE 1: The professor was **speaking over our heads**. None of us could understand him.

EXAMPLE 2: The article on cloning was written for scientists. It was **over my head**.

**(to) slack off** – to waste time

EXAMPLE 1: Amanda doesn't get much done at the office. She's too busy **slacking off**.

EXAMPLE 2: I'd better stop **slacking off**. My essay is due in two hours.

NOTE: People who **slack off** all the time are called "slackers."

**(to) stand a chance** – to have the possibility of success

EXAMPLE 1: Although the American figure skaters were good, they didn't **stand a chance** of winning a gold medal at the Olympics.

EXAMPLE 2: Wilton High School has the best soccer team in the state. I'm afraid we don't **stand a chance** against them!

## PRACTICE THE IDIOMS

**Choose the most appropriate reply to the following statements:**

1) *Bob*: "Susan, I can't get my old job back. It's a lost cause."

*Susan's reply:*

- a) "Lost? Maybe I can help you find it."
- b) "Yes, I know it's not a good cause."
- c) "I understand. You'll find something else."



- 2) *Susan*: "How could Peter fire you? Were you slacking off?"  
*Bob's reply*:  
a) "No. I was working very hard!"  
b) "No. I talked on the phone to friends all day."  
c) "Yes. I was working very hard!"
- 3) *Ted*: "It's getting late. I'd better start hitting the books."  
*Bob's reply*:  
a) "Yes, that's a good idea. Spend some time studying."  
b) "Hit the books? Why don't you read them instead?"  
c) "Why don't you study instead?"
- 4) *Peter*: "I don't give a hoot how long you've been working here."  
*Bob's reply*:  
a) "I wouldn't give you a hoot either."  
b) "I guess our years together aren't important to you."  
c) "Yes, it was a long time."
- 5) *Bob*: "Susan, the truth is that I couldn't stand Peter."  
*Susan's reply*:  
a) "I know. Peter really liked you too."  
b) "I liked him too. He was a nice guy."  
c) "I didn't like him either. He was a jerk."
- 6) *Susan*: "Nicole, do you ever cut class?"  
*Nicole's reply*:  
a) "No. I've never missed a single class."  
b) "Yes. I had to leave my math class early yesterday."  
c) "No. Sometimes I go to the mall during class time."
- 7) *Bob*: "This book on computers is way over my head."  
*Susan's reply*:  
a) "Over your head? It should be in front of your face!"  
b) "Why don't you start with an easier book?"  
c) "Here, try this book. It's more difficult."
- 8) *Nicole*: "I've got my heart set on going to the school picnic."  
*Susan's reply*:  
a) "Okay. You should definitely go."  
b) "Really? Why don't you want to go?"  
c) "I understand. Picnics can be boring."

*ANSWERS TO LESSON 3, p. 160*



## LESSON 4

# NICOLE'S DAY AT SCHOOL

*Nicole tells her mother Susan about her successful presentation at school. Her brother Ted overhears and interrupts the conversation.*

*Susan:* How was your day at school today, Nicole?

*Nicole:* It was great, Mom. I gave a presentation on Hillary Clinton in government class. Afterwards, my teacher **paid me a compliment.**

*Susan:* What did she say?

*Nicole:* She said my presentation was **head and shoulders above** the others.

*Susan:* **Way to go!**

*Nicole:* She also said I should **go into** politics, just like Hillary.

*Ted:* You're so **gung ho** about school. It **drives me crazy.**

*Nicole:* Ted, don't **butt in!** You're just jealous.

*Ted:* Right. You **hit the nail on the head.** I'm **green with envy.**

*Nicole:* Would you just **shut up?** You're **on thin ice with** me right now.

*Ted:* Oh no! Look at me. I'm **shaking in my shoes!**





## IDIOMS – LESSON 4

**(to) butt in** [slang] – to interrupt; to interfere

EXAMPLE 1: Nancy is always **butting in** to other people's business.

EXAMPLE 2: Sara is really rude. She always **butts in** to other people's conversations.

**(to) drive one crazy** – to annoy someone very much

EXAMPLE 1: Don't ask Mrs. Smith how old she is. It **drives her crazy**.

EXAMPLE 2: Please stop chewing gum so loudly. It's **driving me crazy**!

SYNONYMS: to drive one nuts; to drive one up the wall

**(to) go into** – to enter a profession

EXAMPLE 1: Lisa enjoys arguing with people, so she decided to **go into** law.

EXAMPLE 2: Do you like solving people's problems? If so, you should consider **going into** psychology.

NOTE: "Go into" has several other meanings, including:

1. Enter. **Go into** the house and get a pen.
2. Enter another emotional state. Sally **went into** hysterics.
3. Discuss details. I don't have time now to **go into** the whole story.

**green with envy** – desiring another's advantages or things

EXAMPLE 1: When Daniel got promoted to vice president of the bank, his colleagues were **green with envy**.

EXAMPLE 2: You won the lottery? I'm **green with envy**!

**gung ho** – very enthusiastic; very excited (about something)

EXAMPLE 1: Heather is really **gung ho** about her new job.

EXAMPLE 2: Sharon really loves college. She's very **gung ho**.

NOTE: If the expression "gung ho" doesn't sound like English to you, there's a reason. It comes from a Mandarin Chinese phrase meaning "working together." A US Marine Corps commander in China adopted this expression as the motto for his battalion during World War 2 and from there it sailed over to the United States and came into common use.

**head and shoulders above** – far superior to

EXAMPLE 1: The Boston Symphony Orchestra is **head and shoulders above** any other orchestra in the area.

EXAMPLE 2: I can't believe you only won second prize in the competition. You were **head and shoulders above** the first-prize winner!



**(to) hit the nail on the head – to be right**

EXAMPLE 1: Dawn **hit the nail on the head** when she said that Tiffany is jealous of Amber.

EXAMPLE 2: Steve **hit the nail on the head** with his idea of moving his company's manufacturing facility to China.

**(to be) on thin ice (with someone) – to be in a dangerous position; to be temporarily on somebody's bad side**

EXAMPLE 1: Joey was **on thin ice** with his mom after he spent his lunch money on candy bars.

EXAMPLE 2: Bill was **on thin ice** with his girlfriend after she saw him at the movie theater with another girl.

NOTE: There is also the variation "to skate on thin ice." Joey knew he was **skating on thin ice** when he bought candy with his lunch money.

**(to) pay (someone) a compliment – to give someone a compliment; to offer someone an admiring comment**

EXAMPLE 1: Professor Russo **paid Jennifer a compliment**. He said she had a beautiful smile.

EXAMPLE 2: Isn't it wonderful to **pay someone a compliment**? It makes them feel good, and it doesn't cost you anything!

**(to) shake in one's shoes – to tremble with fear; to be afraid**

EXAMPLE 1: Brianna is scared of her French teacher, Monsieur Le Monstre. Whenever he speaks to her, Brianna starts **shaking in her shoes**.

EXAMPLE 2: During the storm, Billy was hiding under his kitchen table and was really **shaking in his shoes**.

**shut up**

1) be quiet, stop speaking

EXAMPLE: The professor talked for hours. I thought he'd never **shut up**.

2) Stop speaking!

EXAMPLE: Nicole kept telling Ted to turn down his stereo. Finally, he got angry and said, "**Shut up!**"

NOTE: Remember that telling somebody to "shut up!" is rude. It's better to say "Be quiet!" or more politely, "Please be quiet!"

**Way to go! – Good work!**

EXAMPLE 1: You won \$2,000 in the poetry writing contest? **Way to go!**

EXAMPLE 2: That was an interesting article you wrote. **Way to go!**



## PRACTICE THE IDIOMS

**Fill in the blank with the missing word:**

- 1) Nicole is in a good mood because her teacher \_\_\_\_ her a compliment.  
a) told                      b) paid                      c) provided
- 2) Nicole's teacher told her she was \_\_\_\_ and shoulders above her classmates.  
a) elbow                      b) neck                      c) head
- 3) When my friend Chad told me he'd just won the lottery, I was \_\_\_\_ with envy.  
a) blue                      b) green                      c) red
- 4) When you do something well, your boss might tell you, "Way \_\_\_\_!"  
a) to come                      b) to go                      c) to act
- 5) When the robbers entered my house, I was in the kitchen shaking in my \_\_\_\_.  
a) slippers                      b) pajamas                      c) shoes
- 6) If somebody is bothering you, you can tell them they're driving you \_\_\_\_.  
a) crazy                      b) angry                      c) unhappy
- 7) If you like power, you might consider going \_\_\_\_ politics.  
a) above                      b) towards                      c) into
- 8) "You've been yelling and screaming for the past two hours. Could you just shut \_\_\_\_ already?"  
a) up                      b) in                      c) off



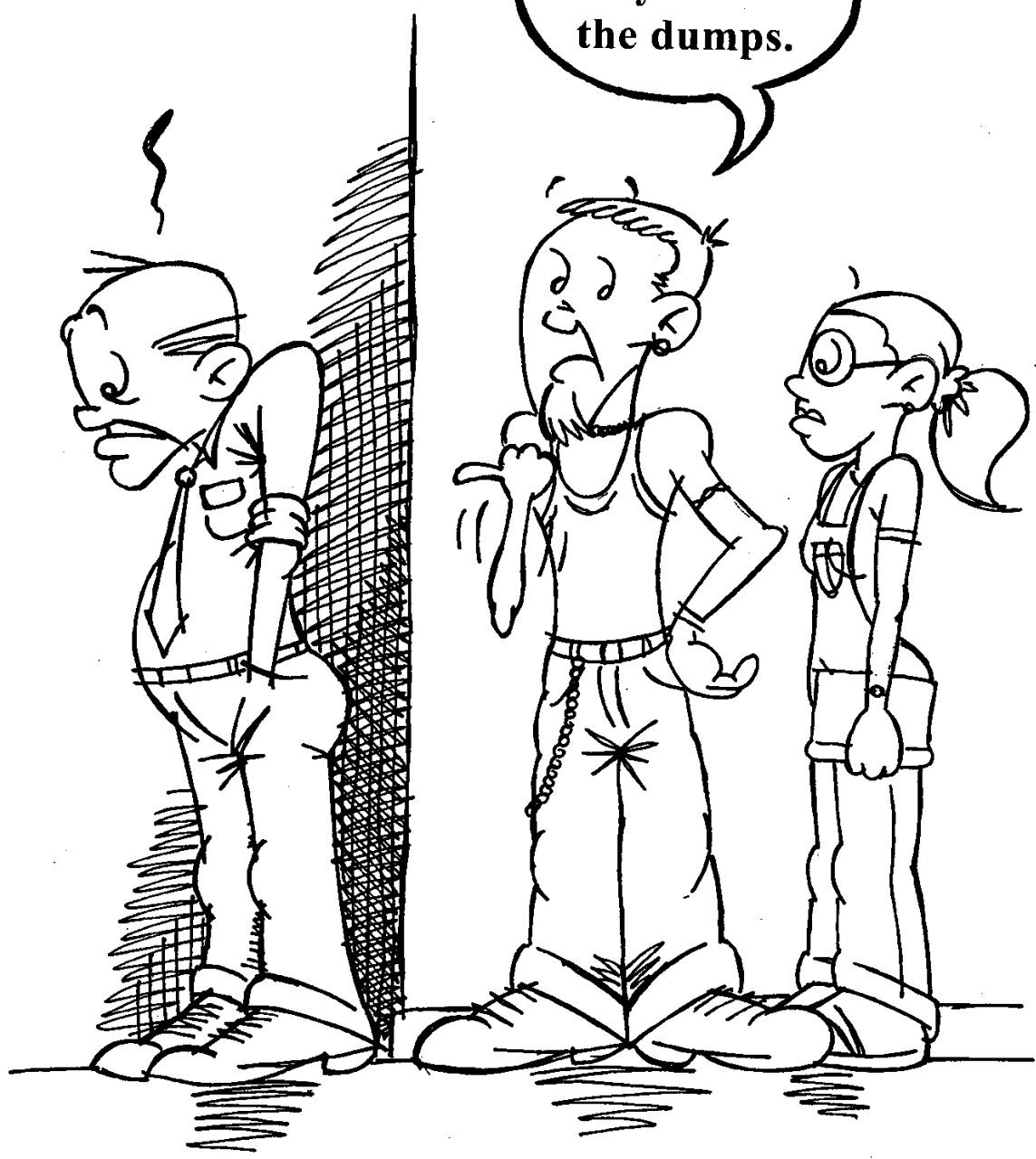
## ★ BONUS PRACTICE

Choose the best substitute for the phrase or sentence in bold:

- 1) When her friend Anna got into Yale, Nicole was **green with envy**.
  - a) sick
  - b) happy for her
  - c) very jealous
  
- 2) Bob and Susan are really **gung ho** about the TV show *Survivor*. They watch it every Thursday night.
  - a) enthusiastic
  - b) concerned
  - c) angry
  
- 3) **Shut up!** I can't take any more of your screaming.
  - a) Talk louder!
  - b) Be quiet!
  - c) Get out!
  
- 4) You got a scholarship to attend Harvard? **Way to go!**
  - a) Too bad!
  - b) Good work!
  - c) Oh well!
  
- 5) Please don't **butt in!** We weren't talking to you.
  - a) look at us
  - b) disagree with us
  - c) interrupt our conversation
  
- 6) These cookies aren't very good. I think you **hit the nail on the head** when you said I should add more sugar next time.
  - a) were wrong
  - b) were right
  - c) were confused



Dad is  
really down in  
the dumps.





## LESSON 5

# TED GOES OUT FOR THE EVENING

*Ted leaves to go visit his girlfriend Amber. Ted's mother Susan says she doesn't really like Amber. She wishes him a good time anyway.*

*Ted:* See you later, Mom!

*Susan:* Where are you going, Ted?

*Ted:* I told Amber I'd **drop by**.

*Susan:* What are you two going to do?

*Ted:* Maybe go to the movies or to a party. Our plans are still **up in the air**.

*Susan:* Why don't you invite her over here?

*Ted:* I don't want to **hang around** here. Dad is really **down in the dumps**.

*Susan:* Is Amber the girl with the nose ring and the purple hair?

*Ted:* Yeah. I'm **crazy about** her!

*Susan:* Don't **take this the wrong way**, but she's not exactly my **cup of tea**.

*Ted:* **Take it easy**, Mom. We're not **about to** get married. We just enjoy **hanging out** together.



**Susan:** I guess **there's no accounting for taste**. **Have a good time**.

**Ted:** Don't worry. We'll **have a blast**!

**Susan:** (**under her breath**) That's what I'm afraid of!



## IDIOMS – LESSON 5

**about to** – *see Lesson 1*

**(to be) crazy about** – to like very much

EXAMPLE 1: Amy is so **crazy about** golf, she'd like to play every day.

EXAMPLE 2: I'm sure Katie will agree to go out on a date with Sam. She's **crazy about** him!

**cup of tea** – the type of person or thing that one generally likes

EXAMPLE 1: Hockey isn't Alan's **cup of tea**. He prefers soccer.

EXAMPLE 2: I know Joy is nice, but she's simply **not my cup of tea**.

NOTE: This expression is almost always used in the negative. She's **not my cup of tea**.

**(to be) down in the dumps** – to feel sad; to be depressed

EXAMPLE 1: It's not surprising that Lisa is **down in the dumps**. Paws, the cat she had for 20 years, just died.

EXAMPLE 2: It's easy to feel **down in the dumps** when it's raining outside.

**(to) drop by** – to pay a short, often unannounced visit

EXAMPLE 1: If we have time before the movie, let's **drop by** Bill's house.

EXAMPLE 2: "Hi, I was in the neighborhood so I thought I'd **drop by**!"

**(to) hang around** – to spend time idly; to linger

EXAMPLE 1: We had to **hang around** the airport for an extra six hours because our flight was delayed.

EXAMPLE 2: Nina's boyfriend Boris is coming over soon. She hopes her parents aren't planning on **hanging around** the house.

**(to) hang out** – to spend time (often doing nothing)

EXAMPLE 1: Ted spent all of last summer **hanging out** by his friend's pool.

EXAMPLE 2: Kathy and her friends like to **hang out** at the mall.

NOTE: "Hang out with" means to keep company with someone.



**(to) have a blast [slang] – to enjoy oneself very much**

EXAMPLE 1: Last summer, Nicole **had a blast** backpacking through Europe with some friends.

EXAMPLE 2: Heather spent her spring break in Fort Lauderdale with millions of other college students. She **had a blast**!

**(to) have a good time – to enjoy oneself**

EXAMPLE 1: Marcy and José **had a good time** salsa dancing at Babalu, a nightclub in Manhattan.

EXAMPLE 2: Nora and Jake **had a good time** on their honeymoon in Maui.

**take it easy – relax; don't worry**

EXAMPLE 1: You lost your keys? **Take it easy**, I'm sure you'll find them.

EXAMPLE 2: Stop yelling and **take it easy**. I'm sure there's a good explanation for why Joe borrowed your car without asking first.

**(to) take something the wrong way – to take offense**

EXAMPLE 1: Don't **take this the wrong way**, but I liked your hair better before you got it cut.

EXAMPLE 2: Jessica is offended. I guess she **took it the wrong way** when I told her she should exercise more.

NOTE: This expression is often used in the negative form: "Don't take this the wrong way, but..."

**there's no accounting for taste – it's impossible to explain individual likes and dislikes**

EXAMPLE 1: Ted likes to put sugar on his spaghetti. I guess **there's no accounting for taste**.

EXAMPLE 2: Tiffany has a tattoo of a squirrel on her leg. **There's no accounting for taste**.

**under one's breath – quietly; in a whisper**

EXAMPLE 1: "Amber is strange," muttered Nicole **under her breath**, as Ted was leaving the room.

EXAMPLE 2: Mike agreed to take out the garbage, saying **under his breath**, "I always do the dirty work around here."

**(to be) up in the air – not yet determined; uncertain**

EXAMPLE 1: It might rain later, so our plans for the picnic are **up in the air**.

EXAMPLE 2: Our trip to Russia is **up in the air**. We aren't sure we'll get our visas in time.



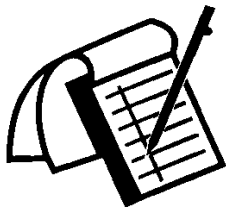
## PRACTICE THE IDIOMS

**Fill in the blank with the missing word:**

- 1) Bob was fired. It's not surprising that he's down \_\_\_\_ the dumps.  
a) at                      b) in                      c) with
- 2) Ted thinks Amber is wonderful. He's just crazy \_\_\_\_ her.  
a) about                  b) around                  c) into
- 3) "Don't \_\_\_\_ this the wrong way, but I really don't like your girlfriend," said Susan to Ted.  
a) understand      b) put                      c) take
- 4) Ted likes to hang \_\_\_\_ with Amber. She's fun to be with.  
a) on                      b) out                      c) in
- 5) Ted decided to go over to Amber's house. He'd promised her he'd drop \_\_\_\_.  
a) by                      b) around                  c) near
- 6) Bob and Susan don't know where they'll go on vacation. Their travel plans are still up \_\_\_\_ the air.  
a) around                  b) in                      c) above
- 7) Judy muttered something nasty \_\_\_\_ her breath, but I couldn't quite hear it.  
a) about                  b) under                      c) below
- 8) Why are you hanging \_\_\_\_ the house on such a beautiful day? You should be outside enjoying the weather.  
a) inside                  b) from                      c) around

*ANSWERS TO LESSON 5, p. 160*





## ***Review for Lessons 1-5***

**Fill in the blank with the missing word:**

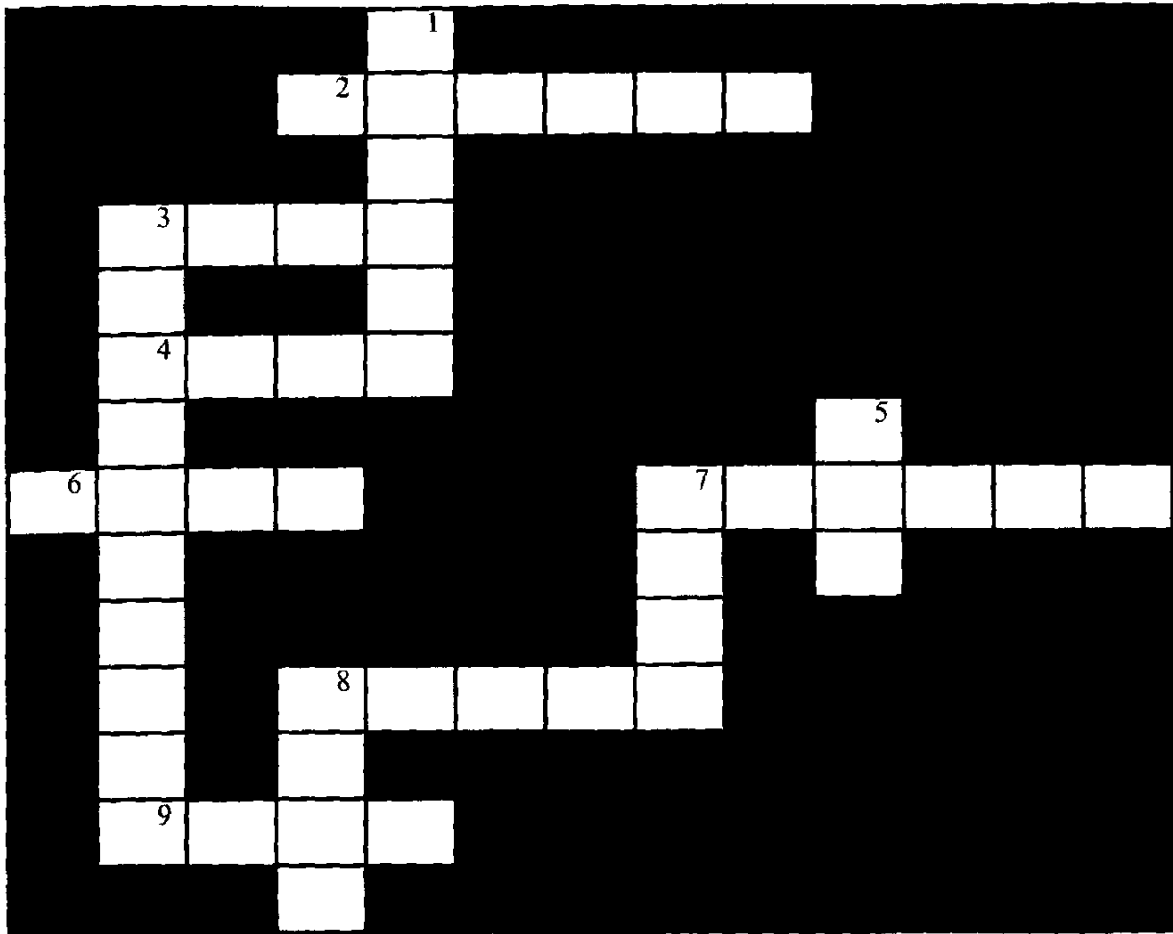
- 1) After copying from his friend's paper during the test, Ted was on \_\_\_\_ ice with his chemistry teacher.  
a) thick                      b) thin                      c) dangerous
- 2) Ted's teacher hit the \_\_\_\_ on the head. Ted should spend less time playing guitar and more time studying.  
a) tack                      b) nail                      c) screw
- 3) I'm not really crazy about my friend's husband. He talks too much, and he never listens to what anybody else is saying. He's just not my cup of \_\_\_\_.  
a) coffee                      b) cocoa                      c) tea
- 4) If Ted has his \_\_\_\_ set on going to New York University, he's going to have to buckle down and start studying more.  
a) life                      b) brain                      c) heart
- 5) It's not surprising that Nicole gets such good grades. She's as \_\_\_\_ as a tack.  
a) smart                      b) sharp                      c) clever
- 6) When Peter \_\_\_\_ his temper, it's very scary. He throws furniture everywhere.  
a) loses                      b) finds                      c) opens
- 7) After Jane started hitting the \_\_\_\_, her grades started improving immediately.  
a) work                      b) books                      c) teachers



- 8) Nicole said something \_\_\_\_ her breath, but I couldn't hear it. When I asked her to repeat it, she refused.
- a) on                      b) about                      c) under
- 9) Will Ted ever be the best student in his class? Sure, when \_\_\_\_ fly!
- a) sheep                      b) goats                      c) pigs
- 10) A positive attitude leads to success. When things get difficult, it's important to keep your \_\_\_\_ up.
- a) chin                      b) neck                      c) head
- 11) Bob was all stressed \_\_\_\_ because the traffic was making him late for a doctor's appointment.
- a) over                      b) out                      c) up
- 12) Frank knew that the judge had already decided he was guilty. There was no point \_\_\_\_ arguing with him.
- a) in                      b) around                      c) about
- 13) Some people think Nicole and Susan are sisters. That really \_\_\_\_ Nicole crazy!
- a) does                      b) causes                      c) drives
- 14) Ted has been slacking \_\_\_\_ since the first day of high school, so it's not surprising that he's doing so poorly.
- a) around                      b) off                      c) about
- 15) During the Depression in the 1930's, many families in America were living from hand to \_\_\_\_.
- a) arm                      b) mouth                      c) hand



# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



## Across

2. "What's the \_\_\_\_?" Sue asked Bob. "You look very unhappy."
3. Sue doesn't want Bob to be sad. She wants him to keep his \_\_\_\_ up.
4. Bob's boss doesn't want Bob back. He's already made up his \_\_\_\_.
6. After failing his chemistry class once, Ted is taking it again. "Don't \_\_\_\_ it this time!" said his father.
7. Bob doesn't like the people at Honest Abe's Furniture Store. They give him the \_\_\_\_.
8. Ted's father wants him to study more. He tells Ted to hit the \_\_\_\_.
9. You got an "A" in every subject? That's very impressive! You must be as sharp as a \_\_\_\_.

## Down

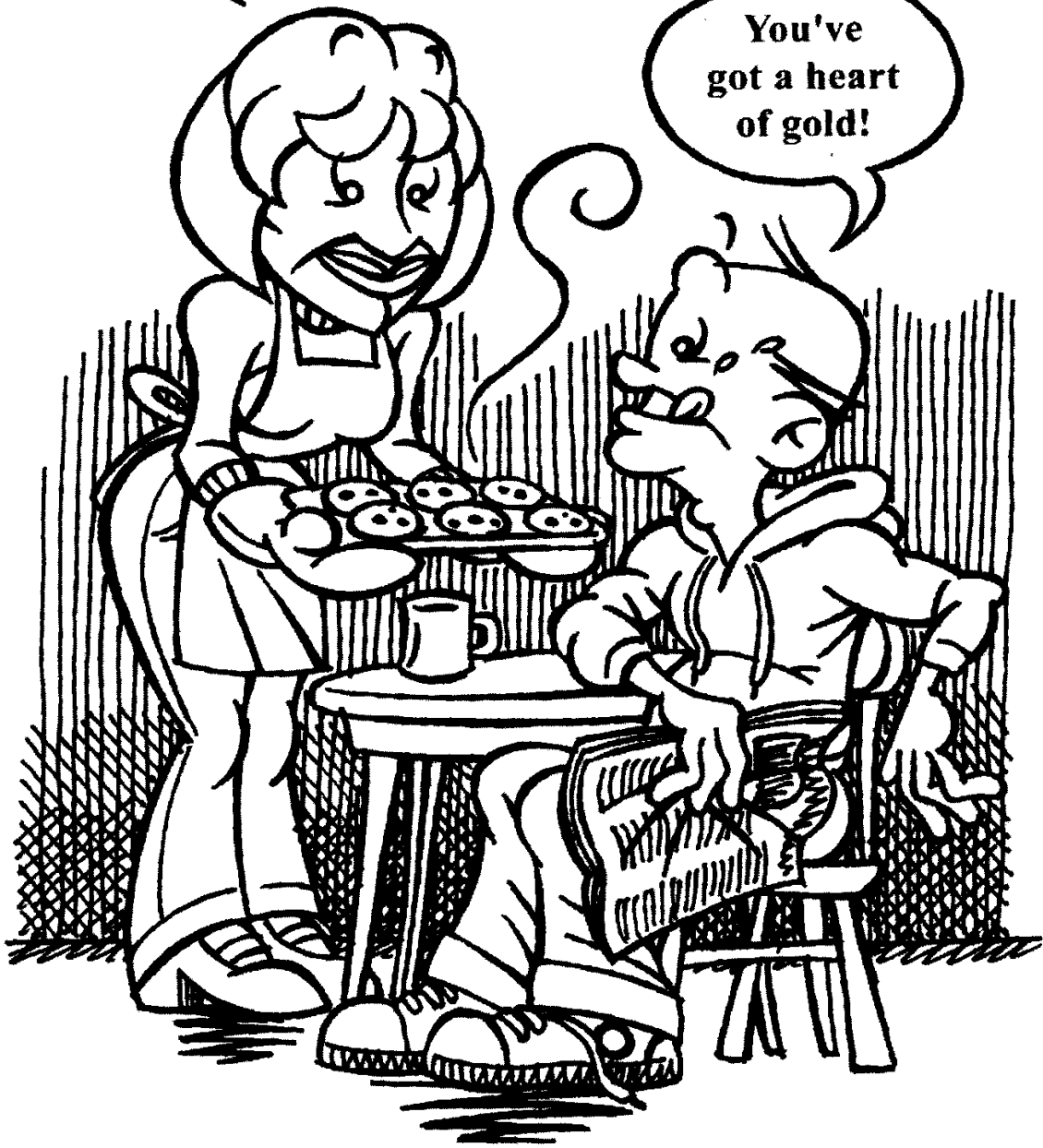
1. Bob was \_\_\_\_\_. Now he needs to find a new job.
3. Nicole's teacher was pleased with her and paid her a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Ted's fancy new CD player cost an arm and a \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Ted is doing poorly in chemistry because he \_\_\_\_\_ class so often.
8. I wouldn't trust Lisa. She has a long history of stabbing her friends in the \_\_\_\_\_.

ANSWERS TO REVIEW, p. 161



I baked  
cookies for  
you!

You've  
got a heart  
of gold!





## LESSON 6

# SUSAN STAYS HOME AND BAKES COOKIES

*Susan decides to cheer up her husband. Bob loves her homemade cookies. Nicole suggests she start a cookie business.*

*Susan:* Bob, I baked cookies for you.

*Bob:* That was so nice of you, dear. You've got a **heart of gold!**

*Susan:* Go ahead and **pig out!**

*Bob:* These are delicious!

*Susan:* I thought they might **cheer you up**. You've been in a **bad mood** lately.

*Bob:* I guess I have been a little **on edge**. But these cookies are **just what the doctor ordered!**

*Nicole:* Do I smell cookies?

*Susan:* Yes, Nicole. **Help yourself.**

*Nicole:* Yum-yum.\* These are **out of this world**. You could go **into business** selling these!

*Bob:* You could call them Susan's Scrumptious Cookies. You'd **make a bundle**.

*Susan:* **Good thinking!**



*Nicole:* Don't forget to **give me credit** for the idea after you're rich and famous!

*Susan:* You know I always **give credit where credit is due!**

\* Yum-yum: this is said when something is delicious. You can also say "mmm, mmm" or "mmm-mmm, good."



## IDIOMS – LESSON 6

**(to) cheer someone up** – to make someone happy

EXAMPLE 1: Susan called her friend in the hospital to **cheer her up**.

EXAMPLE 2: My father has been depressed for weeks now. I don't know what to do to **cheer him up**.

NOTE: You can tell somebody to "Cheer up!" if they are feeling sad.

**(to) give (someone) credit** – to acknowledge someone's contribution; to recognize a positive trait in someone

EXAMPLE 1: The scientist **gave his assistant credit** for the discovery.

EXAMPLE 2: I can't believe you asked your boss for a raise when your company is doing so poorly. I must **give you credit** for your courage!

**(to) give credit where credit is due** – to give thanks or acknowledgement to the person who deserves it

EXAMPLE: I will be sure to thank you when I give my speech. I always **give credit where credit is due**.

**(to) go into business** – to start a business

EXAMPLE 1: Jeff decided to **go into business** selling baseball cards.

EXAMPLE 2: Eva **went into business** selling her homemade muffins.

**good thinking** – good idea; smart planning

EXAMPLE 1: I'm glad you brought an umbrella — that was **good thinking!**

EXAMPLE 2: You reserved our movie tickets over the Internet? **Good thinking!**

**(to) have a heart of gold** – to be very kind and giving

EXAMPLE 1: Alexander **has a heart of gold** and always thinks of others before himself.

EXAMPLE 2: You adopted five children from a Romanian orphanage? You've got a **heart of gold!**



### **Help yourself – serve yourself**

EXAMPLE 1: “**Help yourselves** to cookies and coffee,” said Maria before the meeting started.

EXAMPLE 2: You don’t need to wait for me to offer you something. Please just **help yourself** to whatever you want.

NOTE: Pay attention to the reflexive form: *Help yourself* in singular, *help yourselves* in plural.

### **(to be) in a bad mood – unhappy; depressed; irritable**

EXAMPLE 1: After her boyfriend broke up with her, Nicole was **in a bad mood** for several days.

EXAMPLE 2: I don’t like to see you **in a bad mood**. How can I cheer you up?

### **just what the doctor ordered – exactly what was needed**

EXAMPLE 1: Martin wanted a hot drink after spending the day skiing. A cup of hot cocoa was **just what the doctor ordered**.

EXAMPLE 2: Our trip to Florida was so relaxing. It was **just what the doctor ordered**!

### **(to) make a bundle – to make a lot of money**

EXAMPLE 1: Bob’s friend Charles **made a bundle** in the stock market and retired at age 45.

EXAMPLE 2: Sara **made a bundle** selling her old fur coats on eBay, a website where you can buy and sell used things.

### **(to be) on edge – nervous; irritable**

EXAMPLE 1: Whenever Susan feels **on edge**, she takes several deep breaths and starts to feel more relaxed.

EXAMPLE 2: Ever since his car accident, Neil has felt **on edge**.

### **out of this world – delicious**

EXAMPLE 1: Mrs. Field’s oatmeal raisin cookies are **out of this world**!

EXAMPLE 2: Mmmm, I love your chicken soup. It’s **out of this world**!

### **(to) pig out [slang] – to eat greedily; to stuff oneself**

EXAMPLE 1: Ted **pigged out** on hot dogs and hamburgers at the barbeque and then got a stomachache.

EXAMPLE 2: “Nicole, stop **pigging out** on cookies or you’ll never be able to eat your dinner!”

NOTE: Pay attention to the preposition “on” after the verb “to pig out.” One can **pig out on** hotdogs, **pig out on** candy, **pig out on** ice cream.



## PRACTICE THE IDIOMS

**Choose the best substitute for the phrase or sentence in bold:**

- 1) Thanks for baking cookies for me. **You've got a heart of gold.**
  - a) You're a very nice person.
  - b) You're a reliable person.
  - c) You're very generous with your money.
  
- 2) I baked these cookies for you. **Why don't you pig out?**
  - a) Please take just one cookie.
  - b) Take as many cookies as you like.
  - c) Why don't you ever eat my cookies?
  
- 3) I know you'll like my cookies since **you've got a sweet tooth.**
  - a) your teeth are hurting
  - b) you don't like sweet things
  - c) you like sweet things
  
- 4) **You should go into business selling cookies.**
  - a) You should go to the store and buy some cookies.
  - b) You should try to get a job baking cookies.
  - c) You should start a company that sells cookies.
  
- 5) I baked these cookies. **Help yourself!**
  - a) Let me get you one!
  - b) Take some!
  - c) You need to get some help!
  
- 6) If you went into business selling these delicious cookies, **you'd make a bundle.**
  - a) you'd make many cookies
  - b) you'd make a lot of money
  - c) you'd make a few dollars



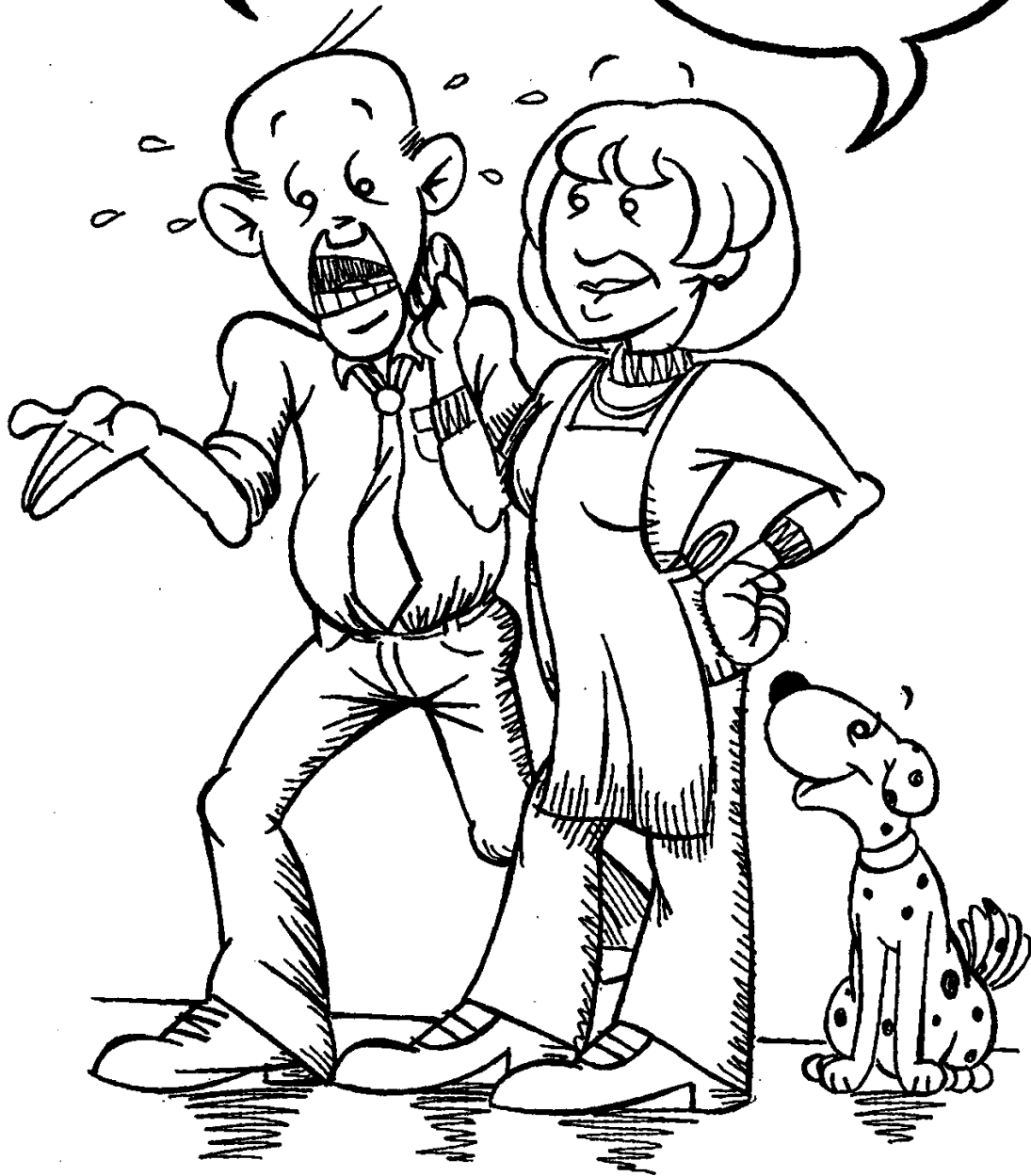
- 7) **Good thinking!**
- a) That's a good idea!
  - b) It's good that you're thinking!
  - c) Keep thinking good thoughts!
- 8) I was thirsty. This iced tea is **just what the doctor ordered.**
- a) exactly what I needed
  - b) very healthy for me
  - c) exactly what my doctor recommended

*ANSWERS TO LESSON 6, p. 161*



Are you  
prepared to work  
like a dog?

No, I'm going  
to hire you to  
work like a dog!





## LESSON 7

# SUSAN HIRES BOB TO RUN HER BUSINESS

*Susan stays up all night thinking about her cookie business. In the morning, she discusses it with Bob. Bob agrees to work for her.*

*Bob:* You're up **bright and early** this morning, Susan.

*Susan:* I **didn't sleep a wink**. I was awake all night thinking about the new business.

*Bob:* Running your own business is lots of work. Are you prepared to **work like a dog**?

*Susan:* No. But I am prepared to hire *you* to run the business.

*Bob:* You want *me* to run a cookie business? **Fat chance!**

*Susan:* Why not?

*Bob:* I **don't have a clue** about making cookies. I don't even know how to turn the oven on!

*Susan:* I'll give you a **crash course**.

*Bob:* Do I have to do the baking?

*Susan:* No. You'll just manage the business side.



*Bob:*     **Needless to say**, I have **mixed feelings** about working for you.

*Susan:*   I'll be nice. I promise you'll be a **happy camper**.

*Bob:*     Okay. **Let's give it a shot**, boss!



## IDIOMS – LESSON 7

### **bright and early** – early in the morning

EXAMPLE 1: Our flight to Berlin leaves at 7:00 a.m. tomorrow, so we'll have to get up **bright and early**.

EXAMPLE 2: We have lots of cookies to bake so we'll have to start **bright and early** tomorrow.

SYNONYM: at the crack of dawn

### **crash course** – short and intensive instruction

EXAMPLE 1: Yesterday, Joan's son sat down with her for a couple of hours and gave her a **crash course** on using the Internet.

EXAMPLE 2: Rachel had a date on Friday night with an auto mechanic. He gave her a **crash course** on changing her oil.

### **Fat chance!** – definitely not

EXAMPLE 1: The boys at school are always laughing at Dana. Will she be invited to the school dance? **Fat chance!**

EXAMPLE 2: You want to borrow my new car and drive it across the country? **Fat chance!**

SYNONYMS: never in a million years; no way!

### **(to) give it a shot** – to try something

EXAMPLE 1: I've never tried to make wine in my bathtub before, but perhaps I'll **give it a shot**.

EXAMPLE 2: You can't open that jar? Let me **give it a shot**.

SYNONYMS: to give it a try; to try one's hand at something

NOTE: "To give it one's best shot" means to try as hard as one can. I know you're nervous about the interview — just **give it your best shot**.



**happy camper** [slang] – a happy person; a satisfied participant

EXAMPLE 1: When Linda's passport was stolen in Florence, she was not a **happy camper**.

EXAMPLE 2: Steve is taking five difficult courses this semester. He's not a **happy camper**!

NOTE: This expression is usually used in the negative (not a happy camper).

**(to have) mixed feelings** – to feel positive about one aspect of something and negative about another

EXAMPLE 1: When our houseguests decided to stay for another week, I had **mixed feelings**. On the one hand, I enjoyed hanging out with them. On the other hand, I was tired of cooking for them.

EXAMPLE 2: I have **mixed feelings** about the president of our company. He's good with the clients, but he's nasty to his employees.

**needless to say** – obviously

EXAMPLE 1: You've got a test tomorrow morning. **Needless to say**, you can't stay out late tonight.

EXAMPLE 2: **Needless to say**, you shouldn't have waited until Christmas Eve to do your shopping. The stores are going to be very crowded!

SYNONYM: it goes without saying. Example: You've got a test tomorrow, so **it goes without saying** that you can't stay out late tonight.

**(to) not have a clue** – to know nothing about

EXAMPLE 1: Bob talks about working at McDonald's, but the truth is he **doesn't have a clue** about making hamburgers.

EXAMPLE 2: "Do you know how to fix a broken printer?" – "No, I **don't have a clue**!"

**(to) not sleep a wink** – to be awake all night

EXAMPLE 1: Ted was so nervous about his chemistry test that he didn't **sleep a wink** the night before.

EXAMPLE 2: It's not surprising that Jill **didn't sleep a wink** last night. She drank a large cup of coffee before going to bed.

**(to) work like a dog** – to work very hard

EXAMPLE 1: Larry became an investment banker after college, and now he **works like a dog**.

EXAMPLE 2: Al **worked like a dog** on his term paper and got an "A+" on it.

SYNONYMS: to work one's tail off; to work like a horse; to work one's fingers to the bone



## PRACTICE THE IDIOMS

**Fill in the blank with the missing word:**

- 1) Bob was surprised to see his wife up \_\_\_\_ and early in the morning.  
a) light                      b) bright                      c) ready
- 2) Last week I worked 80 hours. I really worked like a \_\_\_\_.  
a) dog                      b) cat                      c) squirrel
- 3) Bob had never baked anything before in his life. He didn't even have a \_\_\_\_ about how to turn the oven on.  
a) hint                      b) suggestion                      c) clue
- 4) If you need to learn something quickly, you'd better take a \_\_\_\_ course.  
a) crash                      b) fast                      c) beginner's
- 5) Bob wasn't sure he wanted to work for his wife. He had \_\_\_\_ feelings.  
a) nervous                      b) mixed                      c) confused
- 6) Jennifer's boss is lousy and her salary is low. She's not a happy \_\_\_\_.  
a) scout                      b) tourist                      c) camper
- 7) Bob decided to work for Susan. He figured he'd give it a \_\_\_\_.  
a) shot                      b) pop                      c) choice
- 8) Nicole was up all night finishing her Spanish homework. She didn't sleep a \_\_\_\_.  
a) drink                      b) blink                      c) wink

*ANSWERS TO LESSON 7, p. 161*



## LESSON 8

# TED FORMS A ROCK BAND

*Ted plans to become a successful musician. First, he needs Susan to loan him money for a new guitar. Susan suggests that Ted bake cookies to earn the money.*

*Susan:* You're **in good spirits** today, Ted.

*Ted:* I've got great news, Mom.

*Susan:* What is it?

*Ted:* Amber and I are going to start a rock band!

*Susan:* **Good for you!**

*Ted:* Mom, I'm not going to **beat around the bush**. I need to borrow \$1,000 for a new guitar.

*Susan:* Ted, your father and I can't **shell out** that much. We aren't **made of money**.

*Ted:* You're not? I thought you were millionaires, like Donald and Ivana Trump!\*

*Susan:* Ha ha. This is no time to be a **wise guy**!

*Ted:* I promise I'll pay you back.

*Susan:* How?



- Ted:** We're going to **take the music world by storm** and make lots of money.
- Susan:** That sounds like a **pipe dream**. Aren't high school rock bands a **dime a dozen**?
- Ted:** Yeah, but we're different. With my guitar playing and Amber's beautiful voice, we're sure to **make a splash**!
- Susan:** Well, we're going through **hard times**. You're going to have to work for that \$1,000.
- Ted:** How?
- Susan:** You can bake cookies.
- Ted:** I bet Mrs. Clapton never made Eric\*\* bake cookies, but I guess **those are the breaks**.

\* Donald Trump is a famous American millionaire who made his money in real estate. Ivana is his ex-wife.

\*\* Eric Clapton is a very popular guitarist.



## IDIOMS – LESSON 8

**(to) beat around the bush** – to talk *around* the subject; to avoid getting to the point

EXAMPLE 1: Kara **beat around the bush** for an hour, then finally told us she needed a ride to Kennedy Airport.

EXAMPLE 2: If you want something, tell me. Don't **beat around the bush**!

**dime a dozen** – so plentiful as to be nothing special; common

EXAMPLE 1: Reality TV shows are a **dime a dozen** these days.

EXAMPLE 2: There are so many Starbucks coffee shops in Manhattan, they're a **dime a dozen**.

NOTE: This expression comes from the fact that a "dime" is worth only ten cents (very little value).



**Good for you! – Good job! Well done!**

EXAMPLE 1: You won \$100,000 on the TV game show *Jeopardy*? **Good for you!**

EXAMPLE 2: You passed your math test? **Good for you!**

**hard times – a time of difficulty**

EXAMPLE 1: Since his wife left him for her dentist, Dan has been going through **hard times**.

EXAMPLE 2: Nancy's family is going through **hard times**. Her father just lost his job.

**(to be) in good spirits – happy; in a good mood**

EXAMPLE 1: After she won the tennis tournament, Elizabeth was **in good spirits**.

EXAMPLE 2: Sam was **in good spirits** after receiving his Christmas bonus.

**made of money – very rich**

EXAMPLE 1: My neighbor is re-modeling his house to look like Versailles. He doesn't have good taste, but he certainly is **made of money**.

EXAMPLE 2: Max should be willing to loan you \$10,000 to start your new business. He's **made of money**.

SYNONYMS: loaded; rolling in dough; to have money to burn

**(to) make a splash – to win popularity quickly**

EXAMPLE 1: Nicole's beautiful cousin Cecilia from Santo Domingo really **made a splash** at the high school dance.

EXAMPLE 2: Those new jeans really **made a splash**. All the kids are wearing them.

SYNONYM: to be a hit

**(to) pay (someone) back – to repay a loan or debt**

EXAMPLE 1: Nicole **paid her friend back** the \$10 she borrowed.

EXAMPLE 2: You can borrow \$50, but don't forget to **pay me back**!

NOTE: "Pay back" also means to "get revenge." Example: I know you're the one who stole my car, and one day I'll think of a way to **pay you back**!

**pipe dream – an unrealistic hope**

EXAMPLE 1: Susan would like to move to New Zealand and write romance novels, but she knows that's just a **pipe dream**.

EXAMPLE 2: You want to become a famous actor on Broadway? That sounds like a **pipe dream**.



**(to) shell out** – to pay (often more than one would like)

EXAMPLE 1: Bob **shelled out** \$5,000 for Nicole's piano lessons before she decided she'd rather play the flute.

EXAMPLE 2: How much am I going to have to **shell out** to get two tickets to the Rolling Stones concert?

**(to) take (something) by storm** – to win popularity quickly

EXAMPLE 1: The play "The Producers" really **took New York by storm**.

EXAMPLE 2: That new restaurant really **took Chicago by storm**!

**(that's or those are) the breaks** – when something bad happens and you can't do anything about it

EXAMPLE 1: By the time we got to the theater, the new Harry Potter movie was already sold out. Oh well, **that's the breaks**!

EXAMPLE 2: Your glasses fell on a rock and broke while you were fishing? **Those are the breaks**!

**wise guy** [slang] – a smart aleck; one who makes a lot of sarcastic comments

EXAMPLE 1: When Mrs. Lee asked Joey what he wanted to be when he grew up, he said, "An adult." She told him not to be such a **wise guy**.

EXAMPLE 2: That clerk in the video store is a real **wise guy**. He's always making nasty comments about the customers.

SYNONYMS: wise ass [rude], smart ass [rude]

## PRACTICE THE IDIOMS

Choose the best substitute for the phrase in bold:

- 1) I'm **in good spirits** today because I got a promotion at work.
  - a) happy
  - b) drunk
  - c) tired
- 2) Renting an apartment on Park Avenue in Manhattan is difficult, unless you're **made of money**.
  - a) wealthy
  - b) strange
  - c) famous

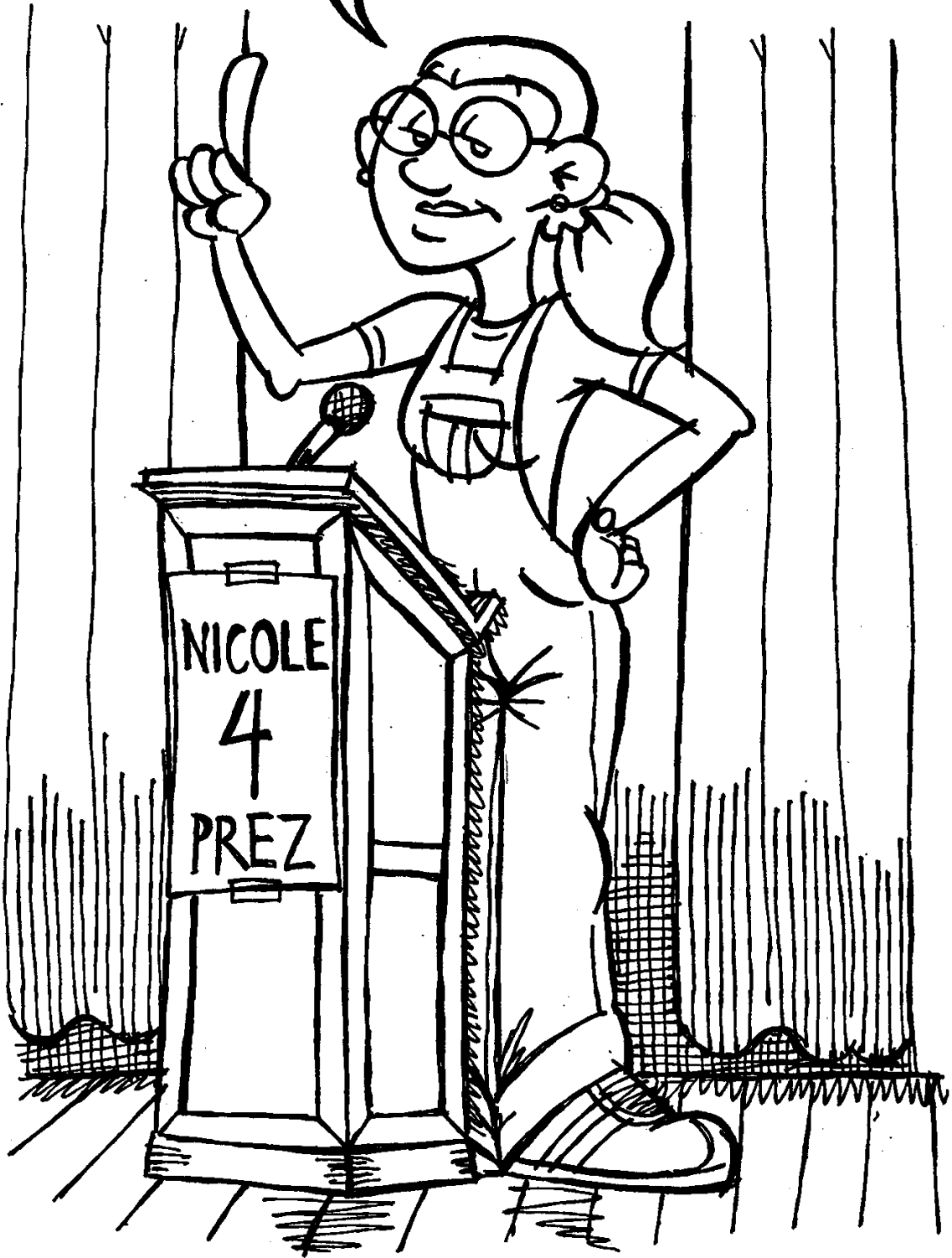


- 3) My friend's daughter paints beautiful pictures. In a few years, **she'll take the art world by storm.**
- a) something bad will happen and she'll lose her job
  - b) she'll draw an excellent painting of a storm
  - c) she'll become a very successful artist
- 4) Susan thinks that Ted's plan to become a famous rock star is **a pipe dream.**
- a) something that is not likely to happen
  - b) Ted's biggest hope
  - c) something very realistic
- 5) If you're looking for a new suit, you shouldn't have a problem. Clothing shops in this town are **a dime a dozen.**
- a) hard to find
  - b) everywhere
  - c) lousy
- 6) Ted performed at his high school dance. He knew he'd **made a splash** when all the girls started singing along.
- a) done something wrong
  - b) made a very positive impression
  - c) created waves
- 7) Being **a wise guy** can be fun, but it might not make you popular with your teachers.
- a) a very intelligent person
  - b) an obnoxious person who makes sarcastic comments
  - c) a person whom everybody admires
- 8) Nicole wants to attend Yale, but her parents don't want to **shell out** \$100,000 for the tuition.
- a) waste
  - b) save
  - c) pay

*ANSWERS TO LESSON 8, p. 161*



I'm by far the  
best candidate  
for president!





## LESSON 9

# NICOLE FOR PRESIDENT!

*Nicole discusses her plans to run for student body president. Nicole wants Ted to ask his friends to vote for her. Ted agrees, in exchange for Nicole's help with his homework.*

*Nicole:* I've decided to run for student body president! If I'm going to become a senator one day, I should **get some experience under my belt** now.

*Ted:* Andrea Jenkins is also running. She'll give you a **run for your money!**

*Nicole:* Andrea Jenkins is an idiot. I'm **by far** the better candidate.

*Ted:* Don't be so **full of yourself!** I might vote for Andrea.

*Nicole:* Stop **kidding around**. Let's **get down to business**. I need your help.

*Ted:* You want *me* to help *you*?

*Nicole:* Yes. I need you to **talk** your friends **into** voting for me.

*Ted:* But you never **give my friends the time of day**. All you give them is the **cold shoulder**.



*Nicole:* That's because they've got blue hair and nose rings!

*Ted:* They're better than your friends — a bunch of **goody-goodies** and **brown-nosers**!

*Nicole:* That's **beside the point**. Let's talk about *your* friends and *their* votes.

*Ted:* Okay. **You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours**. If you do my chemistry homework, I'll help you get the votes.

*Nicole:* I'm not **crazy about** that idea. But, okay, **it's a deal**. I hope I can **count on you**.



## IDIOMS – LESSON 9

**beside the point** – *see Lesson 3*

**brown-noser** [slang] – a person who's constantly trying to win favor with people above them, such as teachers or bosses

EXAMPLE 1: Lauren is such a **brown-noser**. She's always telling her teacher how much she enjoys class.

EXAMPLE 2: Dennis brought the boss lunch today? What a **brown-noser**!

NOTE: You will also see the verb form of this expression: "to brown-nose." Example: Dennis is always **brown-nosing** the boss, but I still don't think he's going to get a promotion.

**by far** – by a wide margin; by a great difference

EXAMPLE 1: Some people think Tom Hanks is **by far** the best actor in America today.

EXAMPLE 2: Mediterranean Grill is **by far** the best restaurant in town. No wonder it's so hard to get a reservation there!

SYNONYMS: by a long shot; far and away; hands down



**(to) count on someone** – to depend or rely on someone

EXAMPLE 1: My brother has a great sense of humor, so I can always **count on him** to cheer me up.

EXAMPLE 2: If I can **count on you** to wake me up, I won't set my alarm clock.

**(to be) crazy about** – *see Lesson 3*

**full of oneself** – to think too much of oneself

EXAMPLE 1: After Angela appeared on the cover of *Vogue* magazine, she was really **full of herself**.

EXAMPLE 2: Mitch thinks he's really great. He's so **full of himself**.

**(to) get down to business** – to get serious about a task

EXAMPLE 1: The book club members spent the first two hours of their meeting eating and drinking before finally **getting down to business**.

EXAMPLE 2: Our dinner guests are arriving in two hours. We'd better **get down to business** and start preparing.

**(to) get or to have under one's belt** – to have or to get experience

EXAMPLE 1: Kristen had three years of working for a large law firm **under her belt** before leaving to start her own firm.

EXAMPLE 2: Ernie needs to get an MBA **under his belt** to get the job he wants.

**(to) give (someone) a run for (one's) money** – to be strong competition

EXAMPLE 1: We lost the soccer tournament, but we certainly **gave the girls from Stamford High School a run for their money**.

EXAMPLE 2: Tina is a good tennis player and always **gives me a run for my money**.

**(to) give someone the cold shoulder** – to be cold to someone on purpose; to snub someone

EXAMPLE 1: When Lisa saw Amber at the mall, she didn't even stop to talk to her. She really **gave her the cold shoulder**.

EXAMPLE 2: I can't understand why Joe would **give you the cold shoulder**. I thought you two were good friends!

SYNONYM: to blow someone off. Example: Amber can't understand why Lisa **blew her off** at the mall.



**(to not) give someone the time of day** – to ignore someone; to refuse to pay any attention to someone

EXAMPLE 1: Sandra never **gave me the time of day** back in college, but now she calls me all the time for advice.

EXAMPLE 2: Why don't you find a new stockbroker? Yours is always so busy, she barely **gives you the time of day**.

**goody-goody** – self-righteously or smugly good

EXAMPLE 1: **Goody-goodies** usually sit in the front row and smile at the teacher during class.

EXAMPLE 2: Samantha is a real **goody-goody**. She always offers to erase the blackboard at the end of class.

SYNONYMS: goody two-shoes; teacher's pet

**it's a deal** – I agree (to a proposal or offer)

EXAMPLE 1: You'll make dinner every night for a month if I help you with your homework? Okay, **it's a deal!**

EXAMPLE 2: "If you rake up all the leaves in front of the house, I'll do the dishes." – "**It's a deal!**"

**(to) kid around** – to joke around; to tease

EXAMPLE 1: Jeremy loves to **kid around**, so don't be offended by anything he says.

EXAMPLE 2: While they were **kidding around**, Tim accidentally poked Rob in the eye. He had to be rushed to the emergency room of the hospital.

NOTE: You will often hear this in the negative "not kidding around." This means to take something very seriously. Example: The White House is **not kidding around** with airport security.

**(to) talk into** – to persuade; to convince

EXAMPLE 1: Chris didn't want to jump out of the plane, but Erin **talked him into it**.

EXAMPLE 2: Stop trying to **talk me into** going to the dance club on Saturday night. I already decided that I'm going to Maria's party instead.

**you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours** – if you do me a favor, I'll do you a favor; let's cooperate

EXAMPLE 1: I'll help you with your homework if you do the dishes. **You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours.**

EXAMPLE 2: If I drive you into the city, will you pick up my dry cleaning? **You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours.**



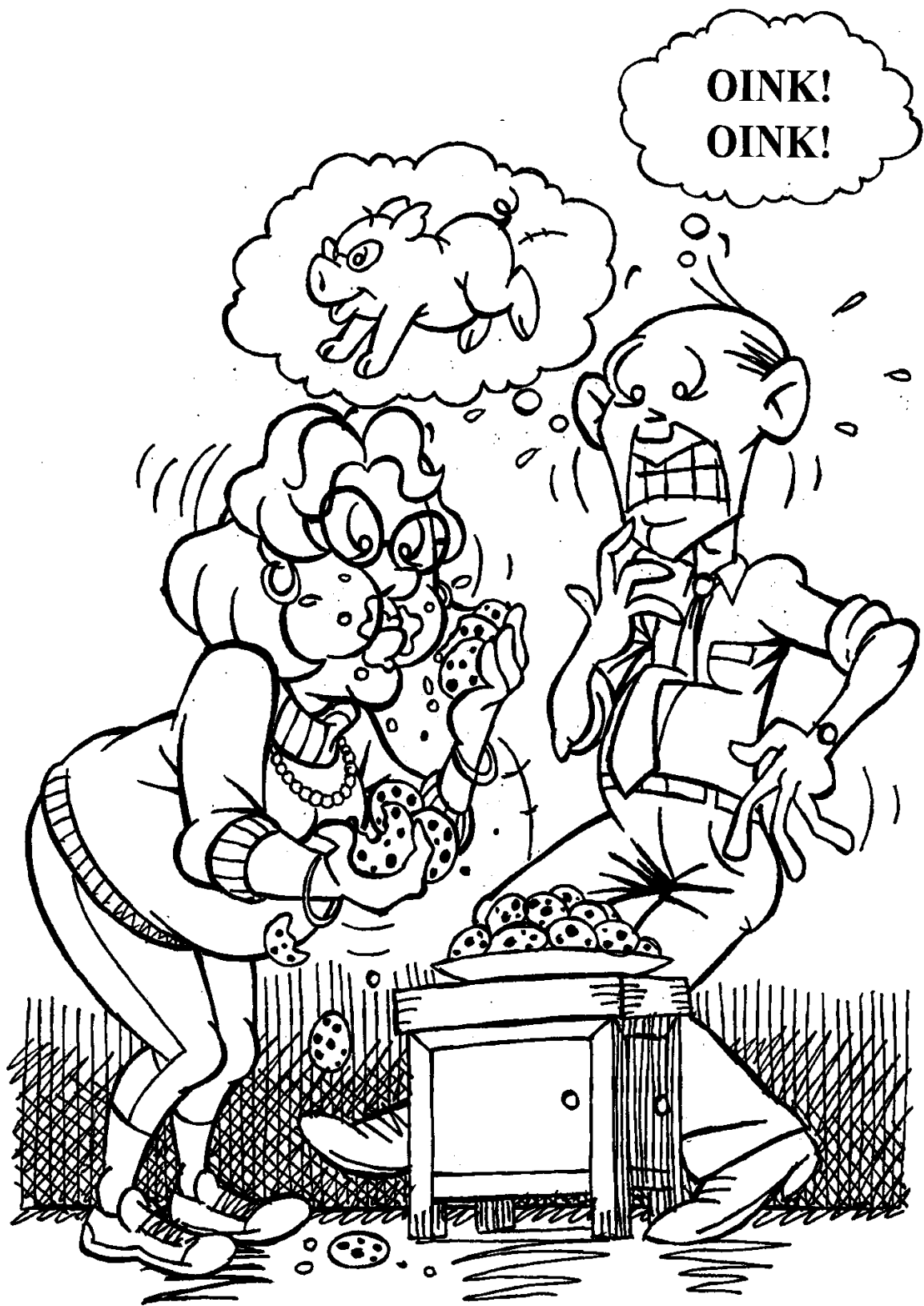
## PRACTICE THE IDIOMS

**Fill in the blank with the missing word:**

- 1) Nicole is very reliable. You can always count \_\_\_\_ her.  
a) in                      b) on                      c) with
- 2) I need to ask you for your help, and I'll do something nice for you in return. You scratch my \_\_\_\_ and I'll scratch yours.  
a) back                      b) neck                      c) foot
- 3) Stop kidding \_\_\_\_! Tell me where you hid my shoes.  
a) about                      b) around                      c) into
- 4) I can't believe that Lisa gave you the \_\_\_\_ shoulder. I thought you two were friends.  
a) hot                      b) freezing                      c) cold
- 5) Ted's friends didn't want to vote for Nicole, but Ted talked them \_\_\_\_ it.  
a) into                      b) around                      c) for
- 6) Although Jim Greene was \_\_\_\_ far the more qualified candidate, he lost the election because of a scandal.  
a) way                      b) in                      c) by
- 7) Denise is really full \_\_\_\_ herself. She thinks she's the smartest and most beautiful woman in the world.  
a) with                      b) of                      c) in
- 8) Nicole thinks that Andrea is a snob. She says Andrea won't \_\_\_\_ her the time of day.  
a) give                      b) allow                      c) tell

*ANSWERS TO LESSON 9, p. 162*







## LESSON 10

# BOB VISITS THE VILLAGE MARKET

*Bob goes to the Village Market, a supermarket in town. He asks Carol, the owner of the store, if she would like to sell Susan's Scrumptious Cookies. Carol agrees, but isn't able to tell Bob how much she'll pay him.*

*Bob:* Thank you for **making time for** me today, Carol.

*Carol:* **Don't mention it**, Bob. **What's up?**

*Bob:* My wife baked these cookies **from scratch**. Please take one.

*Carol:* Mmmm, chewy. These are **out of this world!**

*Bob:* My wife's a great cook.

*Carol:* **You can say that again**. I don't want to **make a pig of** myself, but let me take a few more.

*Bob:* *Oink oink!* **Just kidding!**

*Carol:* I'd like to sell these at the Village Market. My customers will **go nuts** over these!

*Bob:* How much would you pay us for each cookie?

*Carol:* I'm not sure. I need to **roll up my sleeves** and **figure out** the finances.



**Bob:** Can you give me a **ballpark figure** now?

**Carol:** I don't want to **jump the gun**. **Sit tight** for now, and we'll **talk things over** this evening.



## IDIOMS – LESSON 10

### **ballpark figure** – an approximate number

EXAMPLE 1: The auto mechanic didn't know exactly how much the repairs would cost, but he was able to give me a **ballpark figure**.

EXAMPLE 2: The plumber estimated that it would cost \$150 to fix our sink, but that was just a **ballpark figure**.

### **Don't mention it!** – you're welcome

EXAMPLE 1: "Thanks for bringing the cookies," I said to Susan. "**Don't mention it!**" she replied.

EXAMPLE 2: "Thanks for picking up my suit at the dry cleaners." – "**Don't mention it**. It was my pleasure."

### **(to) figure out** – to solve; to determine

EXAMPLE 1: Ted couldn't **figure out** one of his math problems, so he asked his sister for help.

EXAMPLE 2: Susan is sure she'll never **figure out** why kids today behave the way they do.

### **from scratch** – from the beginning; using all fresh ingredients rather than using a prepared mix

EXAMPLE 1: The house was in such bad shape, they decided to tear it down and re-build it **from scratch**.

EXAMPLE 2: You baked these muffins **from scratch**? They're delicious!

### **(to) go nuts** [slang] – to react with great enthusiasm

EXAMPLE 1: When Tiger Woods got a hole-in-one during the golf tournament, the crowd **went nuts**.

EXAMPLE 2: When Eminem appeared on stage, everybody **went nuts**.

NOTE: This expression also means "to go crazy" or "to become crazy with anger." Example: Jim **went nuts** when his wife told him she was leaving him for another man.



**(to) jump the gun** – to start doing something too soon or ahead of everybody else

EXAMPLE 1: Nicole really **jumped the gun** by writing her acceptance speech before the results of the elections were announced.

EXAMPLE 2: The bookstore **jumped the gun** by selling the new Harry Potter book two weeks before its official release date.

**just kidding** – talking more to get a laugh than anything

EXAMPLE 1: I was **just kidding** when I said your new orange dress makes you look like a pumpkin.

EXAMPLE 2: Are you sure that's your boyfriend? I thought he was your grandfather. **Just kidding!**

**(to) make a pig of oneself** [slang] – to overeat; to eat too much

EXAMPLE 1: I **made a pig of myself** by eating four slices of pie.

EXAMPLE 2: Of course you could eat another hamburger, but you don't want to **make a pig of yourself**.

**(to) make time for** – to put time in one's schedule for something

EXAMPLE 1: Don is a busy lawyer, but he always **makes time for** his family.

EXAMPLE 2: I'll be sure to **make time for** you when you visit me.

**out of this world** – *see Lesson 6*

**(to) roll up one's sleeves** – to prepare to work

EXAMPLE 1: Let's **roll up our sleeves** and finish making these cookies!

EXAMPLE 2: You'd better **roll up your sleeves** and finish your homework.

**(to) sit tight** – to wait patiently

EXAMPLE 1: Nicole won't hear back from the colleges she applied to until April. For now, she'll just have to **sit tight**.

EXAMPLE 2: **Sit tight**, the doctor will be with you in a few minutes.

**(to) talk over** – *see Lesson 1*

**What's up?** – What's going on? What's new?

EXAMPLE 1: **What's up?** I haven't spoken to you in a long time.

EXAMPLE 2: You never call me anymore. **What's up** with that?

**you can say that again** – I agree with you

EXAMPLE 1: You think our house needs repairs? **You can say that again** — even our toilet is broken!

EXAMPLE 2: "The weather is so nasty today." — "**You can say that again!** I don't even want to go outside!"



## PRACTICE THE IDIOMS

*Imagine that you are Bob and that you're meeting with Carol from the Village Market to sell her your cookies. Choose the most appropriate replies to Carol's questions and statements:*

- 1) *Carol*: "I'm glad I was able to make time to see you today."

*Bob's reply:*

- a) "I guess I'll see you tomorrow then."
- b) "It must be nice to have so much free time."
- c) "Yes, thanks for fitting me into your busy schedule."

- 2) *Carol*: "What's up?"

*Bob's reply:*

- a) "Fine, thank you."
- b) "I'd like to discuss a business deal with you."
- c) "I don't know. Let me check with my wife."

- 3) *Carol*: "These cookies are out of this world. What do you think?"

*Bob's reply:*

- a) "I agree. They're delicious!"
- b) "I don't know where they are."
- c) "No thanks. I've already had ten cookies."

- 4) *Carol*: "Did your wife make these from scratch?"

*Bob's reply:*

- a) "No, she made them from flour, eggs, and sugar."
- b) "Yes, she did. She loves to bake."
- c) "Yes. She bought a roll of Pillsbury frozen dough and heated it in the oven for 15 minutes."

- 5) *Carol*: "I ate seven cookies. Do you think I've made a pig of myself?"

*Bob's reply:*

- a) "Not at all. These cookies are hard to resist!"
- b) "Yes. You look just like a pig."
- c) "Yes. Pigs love to eat cookies too."



- 6) *Carol*: “I think my customers will go nuts over these cookies.”  
*Bob’s reply*:
- a) “I agree. After all, they’re very good!”
  - b) “Nuts? Sure, we can put nuts in the cookies.”
  - c) “I disagree. They’ll probably like them.”
- 7) *Carol*: “Bob, I’m not ready to give you a ballpark figure yet.”  
*Bob’s reply*:
- a) “Okay, how about one dollar per cookie?”
  - b) “When you’re ready, we can sell them in the ballpark.”
  - c) “Okay, I can wait until tomorrow.”
- 8) *Carol*: “I don’t want to jump the gun by discussing details now.”  
*Bob’s reply*:
- a) “I understand. Take some time to think about it.”
  - b) “I didn’t say anything about selling you guns.”
  - c) “Thanks, I’d love an answer right now.”

*ANSWERS TO LESSON 10, p. 162*



## ***Review for Lessons 6-10***

**Choose the best substitute for the phrase in bold:**

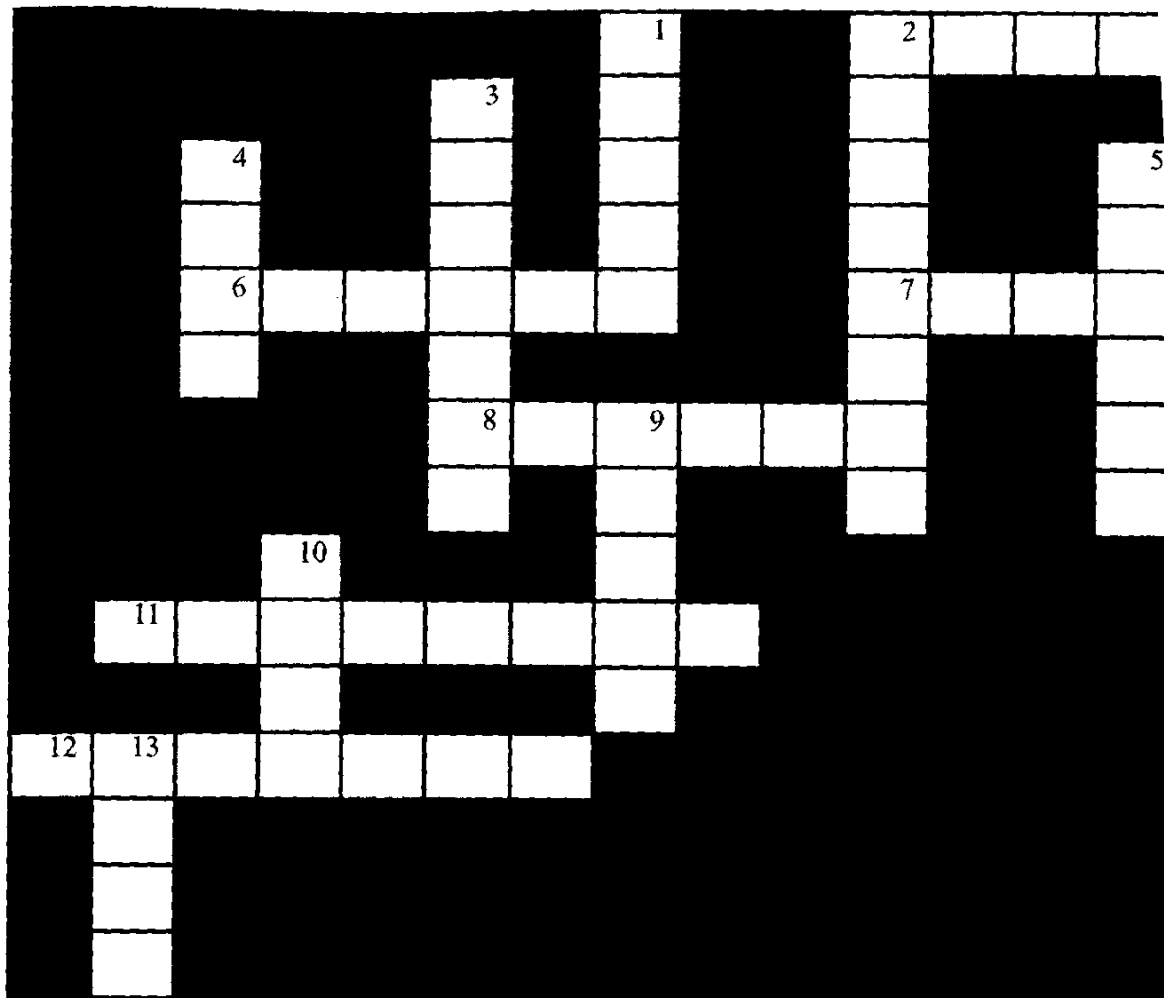
- 1) This apple pie is **out of this world**.
  - a) not bad
  - b) from another planet
  - c) delicious
- 2) Jane was feeling **on edge**, so she went to a day spa to relax.
  - a) anxious
  - b) relaxed
  - c) angry
- 3) You ate 15 cookies? You really **made a pig of yourself**!
  - a) turned into an animal with a snout and tail
  - b) made yourself sick
  - c) ate more than you should have



- 4) Bob wasn't sure he wanted to work for his wife's cookie company, but she **talked him into it**.
- a) forced him
  - b) convinced him
  - c) asked him
- 5) Nancy **doesn't have a clue** about the Internet. She's never even used e-mail.
- a) understands deeply
  - b) knows nothing
  - c) is learning a lot
- 6) Stop **beating around the bush!** I don't know what you're trying to tell me.
- a) avoiding the subject
  - b) hitting the trees
  - c) repeating yourself
- 7) Paul likes to draw silly cartoons of his classmates on the blackboard before class. He's a **wise guy**.
- a) bad student
  - b) smart person
  - c) sarcastic person
- 8) Tom needed to learn how to ride a horse before his trip to Ireland, so he took a **crash course**.
- a) short, intensive class
  - b) class in falling down
  - c) semester-long class
- 9) Laura **made a bundle** when she was younger, and now she spends every day on the golf course.
- a) had a good job
  - b) made lots of money
  - c) stole money
- 10) The doctor will be with you soon. Please **sit tight**.
- a) come back later
  - b) wait patiently
  - c) follow me



## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### Across

2. Stop beating around the \_\_\_\_\_ and get to the point already!
6. Susan's cookies really made a \_\_\_\_\_ at the Village Market. Everybody loved them!
7. You want to be a famous painter? That sounds like a \_\_\_\_\_ dream!
8. When Ted was asked to perform at the high school dance, he was one happy \_\_\_\_\_.
11. When I ran into Mary at the mall, she gave me the cold \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Stop \_\_\_\_\_ around! We've got work to do.

### Down

1. If you need to learn something quickly, you can take a \_\_\_\_\_ course.
2. I don't need an exact number right now. A \_\_\_\_\_ figure is fine.
3. I always prefer cakes and cookies made from \_\_\_\_\_.
4. If there's one thing teachers hate, it's a \_\_\_\_\_ guy.
5. It's nice when a boss gives you the \_\_\_\_\_ for your ideas.
9. I have \_\_\_\_\_ feelings about visiting Puerto Rico in August. On the one hand, it won't be too full of tourists. On the other hand, it will be very hot.
10. Susan is always helping others. She's got a heart of \_\_\_\_\_.
13. I don't know how I got talked \_\_\_\_\_ taking a tour of Costa Rica during the rainy season.