

LESSON 1

Bob's Day At Work
工作中的鮑勃

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.

鮑勃在一家傢俱店做經理。他的老闆彼得對於銷售情況不甚滿意。而鮑勃的新廣告宣傳活動並未奏效。於是彼得決定解雇他。

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!

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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

準備...；瀕於...

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ I'm glad you're finally home. I was just **about to** eat dinner without you.

after all – despite everything; when everything has been considered
畢竟；總算；不管怎麼說

- ▶ You'd better invite Stan to your party. **After all**, he's a good friend.
- ▶ 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...

無論如何；至少

- ▶ We've run out of coffee, but **at least** we still have tea.
- ▶ Tracy can't afford to buy a car, but **at least** she has a good bicycle.

注意：這個詞組的第二個含義「不少於」，例：There were **at least** 300 people waiting in line to buy concert tickets.

(to) break the news – to make something known

宣佈消息

- ▶ Laura and Tony are getting married, but they haven't yet **broken the news** to their parents.
- ▶ 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

十分昂貴

- A college education in America **costs an arm and a leg**.
- All of the furniture at Honest Abe's **costs an arm and a leg!**

同義詞：to cost a small fortune; to cost a pretty penny

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

沒有前途的工作

- Nancy realized that working as a cashier was a **dead-end job**.
- Ed had many **dead-end jobs** before starting his own business.

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

接受(困难的)现实(状况)

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

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

使人產生噁心或恐怖之感

- 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**.
- 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

由於上次嘗試失敗而重新開始某項任務；從頭開始

- When Tim's new business failed, he went **back to the drawing board**.
- 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

破產

- Many people lost their jobs when Enron **went belly-up**.
- My company lost \$3 million last year. We might go **belly-up**.

(to) give someone the ax – to fire someone

解雇某人

- Mary used to talk to her friends on the phone all day at work, until one day her boss finally **gave her the ax**.
- Poor Paul! He was **given the ax** two days before Christmas.

<p>(to) lose one's temper – to become very angry 勃然大怒</p> <p>▶ When Ted handed in his essay late, his teacher lost her temper.</p>
<p>(to) make up one's mind – to reach a decision; to decide 下定決心</p> <p>▶ Stephanie couldn't make up her mind whether to attend Harvard or Stanford. Finally, she chose Stanford.</p>
<p>no point in – no reason to; it's not worth (doing something) 沒有理由…；不值得（做某事）</p> <p>▶ There's no point in worrying about things you can't change. ▶ There's no point in going on a picnic if it's going to rain.</p>
<p>(to) put up with – to endure without complaint 毫無怨言地忍受</p> <p>▶ For many years, Barbara put up with her husband's annoying behavior. Finally, she decided to leave him.</p>
<p>real flop or flop – a failure 失敗</p> <p>▶ The Broadway play closed after just 4 days — it was a real flop!</p>
<p>(to) save the day – to prevent a disaster or misfortune 防止發生災難或不幸</p> <p>▶ We forgot to buy champagne for our New Year's party, but Sonia brought some and really saved the day!</p>
<p>(as) sharp as a tack – very intelligent 非常聰明；有鑽勁</p> <p>▶ Jay scored 100% on his science test. He's as sharp as a tack. ▶ Anna got a scholarship to Yale. She's as sharp as a tack.</p>
<p>(to) talk over – to discuss 討論</p> <p>▶ Before you make any decisions, call me and we'll talk things over.</p>
<p>top dollar – the highest end of a price range; a lot of money 以最昂貴的價格；一大筆錢</p> <p>▶ Nicole paid top dollar for a shirt at Banana Republic. ▶ Wait until those jeans go on sale. Why pay top dollar?</p>

 **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 鮑勃帶著壞消息返家

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

鮑勃告訴妻子蘇珊自己丟了工作。蘇珊建議他創業。

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**.

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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
改變主意或決定

- ▶ Alan wasn't going to take a vacation this year, but then he **changed his mind** and went to Bora Bora for two weeks.
- ▶ 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
比想像中困難得多；說起來容易做起來難

- ▶ You want to climb Mount Everest? **Easier said than done!**
- ▶ Moving into a new home is **easier said than done.**

(to) get canned [slang] – to lose one's job; to get fired
[俚語] – 丟掉工作；被解雇

- ▶ After Chris **got canned**, it took him a whole year to find a new job.
- ▶ Lisa is a lousy secretary. She deserves to **get canned!**

(to) hang in there – to persevere; to not give up
堅持；不放棄

- ▶ You're behind, but you can still win the game. Just **hang in there!**
- ▶ **Hang in there, Don!** Your invention will soon be a success.

同義詞：to get sacked; to be given the ax

if worse comes to worst – in the worst case; if absolutely necessary
在最糟糕的情況下，如果有必要的话…

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

保持積極的態度

► Even when he was unemployed, Bill managed to **keep his chin up**.

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

如果別無他法；走出困境的最後手段

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

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

(to) live from hand to mouth – to barely get by; to be poor

勉強糊口；生活拮据

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

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

樂觀看待；考慮積極的方面

► 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."

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

量入為出

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

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

(to) make up one's mind – 見第一課

out of work – unemployed; not working

失業；沒有工作

► Gary was **out of work** for a year before finding a new job.

right-hand man – the most helpful assistant or employee

(左右手) – 最得力的助手或雇員

► When Jack Thompson retired as president of the company, his **right-hand man** took over.

注意：我們也有「right-hand woman」這種說法，但「right-hand man」更常用。

<p>(to) set eyes on – to look at; to see for the first time 看</p> <p>▶ Ted was in love from the moment he set eyes on Amber.</p>
<p>(to) stab someone in the back – to betray someone (背後捅人一刀) – 背叛某人</p> <p>▶ Jill and Heather were friends, until Heather stabbed Jill in the back by stealing her boyfriend.</p> <p>▶ You're firing me after all I've done for this company? You're really stabbing me in the back!</p>
<p>(to be) stressed out – under severe strain; very anxious 承受極大壓力；十分焦慮</p> <p>▶ Sam is so stressed out about his job, he can hardly sleep at night.</p>
<p>(to) tell off – to scold; to tell someone what one really thinks 責備；以強硬口吻將真實想法告訴某人</p> <p>▶ When Ted showed up for chemistry class a half an hour late, his teacher really told him off.</p>
<p>thank goodness – I'm grateful; I'm relieved 謝天謝地；鬆了一口氣</p> <p>▶ When Ted came home at 4 a.m. last Sunday, his mother said, "Thank goodness you're home! I was so worried about you."</p> <p>▶ Thank goodness you didn't go to California on Monday. It rained there every day this week.</p>
<p>(to) think big – to set high goals 制定遠大目標</p> <p>▶ Why run for Governor of New York? Think big: run for President of the United States!</p> <p>▶ Ken hopes to sell his house for \$3 million. He always thinks big.</p>
<p>What's the matter? – What's the problem? 發生什麼事情了？</p> <p>▶ What's the matter, Bob? You don't look very happy.</p>
<p>When pigs fly! [slang] – never [俚語] – 不可能的事</p> <p>▶ Sure, I'll give you my new laptop. When pigs fly!</p> <p>同義詞：when hell freezes over; never in a million years</p>

 **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