

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.

ボブは家具屋さんのマネージャーとして働いています。彼のボス、ピーターは売れ行きに満足していません。ボブの新しい広告キャンペーンは役に立っていません。ピーターは彼を首にするに決めました。

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**.

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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**!

* "Yeah" は "Yes"のくだけた形だが、英語の口語表現ではよく使われる。



IDIOMS – LESSON 1

about to – ready to; on the verge of
まさに、今にも～しようとしている

EXAMPLE: 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.

after all – despite everything; when everything has been considered
結局、やはり

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

at least – anyway
せめて (～くらいは)、少なくとも

EXAMPLE: We've run out of coffee, but **at least** we still have tea.
メモ: "at least"には、"少なくとも"という意味もあるので覚えておきましょう。 There were **at least** 100 people on the bus.

(to) break the news – to make something known

ニュースを知らせる

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

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

お金がかかる

EXAMPLE: A college education in America **costs an arm and a leg**.
SYNONYMS: to cost a small fortune; to cost a pretty penny

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

出世の見込みや将来性のない仕事

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

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

現実を見る

EXAMPLE: **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 stir in someone a feeling of disgust or horror

(人に) 不快感をあたえる

EXAMPLE: 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**.

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

(前回失敗した為) 最初の段階に戻してやり直す

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

(to) go belly-up – to go bankrupt

破産する

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

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

(人) を首にする

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

SYNONYMS: to send someone packing; to can someone; to let someone go

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

怒りだす

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

SYNONYMS: to hit the roof; to blow one's top; to blow a fuse

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

決心する、決断する

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

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

意味がない、無駄

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

(to) put up with – to endure without complaint

～に耐える、～を我慢する

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

real flop or flop – a failure

失敗

EXAMPLE: The Broadway play closed after just 10 days – it was a **real flop!**

(to) save the day – to prevent a disaster

困難から救う

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

(as) sharp as a tack – very intelligent

とても知能が高い

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

(to) talk over – to discuss

～について話し合う

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

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

最高額、とても高い

EXAMPLE: Nicole paid **top dollar** for a pair of jeans at Banana Republic.

 **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



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.

ボブは、彼の妻、スーザンに仕事を失ったことを話しました。スーザンは、彼に独立して事業を始めることを提案しました。

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**.

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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 alter one's opinion or decision

気が変わる、考えを変える

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

easier said than done – more difficult than you think

言うのは簡単、考えているより難しい

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

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

首になる

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

SYNONYMS: to get sacked [slang]; to be given the ax

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

あきらめないで頑張り通す、くじけない、しっかりする

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

if worse comes to worst – in the worst case

最悪の場合になったら

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

メモ: "if worst comes to worst"という使い方もあります。

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

元気を出す、へこたれない、気を落とさず頑張る

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

last resort – the only alternative left; the last solution for getting out of a difficulty

最後の手段

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

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

その日暮らしをする、その日暮らしをしている

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

(to) look on the bright side – to be optimistic; to think about the positive part

物事をプラスに考える

EXAMPLE: Dan 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

収入の範囲内でやりくりする、借金をしないで暮らす

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

(to) make up one's mind – レッスン 1 を見ましょう

out of work – unemployed; not working

失業中、仕事のない

EXAMPLE: Gary was **out of work** for six months before finding a new job.

right-hand man – the most helpful assistant or employee

右腕、片腕となる人

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

メモ：女性には"right-hand woman"という言い回しもありますが、一般的には"right-hand man"の方が多く使われます。

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

～を見る、～に会う

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

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

裏切る

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

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

ストレスがたまる

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

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

非難する、説教する

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

SYNONYM: to give someone a piece of one's mind

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

有り難い、よかった

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

SYNONYMS: thank God; thank heaven

(to) think big – to set high goals

大きく考える、野心的に考える

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

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

どうかしましたか?

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

SYNONYM: What's wrong?

when pigs fly [slang] – never

起こり得ない、無理である

EXAMPLE: Will Ted teach Nicole how to play the guitar? **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