

## 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