

**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!

<p><b>(to) cost an arm and a leg</b> – to be very expensive 十分昂貴</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ A college education in America <b>costs an arm and a leg</b>.</li><li>➤ All of the furniture at Honest Abe's <b>costs an arm and a leg!</b></li></ul> <p>同義詞：to cost a small fortune; to cost a pretty penny</p>
<p><b>dead-end job</b> – a job that won't lead to anything else 沒有前途的工作</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Nancy realized that working as a cashier was a <b>dead-end job</b>.</li><li>➤ Ed had many <b>dead-end jobs</b> before starting his own business.</li></ul>
<p><b>(let's) face it</b> – accept a difficult reality 接受(困难的)现实(状况)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Let's face it</b>, if Ted spent more time studying, he wouldn't be failing so many of his classes!</li></ul>
<p><b>(to) give one the creeps</b> – to create a feeling of disgust or horror 使人產生噁心或恐怖之感</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Ted's friend Matt has seven earrings in each ear and an "I Love Mom" tattoo on his arm. He really <b>gives Nicole the creeps</b>.</li><li>➤ There was a strange man following me around the grocery store. He was <b>giving me the creeps!</b></li></ul>
<p><b>(to) go back to the drawing board</b> – 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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ When Tim's new business failed, he went <b>back to the drawing board</b>.</li><li>➤ The president didn't agree with our new ideas for the company, so we had to <b>go back to the drawing board</b>.</li></ul>
<p><b>(to) go belly-up</b> – to go bankrupt 破產</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Many people lost their jobs when Enron <b>went belly-up</b>.</li><li>➤ My company lost \$3 million last year. We might go <b>belly-up</b>.</li></ul>
<p><b>(to) give someone the ax</b> – to fire someone 解雇某人</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Mary used to talk to her friends on the phone all day at work, until one day her boss finally <b>gave her the ax</b>.</li><li>➤ Poor Paul! He was <b>given the ax</b> two days before Christmas.</li></ul>

<p><b>(to) lose one's temper</b> – to become very angry 勃然大怒</p> <p>▶ When Ted handed in his essay late, his teacher <b>lost her temper</b>.</p>
<p><b>(to) make up one's mind</b> – to reach a decision; to decide 下定決心</p> <p>▶ Stephanie couldn't <b>make up her mind</b> whether to attend Harvard or Stanford. Finally, she chose Stanford.</p>
<p><b>no point in</b> – no reason to; it's not worth (doing something) 沒有理由…；不值得（做某事）</p> <p>▶ There's <b>no point in</b> worrying about things you can't change. ▶ There's <b>no point in</b> going on a picnic if it's going to rain.</p>
<p><b>(to) put up with</b> – to endure without complaint 毫無怨言地忍受</p> <p>▶ For many years, Barbara <b>put up with</b> her husband's annoying behavior. Finally, she decided to leave him.</p>
<p><b>real flop or flop</b> – a failure 失敗</p> <p>▶ The Broadway play closed after just 4 days — it was a <b>real flop!</b></p>
<p><b>(to) save the day</b> – 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 <b>saved the day!</b></p>
<p><b>(as) sharp as a tack</b> – very intelligent 非常聰明；有鑽勁</p> <p>▶ Jay scored 100% on his science test. He's as <b>sharp as a tack</b>. ▶ Anna got a scholarship to Yale. She's as <b>sharp as a tack</b>.</p>
<p><b>(to) talk over</b> – to discuss 討論</p> <p>▶ Before you make any decisions, call me and we'll <b>talk things over</b>.</p>
<p><b>top dollar</b> – 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 <b>top dollar</b> for a shirt at Banana Republic. ▶ Wait until those jeans go on sale. Why pay <b>top dollar</b>?</p>

 **PRACTICE THE IDIOMS**

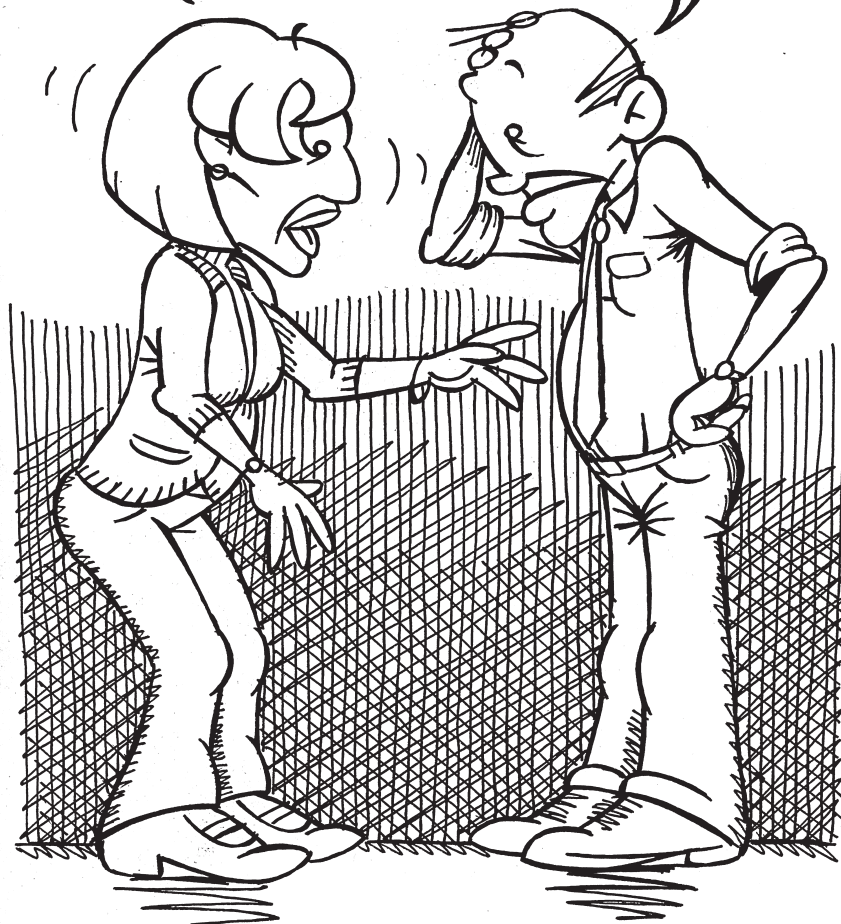
**Fill in the blank with the missing word:**

- 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><b>(to) set eyes on</b> – to look at; to see for the first time 看</p> <p>▶ Ted was in love from the moment he <b>set eyes on</b> Amber.</p>
<p><b>(to) stab someone in the back</b> – to betray someone (背後捅人一刀) – 背叛某人</p> <p>▶ Jill and Heather were friends, until Heather <b>stabbed Jill in the back</b> by stealing her boyfriend.</p> <p>▶ You're firing me after all I've done for this company? You're really <b>stabbing me in the back!</b></p>
<p><b>(to be) stressed out</b> – under severe strain; very anxious 承受極大壓力；十分焦慮</p> <p>▶ Sam is so <b>stressed out</b> about his job, he can hardly sleep at night.</p>
<p><b>(to) tell off</b> – 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 <b>told him off</b>.</p>
<p><b>thank goodness</b> – 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, "<b>Thank goodness</b> you're home! I was so worried about you."</p> <p>▶ <b>Thank goodness</b> you didn't go to California on Monday. It rained there every day this week.</p>
<p><b>(to) think big</b> – to set high goals 制定遠大目標</p> <p>▶ Why run for Governor of New York? <b>Think big</b>: run for President of the United States!</p> <p>▶ Ken hopes to sell his house for \$3 million. He always <b>thinks big</b>.</p>
<p><b>What's the matter?</b> – What's the problem? 發生什麼事情了？</p> <p>▶ <b>What's the matter</b>, Bob? You don't look very happy.</p>
<p><b>When pigs fly!</b> [slang] – never [俚語] – 不可能的事</p> <p>▶ Sure, I'll give you my new laptop. <b>When pigs fly!</b></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*