

MAIN CHARACTERS

メイン・キャラクター

著者は、ジョンソン一家がこの本のメイン・キャラクターとして登場することに快く承諾したことにあつくお礼を申し上げます。

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.

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**.

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

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