

LESSON 16

BOB BRINGS THE COOKIES TO THE VILLAGE MARKET

Bob brings Carol the cookies. He tells Carol that baking the cookies was easy because he had lots of help.

ボブはキャロルにクッキーを持ってきました。彼はキャロルに「沢山の人が手伝ってもらったので、クッキーを焼くのは簡単だった。」と言いました。

Carol: Bob, how did the baking go?

Bob: Slow at first, but we're getting the hang of it.

Carol: Once you learn the ropes, it becomes second nature.

Bob: To tell you the truth, I thought that baking 2,000 cookies would be a pain in the neck. But we managed to round up some helpers, and it was a piece of cake.

Carol: Well, thanks for coming in person with the cookies.

Bob: No problem. When will you need more?

Carol: It depends on how many we sell today.

Bob: How many do you think you'll sell?

Carol: Maybe 500, maybe 2,000. Your guess is as good as mine. In any case, I'll keep you posted.

Bob: Okay. Just give me a ring as soon as you know.



IDIOMS – LESSON 16

at first – in the beginning

最初（は）、初めは

EXAMPLE: Nicole didn't like *War and Peace* **at first**, but after 200 pages she started to get into it.

(to) get the hang of (something) – to learn how to do something; to acquire an effective technique

～のこつ（方法・使い方・要領・調子）が分かる

EXAMPLE: Billy had trouble learning how to ride a bike, but after a few months he finally **got the hang of it**.

(to) give (someone) a ring – to telephone someone

（人）に電話をする（かける）

EXAMPLE: **Give me a ring** tomorrow so we can discuss plans for this weekend.

SYNONYM: to give someone a buzz [slang]. Example: I'll **give you a buzz** this weekend if I have some free time.

in any case – whatever the fact is; certainly

いずれにせよ、とにかく

EXAMPLE: We can either go to the new Star Wars movie or see a play tonight. **In any case**, you'll need to be at my house by six o'clock.

SYNONYM: in any event

in person – personally; in one's physical presence

直接に、個人的に

EXAMPLE: Tim hoped that he and Toshiko would get along as well **in person** as they did over the Internet.

(to) keep posted – to provide up-to-date information

最新情報を教える

EXAMPLE: **Keep me posted** about your plans for the summer. If you're going to be at your cottage on the lake, I'd love to come visit.

SYNONYM: to keep someone in the loop. Example: **Keep me in the loop** regarding your summer plans.

(to) learn the ropes – to learn the basics

(仕事の) コツを覚える、秘訣 (要領・仕方・基礎) を学ぶ

EXAMPLE: Mark **learned the ropes** of the restaurant business by working as a cook at the Outback Steakhouse.

pain in the neck – an annoyance

嫌な (面倒な) 仕事、イライラさせる

EXAMPLE: Yesterday I had to stay home all day and wait for the repairman. What a **pain in the neck!**

SYNONYMS: pain in the ass (下品な表現); pain in the butt (下品な表現)

piece of cake – very easy

とても簡単な (易しい・楽な) こと (仕事)

EXAMPLE: Nicole finished her physics exam in just 25 minutes. It was a **piece of cake**.

SYNONYM: as easy as pie. Example: Nicole thought her physics exam was **as easy as pie**.

(to) round up – to gather people together

(人を) がき集める

EXAMPLE: The town **rounded up** 200 volunteers to search for the hiker, who was lost in the woods of Yosemite National Park.

second nature – a behavior that has been practiced for so long, it seems to have been there always

第2の天性、後天的な性癖、習性、才能

EXAMPLE: Laura has been arguing with her husband every day for the past 20 years, so by now it's just **second nature**.

to tell you the truth – to speak openly

実は、実を言うと、何を隠そう

EXAMPLE 1: **To tell you the truth**, Ted isn't a very good student.

EXAMPLE 2: **To tell you the truth**, Susan's cookies aren't that delicious.

your guess is as good as mine – I don't know any more than you do

あなたと同じく私も分かりません、私にも分からない

EXAMPLE: Will we ever find intelligent life on other planets? **Your guess is as good as mine**.

✂ PRACTICE THE IDIOMS

Fill in the blank with the appropriate word:

- 1) When Nicole drove her car for the first time, she was really nervous. Now, after an entire year, it's ___ nature.
a) first b) second c) third
- 2) I can't believe I won. To ___ you the truth, I never thought I'd be able to beat you at tennis.
a) say b) tell c) explain
- 3) Nicole was going to mail her college application to Yale. But then she decided to go to New Haven and deliver it ___ person.
a) on b) at c) in
- 4) After a snowstorm, it can be a real pain in the ___ driving to work in the morning.
a) head b) arm c) neck
- 5) The meeting in Dallas was canceled, but, in ___ case, we still need to go there.
a) all b) any c) about
- 6) Starting a new job is difficult in the beginning. It gets easier once you learn the _____.
a) ropes b) chains c) ties
- 7) Bob and Susan thought getting rich would be very difficult. But thanks to their cookie business, it was a piece of _____.
a) cookie b) cake c) pie
- 8) Let's go to the movies tonight. I'll look in the newspaper and ___ you a ring after I see what's playing.
a) offer b) take c) give

ANSWERS TO LESSON 16, p. 166