

What's the matter?

I got canned today!



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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**.

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

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