

## LESSON 20

### BOB GETS AN ANGRY CALL FROM CAROL

*Carol calls Bob to tell him that a customer found a hair in her cookie. Bob wants Carol to forget about this, but Carol thinks it's very serious. She refuses to buy any more cookies from Bob.*

キャロルはボブに電話して、お客さんがクッキーの中に髪の毛が入っていたのを見つけたことを伝えました。ボブはキャロルに大目に見てほしかったのですが、キャロルは重大な問題ととらえて、彼女はボブからこれ以上クッキーを買うことを断りました。

*Carol:* Bob, a lady came into the Village Market today **ranting and raving**.

*Bob:* Oh yeah? What happened?

*Carol:* She found a blue hair in her chocolate chip cookie!

*Bob:* Aha. I can see how she'd be **taken aback**.

*Carol:* Does anybody in your family have blue hair?

*Bob:* **As a matter of fact**, my son's girlfriend Amber has blue hair.

*Carol:* Bob, I can't sell your cookies anymore.

*Bob:* Aren't you **blowing things out of proportion**?

*Carol:* The health department would **throw the book at me** if they **found out** about this.

*Bob:* Couldn't we just **sweep this under the rug**?

*Carol:* No. This is too serious.

*Bob:* But I was just **getting a handle on** the cookie business. Now what will I do? I don't have any other way of **making a living!**

*Carol:* **My heart goes out to you**, Bob, but you need to **get your act together**. I want to sell *chocolate chip* cookies, not *hair* cookies!

*Bob:* I guess I just **knocked myself out** for the past week for nothing.

*Carol:* Clearly!



## IDIOMS – LESSON 20

**as a matter of fact** – in fact; actually

実を言うと、実は

EXAMPLE: We need more orange juice? **As a matter of fact**, I was just going to ask you to go shopping.

**(to) blow things out of proportion** – to exaggerate; to make more of something than one should

ことを大げさにする、騒ぎ立てる

EXAMPLE: They sent a 12 year-old boy to jail for biting his babysitter? Don't you think they're **blowing things out of proportion**?

SYNONYM: to make a mountain out of a molehill

**(to) find out** – to learn; to discover

知ってしまう、調べる、見つける、発見する

EXAMPLE: Amy is calling the theater to **find out** what time the movie starts.

**(to) get a handle on** – to gain an understanding of

～の状況を完全把握する、～を操作する

EXAMPLE: This new computer program is very difficult. I still haven't **gotten a handle on** it.

SYNONYM: to get a grasp of

**(to) get one's act together** – to get organized; to start operating more effectively

筋の通った考え方をやる、ちゃんとやる

EXAMPLE: If Ted **gets his act together** now, he might be able to get into a good college.

SYNONYM: to clean up one's act

**(to) knock oneself out** – to work very hard at something (sometimes too hard)

ヘトヘトになるまで働く、懸命に努力する

EXAMPLE: Ted **knocked himself out** getting votes for Nicole, and she didn't even say thank you.

メモ: この表現は、たいてい否定的な形として使われます。  
"Don't knock yourself out!" の意味は "Don't exert yourself, it's not worth that much effort." (力を出し過ぎるなよ、そんなに努力することじゃないよ)

**(to) make a living** – レッスン11を見ましょう

**one's heart goes out to (someone)** – feel sorry for someone

～に対して同情する

EXAMPLE: My heart **goes out to** all the people who lost their homes in the earthquake.

**(to) rant and rave** – to talk loudly, often in anger

怒ってわめき散らす、厳しくしかりつける

EXAMPLE: A customer in the video rental store was **ranting and raving** that the DVD he rented was broken.

**(to) sweep (something) under the rug** – to hide something, often a scandal

うやむやにする、隠し立てする

EXAMPLE: "Senator, don't try to **sweep it under the rug**. Everybody knows about your affair with the intern."

**taken aback** – surprised (almost always in a negative sense)

驚く

EXAMPLE: I was **taken aback** when my friend asked me if she could borrow my toothbrush because she forgot hers at home.

**(to) throw the book at (someone)** – to punish severely

～を厳しく罰する

EXAMPLE: When Ted failed his chemistry test the second time, his teacher really **threw the book at him**.

### ✂ PRACTICE THE IDIOMS

Choose the best substitute for the phrase in bold:

- 1) After Nicole lost the election, she started **ranting and raving**.
  - a) complaining loudly
  - b) speaking quietly
  - c) asking many questions
- 2) When a stranger approached me on the bus and asked to borrow my cell phone, I was **taken aback**.
  - a) disappointed
  - b) surprised
  - c) delighted
- 3) When George showed up for work five minutes late, his boss Beth threatened to fire him. Beth is known for **blowing things out of proportion**.
  - a) making a big deal out of a small things
  - b) lying
  - c) managing effectively
- 4) My apartment is always messy. I need to **get my act together** and start cleaning it once a week.
  - a) start pretending
  - b) gather a group of people together
  - c) get organized

- 5) **My heart goes out to** all the homeless people lying outside my apartment building in February.
- a) I help
  - b) I feel sorry for
  - c) I feel good about
- 6) I just **found out** yesterday that Amber never washes her hands before making cookies. Ted told me.
- a) saw
  - b) overheard
  - c) learned
- 7) Ted has three parking tickets that he still hasn't paid. He's afraid one day the police will **throw the book at him**.
- a) give him another ticket
  - b) arrest him
  - c) read to him
- 8) Ted's chemistry homework was much more difficult than Nicole had expected. She just couldn't seem to **get a handle on it**.
- a) finish it
  - b) understand it
  - c) hold it in her hands

ANSWERS TO LESSON 20, p. 166



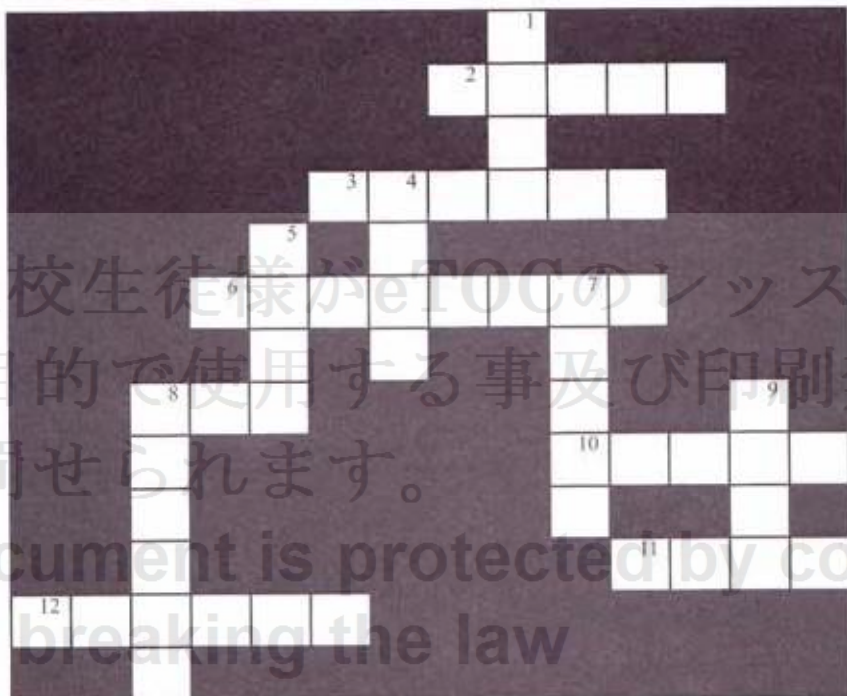
### Review for Lessons 16-20

Fill in the blank with the appropriate word:

- 1) My aunt and uncle are really sitting \_\_\_\_\_. They made a lot of money in the stock market.
- a) rich
  - b) poor
  - c) pretty

- 2) Lighten \_\_\_\_! You need to stop taking your job so seriously.  
a) it                      b) up                      c) over
- 3) After a week, my houseguests really started to get \_\_\_\_ my nerves. They made long-distance phone calls to China, drank all my wine, and slept until noon every day.  
a) by                      b) in                      c) on
- 4) Amber likes to stay up past midnight every night. She's what you'd call a \_\_\_\_ owl.  
a) night                      b) busy                      c) day
- 5) Mildred thought she'd have trouble remembering to take her pills. But now, after ten months, it's \_\_\_\_ nature.  
a) first                      b) second                      c) third
- 6) Susan messed \_\_\_\_ and left the cookies in the oven for 25 minutes too long. They were ruined.  
a) up                      b) over                      c) away
- 7) Andrea didn't cheat. She won the election fair and \_\_\_\_.  
a) easily                      b) circle                      c) square
- 8) Bob didn't know anything about baking when he and Susan started selling cookies, but he quickly learned the \_\_\_\_.  
a) chains                      b) ropes                      c) strings
- 9) Ted and his friends were fooling \_\_\_\_ in the chemistry laboratory when they accidentally started a fire.  
a) around                      b) about                      c) away
- 10) Mary's daughter wanted the new Harry Potter book. But by the time they got to the bookstore, it was already sold \_\_\_\_.  
a) out                      b) in                      c) away

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### Across

2. Senator Brown's re-election would have been a sure \_\_\_\_ if he hadn't gotten caught stealing candy at Wal-Mart.
3. Chad is sitting \_\_\_\_\_. He just won the lottery.
6. Nicole had to burn the \_\_\_\_\_ oil to finish her English paper by the morning.
8. When Ted was caught copying his friend's math homework, his teacher wasn't willing to sweep it under the \_\_\_\_\_.
10. It takes time to learn the \_\_\_\_\_ when you start a new job.
11. Once you do it a few times, riding a unicycle is a piece of \_\_\_\_\_.
12. My friend's dog kept licking my hand. It was getting on my \_\_\_\_\_.

### Down

1. Carly is a real big \_\_\_\_\_. She runs a large corporation.
4. Some people in restaurants like to \_\_\_\_\_ and rave when their soup is too cold.
5. I tried to give my friend a \_\_\_\_\_ this morning, but she wasn't home. I got her answering machine.
7. My \_\_\_\_\_ goes out to people who live in America, but don't speak any English.
8. Monica Lewinsky tried to set the \_\_\_\_\_ straight during her television interview with Barbara Walters.
9. Taking out the garbage every night is a pain in the \_\_\_\_\_.

ANSWERS TO REVIEW, p. 167