

LESSON 7

SUSAN HIRES BOB TO RUN HER BUSINESS

Susan stays up all night thinking about her cookie business. In the morning, she discusses it with Bob. Bob agrees to work for her.

Bob: You're up **bright and early** this morning, Susan.

Susan: I **didn't sleep a wink**. I was awake all night thinking about the new business.

Bob: Running your own business is lots of work. Are you prepared to **work like a dog**?

Susan: No. But I am prepared to hire *you* to run the business.

Bob: You want *me* to run a cookie business? **Fat chance!**

Susan: Why not?

Bob: I **don't have a clue** about making cookies. I don't even know how to turn the oven on!

Susan: I'll give you a **crash course**.

Bob: Do I have to do the baking?

Susan: No. You'll just manage the business side.

Bob: **Needless to say**, I have **mixed feelings** about working for you.

Susan: I'll be nice. I promise you'll be a **happy camper**.

Bob: Okay. **Let's give it a shot**, boss!



IDIOMS – LESSON 7

bright and early – early in the morning

EXAMPLE 1: Our flight to Berlin leaves at 7:00 a.m. tomorrow, so we'll have to get up **bright and early**.

EXAMPLE 2: We have lots of cookies to bake so we'll have to start **bright and early** tomorrow.

SYNONYM: at the crack of dawn

crash course – short and intensive instruction

EXAMPLE 1: Yesterday, Joan's son sat down with her for a couple of hours and gave her a **crash course** on using the Internet.

EXAMPLE 2: Rachel had a date on Friday night with an auto mechanic. He gave her a **crash course** on changing her oil.

Fat chance! – definitely not

EXAMPLE 1: The boys at school are always laughing at Dana. Will she be invited to the school dance? **Fat chance!**

EXAMPLE 2: You want to borrow my new car and drive it across the country? **Fat chance!**

SYNONYMS: never in a million years; no way!

(to) give it a shot – to try something

EXAMPLE 1: I've never tried to make wine in my bathtub before, but perhaps I'll **give it a shot**.

EXAMPLE 2: You can't open that jar? Let me **give it a shot**.

SYNONYMS: to give it a try; to try one's hand at something

NOTE: "To give it one's best shot" means to try as hard as one can. I know you're nervous about the interview — just **give it your best shot**.

happy camper [slang] – a happy person; a satisfied participant

EXAMPLE 1: When Linda's passport was stolen in Florence, she was not a **happy camper**.

EXAMPLE 2: Steve is taking five difficult courses this semester. He's not a **happy camper**!

NOTE: This expression is usually used in the negative (**not** a happy camper).

(to have) mixed feelings – to feel positive about one aspect of something and negative about another

EXAMPLE 1: When our houseguests decided to stay for another week, I had **mixed feelings**. On the one hand, I enjoyed hanging out with them. On the other hand, I was tired of cooking for them.

EXAMPLE 2: I have **mixed feelings** about the president of our company. He's good with the clients, but he's nasty to his employees.

needless to say – obviously

EXAMPLE 1: You've got a test tomorrow morning. **Needless to say**, you can't stay out late tonight.

EXAMPLE 2: **Needless to say**, you shouldn't have waited until Christmas Eve to do your shopping. The stores are going to be very crowded!

SYNONYM: it goes without saying. Example: You've got a test tomorrow, so **it goes without saying** that you can't stay out late tonight.

(to) not have a clue – to know nothing about

EXAMPLE 1: Bob talks about working at McDonald's, but the truth is he **doesn't have a clue** about making hamburgers.

EXAMPLE 2: "Do you know how to fix a broken printer?" – "No, I **don't have a clue**!"

(to) not sleep a wink – to be awake all night

EXAMPLE 1: Ted was so nervous about his chemistry test that he didn't **sleep a wink** the night before.

EXAMPLE 2: It's not surprising that Jill **didn't sleep a wink** last night. She drank a large cup of coffee before going to bed.

(to) work like a dog – to work very hard

EXAMPLE 1: Larry became an investment banker after college, and now he **works like a dog**.

EXAMPLE 2: Al **worked like a dog** on his term paper and got an "A+" on it.

SYNONYMS: to work one's tail off; to work like a horse; to work one's fingers to the bone

PRACTICE THE IDIOMS

Fill in the blank with the missing word:

- 1) Bob was surprised to see his wife up _____ and early in the morning.
a) light b) bright c) ready
- 2) Last week I worked 80 hours. I really worked like a _____.
a) dog b) cat c) squirrel
- 3) Bob had never baked anything before in his life. He didn't even have a _____ about how to turn the oven on.
a) hint b) suggestion c) clue
- 4) If you need to learn something quickly, you'd better take a _____ course.
a) crash b) fast c) beginner's
- 5) Bob wasn't sure he wanted to work for his wife. He had _____ feelings.
a) nervous b) mixed c) confused
- 6) Jennifer's boss is lousy and her salary is low. She's not a happy _____.
a) scout b) tourist c) camper
- 7) Bob decided to work for Susan. He figured he'd give it a _____.
a) shot b) pop c) choice
- 8) Nicole was up all night finishing her Spanish homework. She didn't sleep a _____.
a) drink b) blink c) wink

ANSWERS TO LESSON 7, p. 161