

LESSON 9

NICOLE FOR PRESIDENT!

Nicole discusses her plans to run for student body president. Nicole wants Ted to ask his friends to vote for her. Ted agrees, in exchange for Nicole's help with his homework.

Nicole: I've decided to run for student body president! If I'm going to become a senator one day, I should **get some experience under my belt** now.

Ted: Andrea Jenkins is also running. She'll give you a **run for your money!**

Nicole: Andrea Jenkins is an idiot. I'm **by far** the better candidate.

Ted: Don't be so **full of yourself!** I might vote for Andrea.

Nicole: Stop **kidding around**. Let's **get down to business**. I need your help.

Ted: You want *me* to help *you*?

Nicole: Yes. I need you to **talk** your friends **into** voting for me.

Ted: But you never **give my friends the time of day**. All you give them is the **cold shoulder**.

Nicole: That's because they've got blue hair and nose rings!

Ted: They're better than your friends — a bunch of **goody-goodies** and **brown-nosers**!

Nicole: That's **beside the point**. Let's talk about *your* friends and *their* votes.

Ted: Okay. **You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours**. If you do my chemistry homework, I'll help you get the votes.

Nicole: I'm not **crazy about** that idea. But, okay, **it's a deal**. I hope I can **count on you**.



IDIOMS – LESSON 9

beside the point – see *Lesson 3*

brown-noser [slang] – a person who's constantly trying to win favor with people above them, such as teachers or bosses

EXAMPLE 1: Lauren is such a **brown-noser**. She's always telling her teacher how much she enjoys class.

EXAMPLE 2: Dennis brought the boss lunch today? What a **brown-noser**!

NOTE: You will also see the verb form of this expression: "to brown-nose." Example: Dennis is always **brown-nosing** the boss, but I still don't think he's going to get a promotion.

by far – by a wide margin; by a great difference

EXAMPLE 1: Some people think Tom Hanks is **by far** the best actor in America today.

EXAMPLE 2: Mediterranean Grill is **by far** the best restaurant in town. No wonder it's so hard to get a reservation there!

SYNONYMS: by a long shot; far and away; hands down

(to) count on someone – to depend or rely on someone

EXAMPLE 1: My brother has a great sense of humor, so I can always **count on him** to cheer me up.

EXAMPLE 2: If I can **count on you** to wake me up, I won't set my alarm clock.

(to be) crazy about – *see Lesson 3*

full of oneself – to think too much of oneself

EXAMPLE 1: After Angela appeared on the cover of *Vogue* magazine, she was really **full of herself**.

EXAMPLE 2: Mitch thinks he's really great. He's so **full of himself**.

(to) get down to business – to get serious about a task

EXAMPLE 1: The book club members spent the first two hours of their meeting eating and drinking before finally **getting down to business**.

EXAMPLE 2: Our dinner guests are arriving in two hours. We'd better **get down to business** and start preparing.

(to) get or to have under one's belt – to have or to get experience

EXAMPLE 1: Kristen had three years of working for a large law firm **under her belt** before leaving to start her own firm.

EXAMPLE 2: Ernie needs to get an MBA **under his belt** to get the job he wants.

(to) give (someone) a run for (one's) money – to be strong competition

EXAMPLE 1: We lost the soccer tournament, but we certainly **gave the girls from Stamford High School a run for their money**.

EXAMPLE 2: Tina is a good tennis player and always **gives me a run for my money**.

(to) give someone the cold shoulder – to be cold to someone on purpose; to snub someone

EXAMPLE 1: When Lisa saw Amber at the mall, she didn't even stop to talk to her. She really **gave her the cold shoulder**.

EXAMPLE 2: I can't understand why Joe would **give you the cold shoulder**. I thought you two were good friends!

SYNONYM: to blow someone off. Example: Amber can't understand why Lisa **blew her off** at the mall.

(to not) give someone the time of day – to ignore someone; to refuse to pay any attention to someone

EXAMPLE 1: Sandra never **gave me the time of day** back in college, but now she calls me all the time for advice.

EXAMPLE 2: Why don't you find a new stockbroker? Yours is always so busy, she barely **gives you the time of day**.

goody-goody – self-righteously or smugly good

EXAMPLE 1: **Goody-goodies** usually sit in the front row and smile at the teacher during class.

EXAMPLE 2: Samantha is a real **goody-goody**. She always offers to erase the blackboard at the end of class.

SYNONYMS: goody two-shoes; teacher's pet

it's a deal – I agree (to a proposal or offer)

EXAMPLE 1: You'll make dinner every night for a month if I help you with your homework? Okay, **it's a deal!**

EXAMPLE 2: "If you rake up all the leaves in front of the house, I'll do the dishes." – "**It's a deal!**"

(to) kid around – to joke around; to tease

EXAMPLE 1: Jeremy loves to **kid around**, so don't be offended by anything he says.

EXAMPLE 2: While they were **kidding around**, Tim accidentally poked Rob in the eye. He had to be rushed to the emergency room of the hospital.

NOTE: You will often hear this in the negative "not kidding around." This means to take something very seriously. Example: The White House is **not kidding around** with airport security.

(to) talk into – to persuade; to convince

EXAMPLE 1: Chris didn't want to jump out of the plane, but Erin **talked him into it**.

EXAMPLE 2: Stop trying to **talk me into** going to the dance club on Saturday night. I already decided that I'm going to Maria's party instead.

you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours – if you do me a favor, I'll do you a favor; let's cooperate

EXAMPLE 1: I'll help you with your homework if you do the dishes. **You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours**.

EXAMPLE 2: If I drive you into the city, will you pick up my dry cleaning? **You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours**.

PRACTICE THE IDIOMS

Fill in the blank with the missing word:

- 1) Nicole is very reliable. You can always count ____ her.
a) in b) on c) with
- 2) I need to ask you for your help, and I'll do something nice for you in return. You scratch my ____ and I'll scratch yours.
a) back b) neck c) foot
- 3) Stop kidding ____! Tell me where you hid my shoes.
a) about b) around c) into
- 4) I can't believe that Lisa gave you the ____ shoulder. I thought you two were friends.
a) hot b) freezing c) cold
- 5) Ted's friends didn't want to vote for Nicole, but Ted talked them ____ it.
a) into b) around c) for
- 6) Although Jim Greene was ____ far the more qualified candidate, he lost the election because of a scandal.
a) way b) in c) by
- 7) Denise is really full ____ herself. She thinks she's the smartest and most beautiful woman in the world.
a) with b) of c) in
- 8) Nicole thinks that Andrea is a snob. She says Andrea won't ____ her the time of day.
a) give b) allow c) tell

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