

## LESSON 14

# AMBER AND TED HEAT UP THE KITCHEN

*Amber and Ted are in the kitchen baking cookies. Amber asks Ted to give her a kiss, but Ted tells her he's too busy. Then he feels guilty and goes to her. But suddenly, they're not alone!*

*Amber:* Ted, when I met you, it was **love at first sight**.

*Ted:* I was **nuts about** you from the beginning too, Amber. Don't forget, I **broke up with** that girl Tiffany after I met you.

*Amber:* Come here and give me a kiss.

*Ted:* **Give me a break**, Amber! We don't have time for that now. We need to **crank out** these cookies.

*Amber:* You don't really love me, do you?

*Ted:* Amber, I'm **head over heels in love with you**. But it's **crunch time** with these cookies.

*Amber:* Cookies, cookies, cookies — you've got a **one-track mind**. 🎵 He loves cookies, yeah, yeah, yeah... 🎵

*Ted:* Amber, I need to keep working, but you can **take a break** if you want.

*Amber:* No, I'll keep **plugging away**...I'm just your cookie slave. **Go ahead, treat me like dirt!**

*Ted:* Sorry, Amber. Come here and let me give you a quick kiss.

*(Susan enters the kitchen)*

*Susan:* Hey, what's going on in here? Are you two making cookies or **making out**?



## IDIOMS – LESSON 14

**(to) break up with (someone)** – to end a relationship with a romantic partner

EXAMPLE 1: When Nicole's boyfriend told her he didn't want to see her anymore, she replied, "I can't believe you're **breaking up with me!**"

EXAMPLE 2: After dating her boyfriend Dan for four years, Erica finally decided to **break up with him**.

**(to) crank out** – to produce rapidly or in a routine manner

EXAMPLE 1: Last night, Nicole **cranked out** 200 signs for her campaign.

EXAMPLE 2: We just bought a new printer at work. It can **crank out** 20 pages per minute.

**crunch time** – a short period when there's high pressure to achieve a result

EXAMPLE 1: The entire month of December is **crunch time** for Santa Claus.

EXAMPLE 2: May is **crunch time** for many students. It's when they have their final exams.

**Give me a break!** – that's ridiculous; that's outrageous

EXAMPLE 1: You want me to pay \$3 for one cookie? **Give me a break!**

EXAMPLE 2: You expect me to believe that excuse? **Give me a break!**

NOTE: You might see this written in its informal, conversational form: "Gimme a break!" This is usually how the idiom is pronounced.

**go ahead** – to continue; to proceed without hesitation

EXAMPLE 1: We have more than enough food for dinner. **Go ahead** and invite your friend to join us.

EXAMPLE 2: Let's **go ahead** and buy our plane tickets now.

NOTE: "Go ahead" can also be used as a noun, as in the expression "to give somebody the go ahead," meaning to give somebody permission to move forward with an activity.

**head over heels in love** – very much in love

EXAMPLE 1: During the first years of their marriage, Brad and Jennifer were **head over heels in love** with each other.

EXAMPLE 2: Sara is **head over heels in love** with Mark. Unfortunately, he doesn't even know her name!

**love at first sight** – an immediate attraction

EXAMPLE 1: It took Allison several months to fall in love with Karl. It wasn't **love at first sight**.

EXAMPLE 2: Tony liked Tara immediately. It was **love at first sight!**

**(to) make out** – to kiss with much passion

EXAMPLE: Ted and Amber started **making out** at the stoplight and didn't realize that the light had turned green.

NOTE: "Make out" also means:

- 1) To manage. How did you **make out** at the doctor's today?
- 2) To understand or see with difficulty. It was so foggy, I could barely **make out** the street signs.
- 3) To prepare a check or other payment. Please **make out** a check for this month's rent.

**(to be) nuts about** – to like very much

EXAMPLE 1: Ted has every single Metallica album — he's **nuts about** that band.

EXAMPLE 2: We're just **nuts about** our new neighbors. We have them over for dinner once a month.

SYNONYM: crazy about

**(to have a) one-track mind** – having all thoughts directed to just one thing or activity; focused on just one thing

EXAMPLE 1: Ryan thinks about football all the time. He's got a **one-track mind**.

EXAMPLE 2: Mia has a **one-track-mind**. She thinks about boys all the time.

**(to) plug away (at something)** – to proceed with a boring or routine task; to keep trying

EXAMPLE 1: Only 842 more cookies to bake. Let's keep **plugging away!**

EXAMPLE 2: Don't give up on chemistry class. If you keep **plugging away**, you will eventually learn the material.

**take a break** – see *Lesson 13*

**(to) treat (someone) like dirt** – to behave in a nasty way towards someone; to treat someone poorly

EXAMPLE 1: Nobody was surprised when Nicole's boyfriend broke up with her, since she **treated him like dirt**.

EXAMPLE 2: I feel sorry for Jeffrey. The kids at school are very nasty to him. They really **treat him like dirt**.

## PRACTICE THE IDIOMS

*Susan is telling the story of how she met her husband. Fill in the blanks, using the following idioms:*

**love at first sight**

**plugging away**

**crunch time**

**making out**

**broke up with**

**go ahead**

**treated him like dirt**

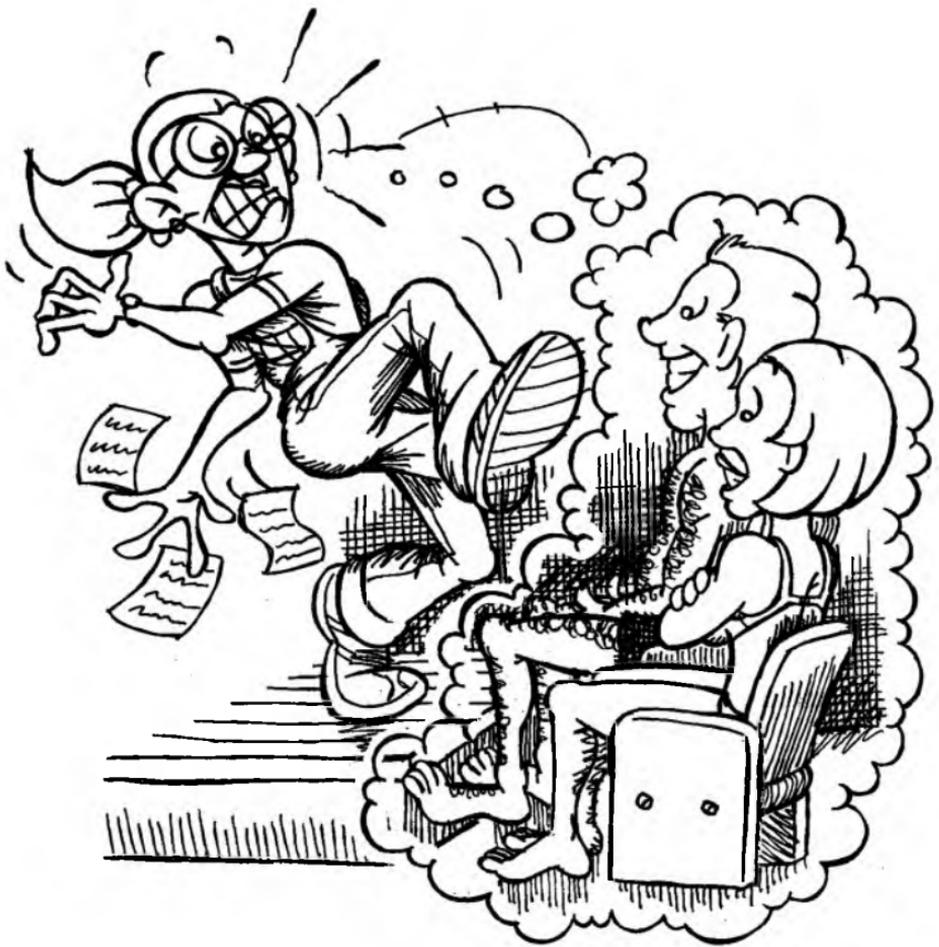
**crank out**

**crazy about**

**head over heels in love**

I met Bob in college. He was in my English Literature class. I liked him right away. For me, it was \_\_\_\_\_. I wrote him several love poems, though I never gave them to him. Then I found out that he had a girlfriend. I saw him \_\_\_\_\_ with a girl named Joyce. It looked like she was \_\_\_\_\_ Bob too. But later that week, I heard that she was a nasty person and that she \_\_\_\_\_. So I decided to \_\_\_\_\_ and ask him to the movies. He said he was too busy. It was \_\_\_\_\_, and he had to \_\_\_\_\_ a paper for literature class and study for several exams. But I didn't give up. I kept \_\_\_\_\_. Then one day he \_\_\_\_\_ Joyce and asked me out to dinner. That was 25 years ago, and we're still together. Fortunately, we're still \_\_\_\_\_ with each other!

ANSWERS TO LESSON 14, p. 164



**"Remember the rule of thumb –  
imagine your audience naked."**