

LESSON 18

EVERYONE BAKES COOKIES

Bob tells his family the cookies are selling well. He asks his kids to help bake more cookies for tomorrow. Nicole says she's too busy to lend a hand.

Bob: The cookies are **selling like hotcakes!**

Ted: **Way to go, Dad!**

Bob: I need you kids to **help out** tonight with the cookies. We need another thousand by morning.

Nicole: One thousand by tomorrow morning? That's impossible!

Ted: Amber and I will **lend a hand**. She's a real **night owl**, so she won't mind **staying up** late.

Bob: Nicole, we'll need your help too.

Nicole: Bake cookies the night before the elections? **Nothing doing!**

Ted: **Lighten up, big shot!** You're running for high school president, not President of the United States.

Nicole: Ted, you really **get on my nerves** sometimes.

Bob: Okay, kids, let's stop **fooling around**. We need to **get the show on the road!**



IDIOMS – LESSON 18

big shot – a powerful or important person

EXAMPLE 1: Martin has become a real **big shot** in Hollywood. This year he produced several movies.

EXAMPLE 2: Adam is a **big shot** in Silicon Valley. He started a very successful software company.

NOTE: This expression can also be used in the negative sense, to mean somebody who *thinks* they're very important. Example: Now that she's been promoted to vice president, Beth thinks she's such a **big shot**!

(to) fool around – to waste time, or spend it in a silly way

EXAMPLE 1: If we keep **fooling around** here, we'll be late to the restaurant!

EXAMPLE 2: Stop **fooling around**! You've got lots of work to do.

NOTE: This expression also can mean to have casual sexual relations. Example: Steve and Tanya were **fooling around** in the back seat of the car when a policeman knocked on the window.

(to) get on one's nerves – to annoy or irritate someone

EXAMPLE 1: My neighbor's dog barks all night. It really **gets on my nerves**.

EXAMPLE 2: Please stop whistling. It's **getting on my nerves**!

SYNONYMS: to get under someone's skin; to bug someone [slang]

(to) get the show on the road – to start working; to begin an undertaking

EXAMPLE 1: We can't afford to waste any more time — let's **get the show on the road**!

EXAMPLE 2: Kids, let's **get the show on the road**. We don't want to be late for the movie!

(to) help out – *see Lesson 12*

(to) lend a hand – *see Lesson 13*

(to) lighten up – to stop taking things so seriously

EXAMPLE 1: **Lighten up!** I'm sure Ted was only joking when he said your guitar playing gave him a headache.

EXAMPLE 2: Don always takes his job so seriously. He needs to **lighten up**.

SYNONYMS: chill out [slang]; take it easy

night owl – a person who enjoys being active late at night

EXAMPLE 1: Sara goes to sleep every night at 3 a.m. She's a real **night owl**.

EXAMPLE 2: I never go to bed before midnight. I'm a **night owl**.

Nothing doing! – Not a chance!

EXAMPLE 1: You want me to buy the Golden Gate Bridge from you for a million bucks? **Nothing doing!**

EXAMPLE 2: You want me to write your paper on Catherine the Great?

Nothing doing!

SYNONYMS: No way! Not on your life!

(to) sell like hotcakes – see *Lesson 17*

(to) stay up – not to go to bed; to stay awake

EXAMPLE 1: Ted and Amber **stayed up** all night talking about cookies.

EXAMPLE 2: Whenever I **stay up** late, I regret it the next morning.

Way to go! – see *Lesson 4*

PRACTICE THE IDIOMS

Fill in the blank with the appropriate word:

- 1) I was really proud of my friend for winning an Olympic medal. "Way to ____!" I told her.
a) do b) succeed c) go
- 2) Amber loves to cook, so she never minds lending ____ in the kitchen.
a) herself b) a hand c) her hands
- 3) Vanessa is definitely not a night _____. She likes to be in bed by nine o'clock every night.
a) bird b) hawk c) owl
- 4) After Mr. Digby was elected president of the company, he thought he was a real ____ shot.
a) big b) huge c) large

- 5) You're taking everything too seriously. You need to lighten ____.
- a) above b) up c) down
- 6) Let's go! We're already late. Let's get the show on the ____.
- a) street b) way c) road
- 7) When people near me whisper during a movie, it really ____ on my nerves.
- a) gets b) acts c) scratches
- 8) Nicole's teacher asked her to help a new exchange student from Argentina with her English homework. Nicole was happy to help ____.
- a) around b) out c) in

★ BONUS PRACTICE

Choose the best substitute for the phrase or sentence in bold:

- 1) You want me to drive you all the way to Toronto during this snowstorm? **Nothing doing!**
- a) Great idea!
b) No problem!
c) Not a chance!
- 2) Len and Ben, college roommates, **stayed up** until 3 a.m. talking and drinking beer. No wonder they didn't wake up until noon the next day!
- a) didn't go to bed
b) went to bed
c) didn't eat dinner

- 3) Michael used to work the late shift at McDonald's — from midnight to 8 a.m. He didn't mind since he's a **night owl**.
- a wise person
 - a person who goes to sleep early
 - a person who likes to stay up late
- 4) The man behind me on the bus wouldn't stop whistling. It really **got on my nerves!**
- entertained me
 - annoyed me
 - relaxed me
- 5) Our plane leaves in just two hours. If we don't **get the show on the road**, we're going to miss it.
- go into the street
 - get ready to go
 - call the airline
- 6) You want to attend Yale University? Call my friend Penny. She's a **real big shot** on the admissions committee.
- a powerful person
 - a big mouth
 - a useless person
- 7) Ted was **fooling around** with his friends when he should've been studying for his chemistry test.
- acting like a fool
 - putting time to good use
 - wasting time
- 8) You got a big promotion at work? **Way to go!**
- Too bad!
 - Good job!
 - Sorry to hear that!

ANSWERS TO LESSON 18, p. 165

Feeling sad?
A cookie will
cheer you up!

