

SUSAN SHARES THE GOOD NEWS

Bob tells Susan that the Village Market won't take their cookies anymore. Susan tells Bob that the National Cookie Company wants to buy out Susan's Scrumptious Cookies.

Bob: Dear, I've got some bad news.

Susan: **What's the matter, Bob?**

Bob: The Village Market won't take any more of our cookies.

Susan: Why not? They're **selling like hotcakes!**

Bob: I know, but a lady found a blue hair in her cookie. Now Carol refuses to sell them.

Susan: Carol is such a **dragon lady!** We're **better off** having **nothing to do with her.**

Bob: She's not my **cup of tea** either, but she was selling lots of cookies.

Susan: Oh well. **That's the way the cookie crumbles.** Ha ha. **Get it?**

Bob: Susan, this is **no laughing matter!**

Susan: Bob, we don't need the Village Market anymore.

Bob: Why not?

Susan: The National Cookie Company called. They want to **buy out** our business.

Bob: Susan, this is a **dream come true**. It looks like we've **struck it rich!**

Susan: Yes. Soon we'll be **rolling in dough!**



IDIOMS – LESSON 22

better off – in a more fortunate position

EXAMPLE 1: We're **better off** leaving for France on Thursday evening, so we can spend the entire weekend there.

EXAMPLE 2: If you're interested in studying languages, you'd be **better off** attending Northwestern University than the University of Chicago.

NOTE: This expression is often used with conditional tense (would), especially when you're giving advice: "you *would be* better off doing something" or "you *'d be* better off doing something."

(to) buy out – to purchase an entire business or someone's share of a business

EXAMPLE 1: Microsoft **bought out** Adam's company for \$12 million.

EXAMPLE 2: Harriett and Jane sell homemade snack chips. They hope one day a big company will **buy out** their business.

cup of tea – *see Lesson 5*

dragon lady – a nasty woman who misuses her power

EXAMPLE 1: Beth is a real **dragon lady**. She's always screaming at her employees and blaming them for her mistakes. I hope she gets fired!

EXAMPLE 2: Liz was nasty to you? I'm not surprised. She's a **dragon lady**.

SYNONYMS: bitch [slang]; shrew

(to) get it – to understand

EXAMPLE 1: I invited 40 people to my Thanksgiving dinner, but only 10 people came. I don't **get it!**

EXAMPLE 2: Don't you **get it?** Your company is about to go out of business!

it looks like – it's likely that

EXAMPLE 1: **It looks like** I'll be able to get out of work early today, so let's plan on meeting downtown at 4:30.

EXAMPLE 2: **It looks like** it's going to rain, so we'd better just cancel the picnic now.

no laughing matter – nothing to joke about; something serious

EXAMPLE 1: When the tornado came into town, it was **no laughing matter**.

EXAMPLE 2: Jim might have been fooling around when he hit John, but he really hurt him. It was **no laughing matter**.

nothing to do with (someone or something) – not have any relationship with someone; to not get involved with something

EXAMPLE 1: After I found out that Nora shoplifted some lipstick from the drugstore, I wanted **nothing to do with her**.

EXAMPLE 2: Larry asked Nick if he wanted to help him plan a robbery. Nick told Larry that he wanted **nothing to do with it**.

rolling in dough – very rich

EXAMPLE 1: Susan and Bob don't need to work anymore. They're **rolling in dough**.

EXAMPLE 2: Adam will be able to retire young. He's **rolling in dough**.

NOTE: This is a play on words. "Dough" means "money" as well as what is used to make cookies, breads, and pastries. The dough (cookies) made by Bob and Susan brought them lots of dough (money).

SYNONYMS: rolling in it; rolling in money; loaded

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

(to) strike it rich – to attain sudden financial success

EXAMPLE 1: Chad **struck it rich** with the winning lottery ticket.

EXAMPLE 2: Craig hopes to **strike it rich** so he can quit his job and open a winery in California.

that's the way the cookie crumbles – that's the way things go sometimes and there's nothing you can do about it

EXAMPLE 1: You lost your job? **That's the way the cookie crumbles**.

EXAMPLE 2: Somebody drank your last can of Pepsi? Oh well, **that's the way the cookie crumbles**.

What's the matter? – *see Lesson 2*

PRACTICE THE IDIOMS

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

- 1) “**What’s the matter?** You don’t look happy.”
 - a) How are you?
 - b) What does it mean?
 - c) What’s wrong?

- 2) We sold our business. Now **we’re rolling in dough!**
 - a) we’re still making cookies
 - b) we’re rich
 - c) we’re poor

- 3) How could a woman find a hair in her cookie? **I just don’t get it.**
 - a) I don’t understand it.
 - b) I don’t get hair in my cookies.
 - c) I don’t believe it.

- 4) Ted and Amber think they’re going to **strike it rich** in the music business.
 - a) get hurt
 - b) make lots of money
 - c) hit something

- 5) Bob thought that losing his job at the furniture store was **no laughing matter.**
 - a) something serious
 - b) something to laugh about
 - c) something that doesn’t really matter

- 6) My boss at the plastics company was a real **dragon lady.** Whenever I went into her office, she started yelling.
 - a) ugly woman
 - b) nasty woman
 - c) fire-breathing monster

- 7) Nicole, I'm sorry you lost the election for president, but **that's the way the cookie crumbles.**
- a) that's how it goes and you can't do anything about it
 - b) sometimes cookies fall apart
 - c) when bad things happen, you should be very upset
- 8) A few months after Peter fired Bob, his furniture store **went out of business.**
- a) started doing better
 - b) moved to a different location
 - c) closed

ANSWERS TO LESSON 22, p. 166

There she is –
three sheets to
the wind again!

