

LESSON 23

BOB HAS A SURPRISE VISITOR

Bob's former boss Peter, from the furniture store, comes to visit. He offers Bob his old job back, but Bob's not interested.

Peter: Hi Bob. I was just in the neighborhood so I thought I'd **stop by**.

Bob: **Come on in**. Take a cookie.

Peter: Thanks. I'm glad to see you're not **holding a grudge against** me for firing you.

Bob: Not at all. **At first**, it **burned me up**. But I feel better now.

Peter: Good. I'm glad you have **no hard feelings**. How would you like your old job back?

Bob: What happened to your wonderful new manager?

Peter: She drank at work. By five o'clock, she'd be lying under a dining room table, **three sheets to the wind**. Yesterday, I finally **got rid of** her.

Bob: Let me **get this straight**. You replaced me with some crazy woman who **got plastered** every day **on the job**?

Peter: Yeah, I **lost my head**.

Bob: I don't think you lost your head. I just think you've got rocks in your head!

Peter: Bob, I'm trying to **level with you**. I never should've let you go.

Bob: **No use crying over spilt milk.**

Peter: So you'll come back and work for me?

Bob: **Not on your life!** Susan and I are very **well off** now. We just sold our new company for a **small fortune!**



IDIOMS – LESSON 23

at first – see *Lesson 16*

(to) burn someone up – to make someone angry

EXAMPLE 1: Jenny didn't vote for Nicole. That really **burns Nicole up**.

EXAMPLE 2: I can't believe Kristen and Andrew didn't invite us to their wedding. That really **burns me up!**

come on in – enter

EXAMPLE 1: **Come on in**, the door's open!

EXAMPLE 2: If nobody answers the door when you ring tonight, just **come on in**.

NOTE: This is a more conversational way of saying "come in."

(to) get plastered [slang] – to get drunk

EXAMPLE 1: Harold **got plastered** at the wedding and fell into the wedding cake.

EXAMPLE 2: That's your fifth martini. What are you trying to do, **get plastered?**

SYNONYMS: to get loaded [slang]; to get sloshed [slang]

(to) get rid of – to free oneself of; to throw out

EXAMPLE 1: We finally **got rid of** our spider problem, but now we have ants.

EXAMPLE 2: I've got too many old magazines and newspapers in my office. I need to **get rid of** some of them.

(to) get (something) straight – to clarify; to understand

EXAMPLE 1: Are you sure you **got the directions straight**?

EXAMPLE 2: Let me **get this straight** — you're leaving your husband?

(to) hold a grudge against (someone) – to stay angry with someone about a past offense

EXAMPLE 1: Nicole **holds a grudge against Jenny** for voting for Andrea instead of her.

EXAMPLE 2: Julia **held a grudge against her boyfriend** for not bringing her flowers on Valentine's Day.

(to) let (someone) go – to fire; dismiss employees

EXAMPLE 1: The investment bank **let Chris go** after they discovering he was stealing erasers, paper clips, and other office supplies.

EXAMPLE 2: The Xerxes Corporation was doing so poorly, they had to **let many workers go** earlier this year.

(to) level with (someone) – to speak openly and honestly with someone

EXAMPLE 1: Let me **level with you**. I'm voting for Andrea instead of you.

EXAMPLE 2: I have a feeling you're not telling me the whole truth. Please just **level with me**.

(to) lose one's head - to lose control of one's behavior; to not know what one is doing

EXAMPLE 1: Nicole **lost her head** after losing the elections and started yelling at all her friends.

EXAMPLE 2: Remember to stay calm before the judge. Don't get nervous and **lose your head!**

no hard feelings – no anger; no bitterness

EXAMPLE 1: After the elections, Andrea said to Nicole, "I hope there are **no hard feelings**."

EXAMPLE 2: I know you were disappointed that I beat you in the golf tournament, but I hope there are **no hard feelings**.

no use crying over spilt milk – there's no point in regretting something that's too late to change

EXAMPLE 1: Nicole realized she'd made some mistakes with her campaign for president, but there was **no use crying over spilt milk**.

EXAMPLE 2: Your bike was ruined in an accident? There's **no use crying over spilt milk**. You'll just have to buy a new one.

Not on your life! – definitely not

EXAMPLE 1: You want me to sit in that sauna for an hour? **Not on your life!**

EXAMPLE 2: Thanks for offering me a job in Siberia. Am I going to take it? **Not on your life!**

on the job – at work

EXAMPLE 1: Jennifer has four men **on the job** painting her house.

EXAMPLE 2: Dan got fired for drinking **on the job**.

small fortune – a good amount of money

EXAMPLE 1: When her great aunt died, Anne inherited a **small fortune**.

EXAMPLE 2: You won \$25,000 in the lottery? That's a **small fortune!**

(to) stop by – to pay a quick visit

EXAMPLE 1: I'm having some friends over for pizza tomorrow night. Why don't you **stop by**?

EXAMPLE 2: **Stop by** my office on your way home tonight.

three sheets to the wind – drunk

EXAMPLE 1: After drinking four beers, Bob was **three sheets to the wind**.

EXAMPLE 2: Somebody needs to make sure Greg gets home safely. He's **three sheets to the wind**.

SYNONYMS: wasted [slang]; liquored up [slang]; dead drunk

well off – wealthy; financially secure

EXAMPLE 1: Betsy's grandfather used to be very **well off**, but he lost most of his fortune when the U.S. stock market crashed in 1929.

EXAMPLE 2: Debbie is a doctor and her husband is a lawyer. They're quite **well off**.

 **PRACTICE THE IDIOMS**

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

- 1) Nicole was very angry that she lost the election. Her mother told her **there was no use crying over spilt milk**.
- a) there was no point in feeling bad about what can't be changed
 - b) she should think about all the mistakes she made
 - c) maybe she could still change the results

- 2) Many people have died while climbing Mount Everest. Would I like to try it? **Not on your life!**
- Not if it means you'll be risking your life!
 - Yes, definitely
 - No way!
- 3) When Carol told Bob she could no longer sell Susan's Scrumptious Cookies, it really **burned him up**.
- made him feel happy
 - made him feel sick
 - made him very angry
- 4) Sara, I'm going to have to **let you go**. You come to work late every day and spend all day chatting with your friends.
- fire you
 - give you more vacation time
 - yell at you
- 5) One day, Nicole woke up with big red spots on her face. She didn't know how to **get rid of** them.
- make more of
 - remove
 - encourage
- 6) Thanks for coming to my party. **Come on in!**
- See you later!
 - Go away!
 - Enter!
- 7) Susan was **three sheets to the wind**. Bob told her not to drink any more piña coladas.
- really drunk
 - very thirsty
 - feeling very tired
- 8) Now that Bob is **well off**, he definitely won't be taking a job at McDonald's.
- employed
 - feeling well
 - secure financially

**My boyfriend
is crazy... crazy
about baking
cookies!**

