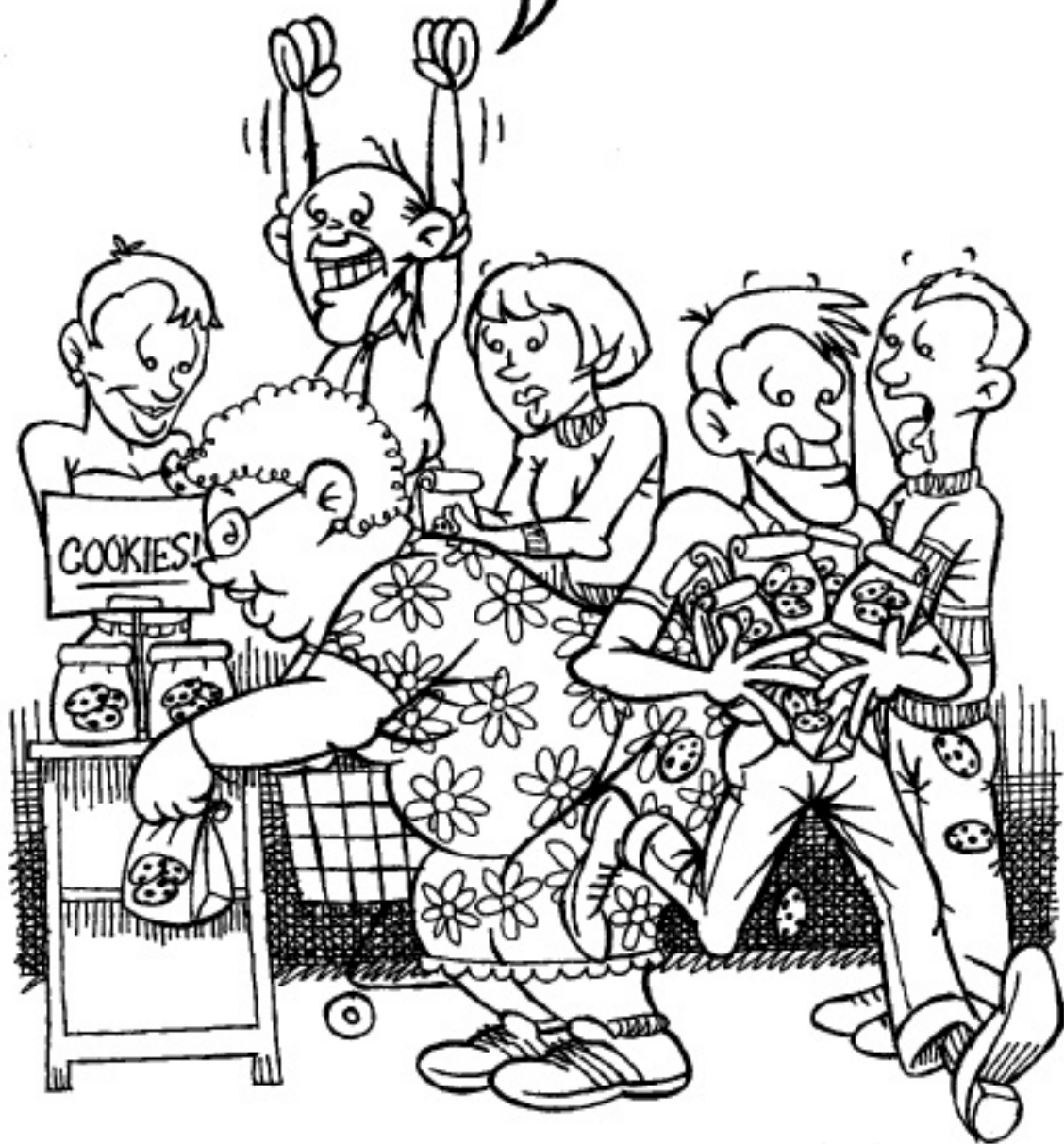


**My cookies
are selling like
hotcakes!**



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) a wise person
 - b) a person who goes to sleep early
 - c) 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**!
- a) entertained me
 - b) annoyed me
 - c) 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.
- a) go into the street
 - b) get ready to go
 - c) 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) a powerful person
 - b) a big mouth
 - c) a useless person
- 7) Ted was **fooling around** with his friends when he should've been studying for his chemistry test.
- a) acting like a fool
 - b) putting time to good use
 - c) wasting time
- 8) You got a big promotion at work? **Way to go!**
- a) Too bad!
 - b) Good job!
 - c) Sorry to hear that!

ANSWERS TO LESSON 18, p. 165