

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. Yes-

terday, 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 wed-

ding 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 of-

fice. 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.

RACTICE THE IDIOMS

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

- 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

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

ANSWERS TO LESSON 23, p. 166