**Dr. S. CHOUCHANE**

**First-Year Oral Expression Module**

**Academic Year: 2024-2025**

**Lesson 5**

**Idioms and Phrasal Verbs**

**Bob Returns Home With Bad News**

**Bob tells his wife Susan that he lost his job. Susan suggests that he start his own business.**

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

**Bob:** Susan, I ***got canned*** today at work.

**Susan:** But Bob, you were Peter's ***right-hand man***!

**Bob:** Yes, and he ***stabbed me in the back.***

**Susan:** ***Keep your chin up***. Maybe he'll ***change his mind***and take you back.

**Bob:** ***When pigs fly!*** Once he ***makes up his mind***, he never changes it. Besides, I ***told him off***.

**Susan:** ***Look on the bright side***: you won't have to ***set eyes on*** Peter ever again.

**Bob:** ***Thank goodness*** for that!

**Susan:** ***Hang in there***. I'm sure you won't be ***out of work*** for long.

**Bob:** In the meantime, we'll have to ***live from hand to mouth***.

**Susan:** Don't get too ***stressed out***, Bob. We'll ***make ends meet***.

**Bob:** I can always get a job at McDonald's as a ***last resort***.

**Susan:** I don't think they're hiring right now.

**Bob:** If ***worse comes to worst***, we can sell our home and move into a tent.

**Susan:** Let's ***think big***! Maybe you can start your own business.

**Bob:** ***Easier said than done***!

**IDIOMS**

* **(to) change one's mind**

**→** to change one's opinion or decision

EXAMPLE 1: Brandon wasn't going to take a vacation this year, but then he **changed his mind** and went to Bora Bora for two weeks.

EXAMPLE 2: Why aren't you applying to medical school this year? Did you **change your mind** about becoming a doctor?

* **easier said than done**

**→** more difficult than you think

EXAMPLE 1: You want to climb Mount Everest? **Easier said than done!**

EXAMPLE 2: Moving into a new home is **easier said than done.**

* **(to) get canned**

**→** to lose one's job; to get fired

EXAMPLE 1: After Chris **got canned**, it took him a year to find a new job.

EXAMPLE 2: Lisa is a lousy secretary. She deserves to **get canned**!

SYNONYMS: to get sacked; to be given the ax

* **(to) hang in there**

**→** to persevere; to not give up

EXAMPLE 1: I know you're four games behind, but you can still win the tennis match. Just **hang in there**!

EXAMPLE 2: **Hang in there**, Don! Your invention will soon be a success.

* **if worse comes to worst**

**→** in the worst case; if absolutely necessary

EXAMPLE 1: Ted's car isn't running well. **If worse comes to worst**, he can take the bus to school.

EXAMPLE 2: I know you're running out of money. **If worse comes to worst**, you can always sell some of your jewelry.

* **(to) keep one's chin up**

**→** to stay positive

EXAMPLE 1: Even when he was unemployed and homeless, Bill managed to **keep his chin up**.

EXAMPLE 2: **Keep your chin up**! You'll find your lost dog soon.

* **last resort**

**→** if there are no other alternatives left; the last solution for getting out of a difficulty

EXAMPLE 1: David was locked out of his house. He knew that as a **last resort**, he could always break a window.

EXAMPLE 2: I don't like taking medicine. I'll only take it as a **last resort**.

* **(to) live from hand to mouth**

**→** to barely have enough money to survive

EXAMPLE 1: Jenny was earning $5 an hour working at the store. She was really **living from hand to mouth**.

EXAMPLE 2: George is really poor. He **lives from hand to mouth**.

* **(to) look on the bright side**

**→** to be optimistic; to think about the positive part or aspect of a situation

EXAMPLE 1: Leo was upset that his soccer game was canceled. His mother said, "**Look on the bright side**, now you can stay home and watch TV."

EXAMPLE 2: You lost your job? **Look on the bright side**, now you'll have more free time!

* **(to) make ends meet**

**→** to manage one's money so as to have enough to live on; to be okay financially

EXAMPLE 1: Kimberly wasn't able to **make ends meet** so she had to ask her parents to pay her rent.

EXAMPLE 2: If you can't **make ends meet**, you'll need to start spending less.

* **(to) make up one's mind**

**→** to reach a decision; to decide

EXAMPLE 1: Stephanie couldn't **make up her mind** whether to attend Harvard or Stanford. Finally, she chose Stanford.

EXAMPLE 2: Do you want an omelette or fried eggs? You'll need to **make up your mind** quickly because the waitress is coming.

* **out of work**

**→** unemployed; not working

EXAMPLE 1: Gary was **out of work** for a year before finding a new job.

EXAMPLE 2: Bob is **out of work**. Do you know anybody who might want to hire him?

* **right-hand man**

**→** the most helpful assistant or employee

EXAMPLE 1: Juan's **right-hand man** helps him make all of his decisions.

EXAMPLE 2: When Jack Thompson retired as president of his company, his **right-hand man** took over.

* **(to) set eyes on**

**→** to look at; to see for the first time

EXAMPLE 1: Ted was in love from the moment he **set eyes on** Amber.

EXAMPLE 2: Susan knew from the moment she **set eyes on** Ted's friend Lucas that he would be trouble.

* **(to) stab someone in the back**

**→** to betray someone

EXAMPLE 1: Jill and Heather were friends, until Heather **stabbed Jill in the back** by stealing her boyfriend.

EXAMPLE 2: You're firing me after all I've done for this company? You're really **stabbing me in the back**!

* **(to be) stressed out**

**→** under severe strain; very anxious

EXAMPLE 1: Al is so **stressed out** about his job that he can't sleep at night.

EXAMPLE 2: You've been so **stressed out** lately. You really need to take a long vacation!

* **(to) tell off**

**→** to scold; to tell someone in strong words what one really thinks

EXAMPLE 1: When Ted showed up for chemistry class a half an hour late, his teacher really **told him off**.

EXAMPLE 2: Patty is going to **tell off** the plumber because the pipes he said he fixed are still leaking.

* **thank goodness**

**→** I'm grateful; I'm relieved

EXAMPLE 1: When Ted came home at 4 a.m. last Sunday, his mother said, "**Thank goodness** you're home! I was so worried about you."

EXAMPLE 2: **Thank goodness** you didn't go to California on Monday. It rained there every day this week.

* **(to) think big**

**→** to set high goals

EXAMPLE 1: Why run for Governor of New York? **Think big**: run for President of the United States!

EXAMPLE 2: Ken and Sandra hope to sell their house for $3 million dollars. They always **think big**.

* **What's the matter?**

**→** What's the problem?

EXAMPLE 1: **What's the matter**, Bob? You don't look very happy.

EXAMPLE 2: Oscar looks very pale. **What's the matter** with him?

* **When pigs fly!**

**→** never

EXAMPLE 1: Will Ted teach Nicole how to play the guitar? **When pigs fly!**

EXAMPLE 2: Sure, I'll give you my new laptop. **When pigs fly!**

SYNONYMS: when hell freezes over; never in a million years

**Practice The Idioms**

**Fill in the blank with the missing word:**

1. What's the \_\_\_\_\_? You look upset.
   * a) situation
   * b) issue
   * c) matter
2. I know I can trust you. You would never stab me in the \_\_\_\_\_.
   * a) leg
   * b) back
   * c) arm
3. If Bob and Susan run out of money, they can always borrow money from Susan's sister as a \_\_\_\_\_ resort.
   * a) final
   * b) first
   * c) last
4. You look really stressed \_\_\_\_\_. Why don't you sit down, relax, and have a cup of tea?
   * a) about
   * b) in
   * c) out
5. Bob, everything will be fine. You just need to keep your chin \_\_\_\_\_ and remember that tomorrow is another day.
   * a) up
   * b) down
   * c) above
6. I just can't make up my \_\_\_\_\_ whether to order chicken or fish.
   * a) head
   * b) brain
   * c) mind
7. Nicole accidentally stepped on Ted's guitar. Ted got really angry and told her \_\_\_\_\_.
   * a) off
   * b) out
   * c) away
8. Your husband left you for his psychologist? Hang \_\_\_\_\_ there! I'm sure he'll realize she's crazy and then come back to you.
   * a) up
   * b) in
   * c) out