**Dr. S. CHOUCHANE**

**First-Year Oral Expression Module**

**Academic Year: 2024-2025**

**Lesson 12**

**Idioms and Phrasal Verbs**

**Susan Hires Bob to Run Her Business**

**Susan stays up all night thinking about her cookie business. In the morning, she discusses it with Bob. Bob agrees to work for her.**

**Bob:** You're up ***bright and early*** this morning, Susan.

**Susan:** I ***didn't sleep a wink***. I was awake all night thinking about the new business.

**Bob:** Running your own business is lots of work. Are you prepared to ***work like a dog***?

**Susan:** No. But I am prepared to hire you to run the business.

**Bob:** You want me to run a cookie business? ***Fat chance!***

**Susan:** Why not?

**Bob:** I***don't have a clue*** about making cookies. I don't even know how to turn the oven on!

**Susan:** I'll give you a ***crash course***.

**Bob:** Do I have to do the baking?

**Susan:** No. You'll just manage the business side.

**Bob:** ***Needless to say***, I have ***mixed feelings*** about working for you.

**Susan:** I'll be nice. I promise you'll be a ***happy camper***.

**Bob:** Okay. ***Let's give it a shot***, boss!

**IDIOMS**

* **bright and early**

**→** early in the morning

EXAMPLE 1: Our flight to Berlin leaves at 7:00 a.m. tomorrow, so we'll have to get up **bright and early**.

EXAMPLE 2: We have lots of cookies to bake so we'll have to start **bright and early** tomorrow.

SYNONYM: at the crack of dawn

* **crash course**

**→** short and intensive instruction

EXAMPLE 1: Yesterday, Joan's son sat down with her for a couple of hours and gave her a **crash course** on using the Internet.

EXAMPLE 2: Rachel had a date on Friday night with an auto mechanic. He gave her a **crash course** on changing her oil.

* **Fat chance!**

**→** definitely not

EXAMPLE 1: The boys at school are always laughing at Dana. Will she be invited to the school dance? **Fat chance!**

EXAMPLE 2: You want to borrow my new car and drive it across the country? **Fat chance!**

SYNONYMS: never in a million years; no way!

* **(to) give it a shot**

**→** to try something

EXAMPLE 1: I've never tried to make wine in my bathtub before, but perhaps I'll **give it a shot**.

EXAMPLE 2: You can't open that jar? Let me **give it a shot**.

SYNONYMS: to give it a try; to try one's hand at something

NOTE: "To give it one's best shot" means to try as hard as one can. I know you're nervous about the interview — **just give it your best shot**.

* **happy camper**

**→** a happy person; a satisfied participant

EXAMPLE 1: When Linda's passport was stolen in Florence, she was not a **happy camper**.

EXAMPLE 2: Steve is taking five difficult courses this semester. He's not a **happy camper**!

NOTE: This expression is usually used in the negative (not a happy camper).

* **(to have) mixed feelings**

**→** to feel positive about one aspect of something and negative about another

EXAMPLE 1: When our houseguests decided to stay for another week, I had **mixed feelings**. On the one hand, I enjoyed hanging out with them. On the other hand, I was tired of cooking for them.

EXAMPLE 2: I have **mixed feelings** about the president of our company. He's good with the clients, but he's nasty to his employees.

* **needless to say**

**→** obviously

EXAMPLE 1: You've got a test tomorrow morning. **Needless to say**, you can't stay out late tonight.

EXAMPLE 2: **Needless to say**, you shouldn't have waited until Christmas Eve to do your shopping. The stores are going to be very crowded!

SYNONYM: it goes without saying. Example: You've got a test tomorrow, so it goes without saying that you can't stay out late tonight.

* **(to) not have a clue**

**→** to know nothing about

EXAMPLE 1: Bob talks about working at McDonald's, but the truth is he **doesn't have a clue**about making hamburgers.

EXAMPLE 2: "Do you know how to fix a broken printer?" - "No, I **don't have a clue**!"

* **(to) not sleep a wink**

**→** to be awake all night

EXAMPLE 1: Ted was so nervous about his chemistry test that he **didn't sleep a wink** the night before.

EXAMPLE 2: It's not surprising that Jill **didn't sleep a wink** last night. She drank a large cup of coffee before going to bed.

* **(to) work like a dog**

**→** to work very hard

EXAMPLE 1: Larry became an investment banker after college, and now he **works like a dog**.

EXAMPLE 2: Al **worked like a dog** on his term paper and got an "A+" on it.

SYNONYMS: to work one's tail off; to work like a horse; to work one's fingers to the bone

**Practice The Idioms**

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

1. Bob was surprised to see his wife up \_\_\_\_\_ and early in the morning.
   * a) light
   * b) bright
   * c) ready
2. Last week I worked 80 hours. I really worked like a \_\_\_\_\_.
   * a) dog
   * b) cat
   * c) squirrel
3. Bob had never baked anything before in his life. He didn't even have a \_\_\_\_\_ about how to turn the oven on.
   * a) hint
   * b) suggestion
   * c) clue
4. If you need to learn something quickly, you'd better take a \_\_\_\_\_ course.
   * a) crash
   * b) fast
   * c) beginner's
5. Bob wasn't sure he wanted to work for his wife. He had \_\_\_\_\_ feelings.
   * a) nervous
   * b) mixed
   * c) confused
6. Jennifer's boss is lousy and her salary is low. She's not a happy \_\_\_\_\_.
   * a) scout
   * b) tourist
   * c) camper
7. Bob decided to work for Susan. He figured he'd give it a \_\_\_\_\_.
   * a) shot
   * b) pop
   * c) choice
8. Nicole was up all night finishing her Spanish homework. She didn't sleep a \_\_\_\_\_.
   * a) drink
   * b) blink
   * c) wink