**Dr. S. CHOUCHANE**

**First-Year Oral Expression Module**

**Academic Year: 2024-2025**

**Lesson 14**

**Ted Forms a Rock Band**

**Ted plans to become a successful musician. First, he needs Susan to loan him money for a new guitar Susan suggests that Ted bake cookies to earn the money.**

**Susan:** You're ***in good spirits*** today, Ted.

**Ted:** I've got great news, Mom.

**Susan:** What is it?

**Ted:** Amber and I are going to start a rock band!

**Susan:** ***Good for you!***

**Ted:** Mom, I'm not going to ***beat around the bush***. I need to borrow $1,000 for a new guitar.

**Susan:** Ted, your father and I can't ***shell out*** that much. We aren't ***made of money***.

**Ted:** You're not? I thought you were millionaires, like Donald and Ivana Trump!\*

**Susan:** Ha ha. This is no time to be a ***wise guy***!

**Ted:** I promise I'll pay you back.

**Susan:** How?

**Ted:** We're going to ***take the music world by storm*** and make lots of money.

**Susan:** That sounds like a ***pipe dream***. Aren't high school rock bands a ***dime a dozen***?

**Ted:** Yeah, but we're different. With my guitar playing and Amber's beautiful voice, we're sure to ***make a splash***!

**Susan:** Well, we're going through ***hard times***. You're going to have to work for that $1,000.

**Ted:** How?

**Susan:** You can bake cookies.

**Ted:** I bet Mrs. Clapton never made Eric\*\* bake cookies, but I guess ***those are the breaks***.

\* Donald Trump is a famous American millionaire who made his money in real estate. Ivana is his ex-wife.

\*\* Eric Clapton is a very popular guitarist.

**Practice The Idioms**

**Choose the best substitute for the phrase in bold:**

1. **I'm in good spirits** today because I got a promotion at work.
   * a) happy
   * b)sad
   * c) tired
2. Renting an apartment on Park Avenue in Manhattan is difficult, unless you're **made of money**.
   * a) wealthy
   * b) strange
   * c) famous
3. My friend's daughter paints beautiful pictures. In a few years, **she'll take the art world by storm**.
   * a) something bad will happen and she'll lose her job
   * b) she'll draw an excellent painting of a storm
   * c) she'll become a very successful artist
4. Susan thinks that Ted's plan to become a famous rock star is **a pipe dream**.
   * a) something that is not likely to happen
   * b) Ted's biggest hope
   * c) something very realistic
5. If you're looking for a new suit, you shouldn't have a problem. Clothing shops in this town are **a dime a dozen**.
   * a) hard to find
   * b) everywhere
   * c) lousy
6. Ted performed at his high school dance. He knew he'd **made a splash** when all the girls started singing along.
   * a) done something wrong
   * b) made a very positive impression
   * c) created waves
7. Being **a wise guy** can be fun, but it might not make you popular with your teachers.
   * a) a very intelligent person
   * b) an obnoxious person who makes sarcastic comments
   * c) a person whom everybody admires
8. Nicole wants to attend Yale, but her parents don't want to **shell out** $100,000 for the tuition.
   * a) waste
   * b) save
   * c) pay

**IDIOMS**

* **(to) beat around the bush:**  to talk around the subject; to avoid getting to the point

EXAMPLE 1: If you want something, tell me. Don't **beat around the bush!**

* **dime a dozen:** so plentiful as to be nothing special; common

EXAMPLE 1: Reality TV shows are a **dime a dozen** these days.

* **Good for you!:** Good job! Well done!

EXAMPLE 1: You passed your math test? **Good for you!**

* **hard times:** a time of difficulty

EXAMPLE 1: Nancy's family is going through **hard times**. Her father just lost his job.

* **(to be) in good spirit:** happy; in a good mood

EXAMPLE 1: After she won the tennis tournament, Elizabeth was **in good spirits**.

* **made of money:** very rich

EXAMPLE 1: Max should be willing to loan you $10,000 to start your new business. He's **made of money**.

* **(to) make a splash:** to win popularity quickly

EXAMPLE 1: Those new jeans really **made a splash**. All the kids are wearing them.

SYNONYM: to be a hit

* **(to) pay (someone) back:** to repay a loan or debt

EXAMPLE 1: Nicole **paid her friend back** the $10 she borrowed.

NOTE: "Pay back" also means to "get revenge." Example: I know you're the one who stole my car, and one day I'll think of a way to **pay you back**!

* **pipe dream:** an unrealistic hope

EXAMPLE 1: You want to become a famous actor on Broadway? That sounds like a **pipe dream**.

* **(to) shell out:** to pay (often **more**than one would **like**)

EXAMPLE 1: Bob **shelled out** $5,000 for Nicole's piano lessons before she decided she'd rather play the flute.

* **(to) take (something) by storm:** to win popularity quickly

EXAMPLE 1: The play "The Producers" really **took New York by storm**.

* **(that's or those are) the breaks:** when something bad happens and you can't do anything about it

EXAMPLE 2: Your glasses fell on a rock and broke while you were fishing? **Those are the breaks**!

* **wise guy:** a smart aleck; one who makes a lot of sarcastic comments

EXAMPLE 1: When Mrs. Lee asked Joey what he wanted to be when he grew up, he said, "An adult." She told him not to be such a **wise guy**.