

Susan Stays Home and Bakes Cookies

Susan decides to cheer up her husband. Bob loves her homemade cookies.

Nicole suggests she starts a cookie business

Susan: Bob, I baked cookies for you.

Bob: That was so nice of you, dear. You've got a **heart of gold!**

Susan: Go ahead and **pig out!**

Bob: These are delicious!

Susan: I thought they might **cheer you up**. You've been in a **bad mood** lately.

Bob: I guess I've been a little **on edge**. But these cookies are **just the doctor ordered!**

Nicole: DO I smell cookies?

Susan: Yes, Nicole. **Help yourself.**

Nicole: Yum-yum*. These are **out of this world**. You could **go into business** selling these!

Bob: You could call them Susan's Scrumptious Cookies. You'd **make a bundle**.

Susan: **Good thinking!**

Nicole: Don't forget to **give me credit** for the idea after you're rich and famous!

Susan: You know I always **give credit where credit is due!**

- Yum-yum: this is said when something is delicious.

<i>Idioms</i>
(to) cheer up: to make someone happy <i>e.g. Susan called her friend in the hospital to cheer her up</i>
(to) give (someone) credit: to acknowledge someone's contribution; to recognize a positive trait in someone. <i>e.g. The scientist gave his assistant credit for the discovery.</i>
(to) go into business: to start a business <i>e.g. Eva went into business selling her homemade muffins.</i>
Good thinking: good idea; smart planning
(to) have a heart of gold: to be very kind and giving. <i>e.g. Jeff has a heart of gold and always thinks of others before himself.</i>
Help yourself: serve your self
(to be) in a bad mood: unhappy, depressed, irritable <i>e.g. I don't like to see you in a bad mood. How can I cheer you up?</i>
Just what the doctor ordered: exactly what was needed. <i>e.g. the trip to Florida was so relaxing. It was just what the doctor ordered</i>
(to) make a bundle: to make a lot of money. <i>e.g. Sara made a bundle selling her old fur coat on eBay.</i>
(to be) on edge: nervous, irritable. <i>e.g. Ever since his car accident, Neil has felt on edge.</i>
(to) pig out [slang]: to eat greedily, to stuff oneself.
Out of this world: delicious <i>e.g. Mmmm, I love your chicken soup. It's out of this world!</i>

Exercise: choose the right answer:

Thanks for baking cookies for me. You've **got a heart of gold**.

a. You're a very nice person b. you're a reliable person c. you're very generous with your money

2. I know you'll like my cookies since **you've got a sweet tooth**.

a. your teeth are hurting b. you don't like sweet things c. you like sweet things.

3. I baked these cookies. **Help yourself!**

a. Let me get you one! b. take some! c. you need to get some help!

4. I was thirsty. The iced tea is **just what the doctor ordered**.

a. exactly what I needed b. very healthy for me c. exactly what my doctor recommended.

Susan Hires Bob to Run her Business

Susan stays up all night thinking about her cookies 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 feeling** 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. **Synonym:** at the crack of dawn

*e.g. We have lots of cookies to bake so we'll have to start **bright and early** tomorrow*

Crash course: short intensive instruction. *e.g. Joan's son sat down with her for a couple of hours and gave her a **crash course** on using the Internet.*

Fat chance!: definitely not! = **Never in a million years; no way!** *e.g. you want to borrow my new car and drive it across the country? **Fat chance!***

(to) give it a shot: to try something
*e.g. You can't open the jar? Let me **give it a shot**.*
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. *E.g. Steve is taking five difficult courses this semester. He's not a **happy camper***

(to have) mixed feelings: to feel positive about one aspect of something and negative about another.
*e.g. I **have mixed feelings** about the president of the company. He's good with the clients, but he's nasty to his employees.*

Needless to say: obviously. *e.g. You've got a test tomorrow. **Needless to say**, you can't stay out late tonight. **Synonym:** It goes without saying. E.g. You've got a test tomorrow morning, so **it goes without saying that** you can't stay out late tonight.*

(to) not have a clue: to know nothing about. *E.g. do you know to fix the printer?-No I **don't have a clue!***

(to) not sleep a wink: to be awake all night
*e.g. 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
*e.g. Al worked like a dog on his term paper and got an A+ on it. **Synonym:** to work one's tail off; to work like a horse; to work one's finger on the bone*

Bob Visits the Village Market

Bob goes to the Village Market, a supermarket in town. He asks Carol, the owner of the store, if she would like to sell Susan's Scrumptious Cookies. Carol agrees, but isn't able to tell Bob how much she'll pay him.

Bob: Thank you for **making time for me** today, Carol!

Carol: **Don't mention it, Bob. What's up?**

Bob: My wife baked these cookies **from scratch**. Please take one.

Carol: Mmmm, chewy. These are **out of this world!**

Bob: My wife's a great cook.

Carol: **You can say that again.** I don't want to **make a pig of** myself, but let me take a few more.

Bob: oink oink! **Just kidding!**

Carol: I'd like to sell these at the Village Market. My customers will **go nuts** over these!

Bob: How much would you pay us for each cookie?

Carol: I'm not sure. I need to **roll up my sleeves** and **figure out** the finances.

Bob: Can you give me a **ballpark figure** now?

Carol: I don't want to **jump the gun**. **Sit tight** for now, and we'll **talk things over** this evening.

<i>Idioms</i>
Ballpark figure: an approximant number e.g. the plumber estimated that it would cost 150\$ to fix our sink, but that would just a ballpark figure .
Don't mention it! You're welcome
Figure out: to sole, to determine e.g. Susan is sure she'll never figure out why kids today behave the way they do.
From scratch: from the beginning, using all fresh ingredients rather than using prepared mix. e.g. The house was in such a bad shape, they decided to tear it down and re-build it from scratch .
(to) go nuts [slang]: to react with great enthusiasm =to go crazy
(to) jump the gun: to start doing something too soon or ahead of everybody else e.g. The bookstore jumped the gun by selling the new Harry Potter book two weeks before its official release date.
Just kidding: talking more to get a laugh than anything e.g. I was just kidding when I said your new orange dress makes you look like a pumpkin.
(to) make a pig of oneself: [slang] to overeat; to eat too much e.g. I made a pig of myself by eating four slices of pie.
(to) roll up one's sleeves: tp prepare to work e.g. Let's roll up our sleeves and finish making these cookies!
(to) sit tight: to wait patiently e.g. Sit tight , the doctor will be with you in a few minutes
What's up? What's going on? What's new? You never call me anymore. What's up with that?
You can say that again: I agree with you e.g. you think our house needs repairs? You can say that again- even our toilet is broken.

Bob Drives a Hard Bargain

Carol from the Village Market calls Bob to discuss Susan's Scrumptious Cookies. Carol and Bob discuss how much Bob will receive for each cookie.

Carol: Hi Bob. How's it going?

Bob: Fine thanks, Carol. How are you?

Carol: Can't complain. Bob, I've had a chance to **crunch some numbers**. I can pay 50 cents per cookie.

Bob: That's **out of the question**. At that price, it's not **worth our while**. The ingredients alone cost us 30 cents per cookie.

Carol: Okay, let me **sweeten the deal**—60 cents per cookie?

Bob: Carol, my wife and I need to **make a living** from this business.

Carol: Okay, okay, you're twisted my arm. I'll pay you 75 cents per cookie. **Take it or leave it!**

Bob: **Now you're talking!** We'll take it.

Carol: you **drive a hard bargain**, Bob.

Bob: Yes, but we make a good cookie.

Carol: Let's **get the ball rolling**. Bring me 2000 cookies on Monday morning by 9 a.m.

Idioms

(to) crunch numbers: to perform calculations (especially financial calculation)

e.g. Scott loves to **crunch numbers**, so he decided to become an accountant

(to) drive a hard bargain: to be tough in negotiating an agreement; to negotiate something in one's favor

e.g. I wanted to pay less for the can, but the salesman **drove a hard bargain**

(to) get the ball rolling: to get started

e.g. Let's **get the ball rolling** on this project. We've only got one week to finish it.

Make a living: to earn enough money to support oneself
e.g. Danny makes some money playing his guitar on street corners, but not enough to **make a living**.

Now you're talking: you're saying the right thing

e.g. You want to offer me free tickets to the J.Lo concert?

Now you're talking!

out of question: impossible

(to) sweeten the deal: to make an effort more attractive

e.g. We really want you to take the job here at Magna Corporation, so let us know what we can do to **sweeten the deal**

Take it or leave it: accept it or reject an offer, usually a final one. E.g. The highest salary we can offer is 50000\$ a year—**Take it or leave it!**

(to) twist someone's arm: to persuade someone; to convince someone.

e.g. Ok, you've **twisted my arm**. You can borrow my car

Worth one's while: worthy of one's effort or time

e.g. Let me make it **worth your while** to work weekends.

I'll pay you an extra \$10 per hour on Saturdays and Sundays

Bob's Big Cookie Order

The family is gathered around the dinner table. Bob tells them about his deal with the Village Market. He asks his kids for help baking the cookies.

Bob: I know I've been **down in the dumps** since I got fired, but **things are looking up** now. The Village Market wants to sell our cookies.

Nicole: That's great news, Dad!

Bob: We're going to have to bake **like crazy** over the week-end. They want 2000 cookies by Monday.

Nicole: Two thousand cookies in three days? Don't you think you've **bitten off more than you can chew**?

Ted: Yeah, you're going to be **running around like a chicken with its head cut off**!

Susan: Fortunately, there are four of us here. You kids have to **pitch in** too.

Nicole: Sorry, but I can't. I have to finish Ted's chemistry home-work and then I've got to **get going** on my election speech.

Bob: What's that about doing Ted's chemistry homework?

Ted: **Never mind!** Amber will **help out** with the cookies instead of Nicole.

Susan: **For heaven's sake**, Nicole! It's **like pulling teeth** getting you to do any work around here.

Idioms

(to) bite off more than one can chew: to take on more than one is capable of; to take on too much. e.g. you agreed to host 50 exchange students from Korea? Aren't you afraid you've **bitten off more than she can chew**?

=to be or to get in **over one's head**. e.g. Jennifer is in **over her head** with this dinner party.

(to be) down in the dumps: to feel sad; to be depressed. e.g. it's easy to feel **down in the dumps** when it's raining outside.

For heaven's sake! A way of expressing emotions such as surprise,

outrage, or impatience. e.g. Hurry up, for heaven's sake! You're going to be late for school.

=**For God's sake, for goodness sake, for Pete's sake**

(to) get going: to get started on something; to set off for a destination; to leave. e.g. If you don't **get going on your homework soon, you're going to be up all night**.

=**to get a move; to get the show on the road**

(to) help out: to give assistance; to help. E.g. Amber offered to **help out** in the kitchen by chopping nuts. =**to lend a hand**

Like a chicken with its head cut off: in a hysterical manner; in a frenzy; in a very nervous way. E.g. Ken was late for work, and he couldn't find his car keys. He was running around his apartment **like a chicken with its head cut off**. *Note: this idiom is usually used with the phrase "run around" as in the above example.*

Like crazy: with great speed or enthusiasm. E.g. Ann ran **like crazy**, but she still didn't manage to catch the bus.

Like pulling teeth: very difficult. e.g. it's **like pulling teeth** getting Max to talk about his girl friend.

Never mind: don't worry about something; forget it; it doesn't matter. E.g. **Never mind** what your friends say. You need to do what you think is right.

(to) pitch in: to help. e.g. If you need my help, just ask. I'd be happy to **pitch in**.

Things are looking up: things are improving. E.g. **Things are looking up** with the economy.