

Ted's chemistry class is way over his head.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

LESSON 3

TED'S DAY AT SCHOOL

Ted tells his parents he did poorly on his chemistry test. They tell him he needs to get serious and study more.

Susan: How was your day at school today, Ted?

Ted: Bad. I had a chemistry test, and I **blew it**!

Susan: Maybe if you didn't **cut class** so often, you'd do better.

Bob: That's right, son. Stop **slacking off** and start **hitting the books**!

Ted: But I **can't stand** chemistry class. Besides, it's a **lost cause**. That class is way **over my head**.

Susan: You need to **buckle down**.

Ted: When I'm a famous musician, people won't **give a hoot** about my knowledge of atoms and molecules.

Bob: That's **beside the point.**

Susan: We know you have your **heart set on** going to New York University.

Bob: And you don't **stand a chance** of getting in there with such poor grades!

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IDIOMS – LESSON 3

beside the point – not relevant; not important

EXAMPLE 1: Whether or not I asked the waiter to bring us water is **beside the point**. Waiters should always bring water to the table.
EXAMPLE 2: The reason you're late is **beside the point**. The fact is, your dinner is now cold.

(to) blow something – to spoil or botch something

EXAMPLE 1: Brenda **blew the interview** and didn't get the job offer.
EXAMPLE 2: Randy managed to get a date with the most popular girl in his class. Now I hope he doesn't **blow it**!

(to) buckle down – to start working seriously

EXAMPLE 1: If Don **buckles down** now, he might be able to graduate from high school this year.
EXAMPLE 2: Team, if we want to win this tournament, we're going to need to **buckle down**!

can't stand – to hate

EXAMPLE 1: Bob **can't stand** bureaucrats, so he'd never do well working at a large corporation.
EXAMPLE 2: Nicole **can't stand** broccoli. She simply refuses to eat it.

(to) cut class – to miss class without an excuse

EXAMPLE 1: Ted often **cuts class** to spend more time with his girlfriend.
EXAMPLE 2: If you keep **cutting French class**, you're going to fail it.

Get real! – be serious or realistic about what's going on

EXAMPLE 1: You think you won't get a speeding ticket when you drive 85 miles per hour? **Get real!**
EXAMPLE 2: You think you're going to win $1 million in the lottery? **Get real!**

(to) have one's heart set on – to really want something

EXAMPLE 1: Nicole **has her heart set on** going to New York this weekend.
EXAMPLE 2: Did you really **have your heart set on** going to Harvard?

(to) hit the books – to start studying

EXAMPLE 1: Ted partied all weekend. Finally, on Sunday night, he decided it was time to **hit the books**.
EXAMPLE 2: **Hit the books!** I know you have a test tomorrow.

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lost cause – something hopeless

EXAMPLE 1: Cindy spent five years studying Russian. Finally, she realized it was a **lost cause**. She would never learn it.
EXAMPLE 2: Jack needs to stop drinking so much coffee, but he's so addicted to caffeine that it's a **lost cause**.

(to) not give a hoot – to not care about

EXAMPLE 1: Tom likes to walk around town in his pajamas — he doesn't **give a hoot** what people think.
EXAMPLE 2: Stephanie **doesn't give a hoot** if she's the only one wearing a green dress to the high school prom.

SYNONYMS: to not give a damn; to not give a darn

over one's head – beyond one's understanding

EXAMPLE 1: The professor was **speaking over our heads**. None of us could understand him.
EXAMPLE 2: The article on cloning was written for scientists. It was **over my head**.

(to) slack off – to waste time

EXAMPLE 1: Amanda doesn't get much done at the office. She's too busy **slacking off**.
EXAMPLE 2: I'd better stop **slacking off**. My essay is due in two hours.

NOTE: People who **slack off** all the time are called "slackers."

(to) stand a chance – to have the possibility of success

EXAMPLE 1: Although the American figure skaters were good, they didn't **stand a chance** of winning a gold medal at the Olympics.
EXAMPLE 2: Wilton High School has the best soccer team in the state. I'm afraid we don't **stand a chance** against them!

PRACTICE THE IDIOMS

Choose the most appropriate reply to the following statements:

1) *Bob:* "Susan, I can't get my old job back. It's a lost cause."
Susan's reply:
   a) "Lost? Maybe I can help you find it."
   b) "Yes, I know it's not a good cause."
   c) "I understand. You'll find something else."

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2) *Susan:* "How could Peter fire you? Were you slacking off?"
Bob's reply:
   a) "No. I was working very hard!"
   b) "No. I talked on the phone to friends all day."
   c) "Yes. I was working very hard!"

3) *Ted:* "It's getting late. I'd better start hitting the books."
Bob's reply:
   a) "Yes, that's a good idea. Spend some time studying."
   b) "Hit the books? Why don't you read them instead?"
   c) "Why don't you study instead?"

4) *Peter:* "I don't give a hoot how long you've been working here."
Bob's reply:
   a) "I wouldn't give you a hoot either."
   b) "I guess our years together aren't important to you."
   c) "Yes, it was a long time."

5) *Bob:* "Susan, the truth is that I couldn't stand Peter."
Susan's reply:
   a) "I know. Peter really liked you too."
   b) "I liked him too. He was a nice guy."
   c) "I didn't like him either. He was a jerk."

6) *Susan:* "Nicole, do you ever cut class?"
Nicole's reply:
   a) "No. I've never missed a single class."
   b) "Yes. I had to leave my math class early yesterday."
   c) "No. Sometimes I go to the mall during class time."

7) *Bob:* "This book on computers is way over my head."
Susan's reply:
   a) "Over your head? It should be in front of your face!"
   b) "Why don't you start with an easier book?"
   c) "Here, try this book. It's more difficult."

8) *Nicole:* "I've got my heart set on going to the school picnic."
Susan's reply:
   a) "Okay. You should definitely go."
   b) "Really? Why don't you want to go?"
   c) "I understand. Picnics can be boring."

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