**Job Hunting Slang & Idioms**

**Dialogue:**

**Ryan**: Hey, Alex. You look really exhausted. ***What gives***?

**Alex**: You don't want to know. I mean, I've been ***slaving away*** at my ***nickel-and-dime*** job just to ***keep my head above water***. [*Really.*] I mean some people think I'm a ***workaholic***, [*Who?*] Well, everyone, but I have to ***put in a lot of overtime*** just to ***make ends meet***.

**Ryan**: Well, why don't you ask your boss for a raise?

**Alex**: Huh? The last guy that did that ***got the ax***, *an'* he ***was in line for*** a promotion to supervisor.

**Ryan**: Well, you just can't keep ***working your fingers to the bone*** ***for peanuts***. [*I know, but . . .*] Hey. Look. I ***have connections*** with a guy who works for a computer company, *an'* he owes me a favor, and he might be able to ***pull a few strings*** *an'* ***line you up*** for an interview.

**Alex**: What? You mean like to last job you helped me get, *an'* then the company ***went belly up*** after only a week? I mean ***fat chance***. I'm not going to try selling electronic toilet paper dispensers again.[*Hey, that was cool.*]

**Ryan**: No, that was different.

**Alex**: Ah, man. Hey, thanks, but I'm still looking, and I'm not going to ***get my hopes up*** just because a few other job searches haven't ***panned out.*** I'm going to look at my options.

**Ryan**: Well, whatever you do, the only way you're going to ***get ahead*** is by getting your face out there, *an'* you're sure to ***land a better job*** than you have now.

**Alex**: Well, I know. Exactly, if I can just ***get my foot in the door***, then I can ***show my stuff***, but I'm not . . . . absolutely not going to ***kiss up to*** ANYONE to get ahead.

**Ryan**: ***Gotcha***. Hey, I'll give my friend a call, *an'* see if he can set up an interview.

**Key Vocabulary**:

* **What gives?**: What's wrong?

-- Man, you haven't called me for a week. ***What gives?***

* **slave away**: work very hard

-- My grandfather was determined not to ***slave away*** doing heavy labor all his life, so he went back to school.

* **nickel-and-dime**: not worth much

-- If you don't apply yourself at school, you might have to settle for some ***nickel-and-dime*** job the test of your life.

* **keep your head above water**: just barely able to survive in times of money difficulties

-- I just don't know how we can ***keep our heads above water*** without more income, *'n* things don't look like they're going to get better anytime soon.

* **workaholic** : a person who works a lot

-- My best friend really loves his work, but he's turned into a ***workaholic***, *'n* his private life has suffered.

* **put in overtime**: work extra hours

-- Sometime people ***put in overtime*** at their jobs, *'n* they use the extra income to improve their lives.

* **make ends meet**: make just enough money to pay for expenses

-- Unless I find a better job, I won't be able to ***make ends meet*** to support my family, *'n* I'll never feel satisfied with my life.

* **get the ax**: be fired from a job

-- The company fell on hard economic times, *'n* many of the employees ***got the ax*** even though the crisis wasn't their fault.

* **be in line for**: have the expectation of receiving something

-- Heather thought she ***was in line for*** the promotion to manager, *'n* she had planned to have a party to celebrate, but the company chose someone over her to fill the position.

* **work your fingers to the bone**: work very hard

-- After my father died, my mother ***worked her fingers to the bone*** just to make ends meet for our family.

* **(for) peanuts**: very little money

-- You only make $3.00 an hour? That's ***peanuts***!

* **have connections**: know important people within a company or organization
  + - * 1. -- ***Having connections*** isn't enough to find a good job in today's market. You need plenty of experience and the right combination of skills.
* **pull a few strings**: influence or control others to one's advantage

-- Huh? Ted got the job? No way! His father must have ***pulled a few strings*** to get him the job because he isn't at all qualified to fill the position.

* **line up**: make arrangements

-- Dont' worry! By the end of the day, I should have ***lined up*** at least five interviews for tomorrow's job fair, *'n* we should have a new employee by the end of the week.

* **go belly up**: fail, go bankrupt

-- Ah, don't bother applying for a job at that company. According to the newspaper, there are economic signs that their business will ***go belly up*** by the end of the year, *'n* and all of the workers will be out of a job.

* **fat chance**: something that is unlikely to happen

-- Do you really think that company is going to give you the job? ***Fat chance***! At least 200 people applied for the job, *'n* many of them have inside connections, so forget it.

* **get someone's hopes up**: feel like your hopes and dreams will come true

-- The company called her back for a second interview, but she isn't ***getting her hopes up*** because she doesn't have much work experience.

* **land a job**: get a job

-- After my brother graduated from college, he quickly ***landed a job*** with a law firm, *'n* he's now planning to get married.

* **show your stuff**: demonstrate what you can do

-- You have to ***show your stuff*** if you want to get noticed in today's competitive world of business.

* **kiss up to**: try to please

-- I know an acquaintance who tried to ***kiss up to*** his boss by buying him expensive souvenirs, but that didn't help him one bit because he got the ax soon after because of poor job performance.