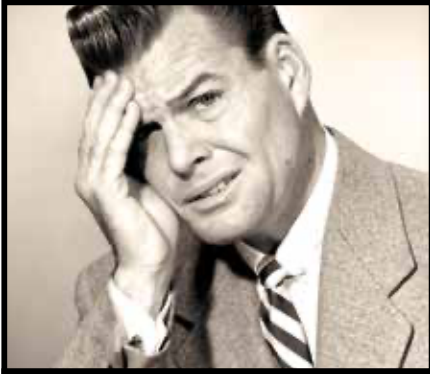


DR FINGERS' VOCABULARY CLINIC: WORK

PART 2

This month: Work.



Burn the midnight oil

To work really late into the night.
"I've been burning the midnight oil all week."



All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy

You shouldn't work so much, and you always need time to rest or relax.
"You ought to get out sometimes – as you know, all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy."



Have a few irons in the fire

To be doing various jobs at the same time; to have several possibilities of work.
"I don't mind losing that job because I've got quite a few **irons** in the fire at the moment."



Give somebody the boot

To fire someone; to tell someone to leave their job.
"They've given him the boot for constantly arriving late."



Get the axe

To lose your job.
"Half of the employees got the **axe** because of the poor sales results."



A bad workman always blames his tools

To say that the material or the tools you are using are responsible for your poor work or results.
"I know a bad workman always blames his tools, but I just can't work under these conditions."



Too many chiefs and not enough Indians

A situation with too many bosses and managers giving orders, and not enough people actually working.
"Nobody seems to do any work in this place. I think it's a case of too many chiefs and not enough **Indians**."



In the line of duty

If you do something "in the line of duty", you do it as a natural part of your job, or while you are working. Often used to refer to soldiers, police officers, etc.
"Six police officers were injured in the line of duty."

GLOSSARY

an iron *n*
a "fire iron" is a long, metal object used to move wood/coal around in a fire
an axe *n*
a tool with a wooden handle and a sharp metal piece at the end. Often used for cutting trees
an Indian *n*
a Native American. The term "Indian" is considered offensive