

# SOUP FOR SALE

Ron needed some extra (V1) money. Collecting action comic books was his hobby and new comics were not cheap. Ron saw all his friends with the new issues of October's action comic stories. This upset Ron and made him also feel angry because all his friends had more comics than him. Ron asked his mother for a little extra money, but she said, 'if you want money for comics you will have to earn it for yourself.'

Ron thought about many kinds of jobs. It was October and so it was too early to shovel snow for his neighbors. It was too late and too cool to open a lemonade stand in front of his family's house (\* 1). However, lemonade did give Ron an idea. He asked himself: 'What do people want in the cold months instead of lemonade?' Then he imagined soup. 'Hot, steaming, savory (V2) soup,' he thought. 'That's what people want!'

Ron got to work right away. He made a wooden counter and placed boxes around it for customers to sit on. Then he began preparing his first pot of soup. Ron was surprised that his first pot of soup was so very tasty. Ron's second pot of soup was even better.

When he brought the soup to the sidewalk many people could smell the wonderful soup. Customers paid two dollars for each bowl. The soup became very popular.

Ron's soup business soon became famous in his neighborhood. Sometimes there were more than twenty people waiting in line ( \* 2) for a bowl of his soup. Ron was so busy that he had to pay his sister some money to help him. 'Soup for sale. Soup for sale!' she would shout, while he was busy in the kitchen making more.

One day Ron felt so tired of ( \* 3) the smell of soup. He remembered his comic book collection. He realized that he didn't have time anymore for reading comics. His business was too busy. 'I cannot quit,' thought Ron, 'the neighborhood loves my soup so much.' Ron thought some more about his problem and then decided there was only one thing he could do. Sell the recipe!

Ron and his family became rich after selling the recipe. Ron had all the comic books that he wanted. But the unhappy part of Ron's story is that he was so tired of soup that he never again sipped another spoonful.

## TEXT NOTES

(\*1) it was too early to shovel snow for his neighbors.

too には副詞で、形容詞や副詞を強める、「あまりにも」という意味があり、“This box is too big.”「この箱は大きすぎる。」のように使えます。

本文では、“too～to…”の構文で出てきています。“too ～(形容詞) + to …(動詞)”で、「…するにはあまりにも～だ。あまりにも～で…できない」と言えます。

本文では、“too early”「あまりにも早い」「to shovel snow」「雪かきをするには」ということで、「時期が早すぎて雪かきはできない」と使われています。

この構文をつかった表現で、“It is never too late to mend.”「改めるのに遅すぎるということはない→改むるに憚ることなかれ。」ということわざもあります。

(\*2) in line

“line”には「列、線」の意味があり、“in line”で「一列に並んで」。例えば、“People were waiting in line for the train.”で「人々は並んで電車を待っていました。」のように使えます。また、“line”には「方向、方針、路線」などの意味もあり、“in line with”という、「同じ意見で、一致して」で、“My ideas are in line with his.”「私の考えは彼のものと同じ。」のようにもいえます。“line”の意味を広く捉えるようにするとよいですね。

(\*3) felt so tired of

“tired”「疲れた」という意味がありますが、疲れると嫌になることから、「うんざりした、飽きた」の意味もあります。“feel + tired of ～”で、「～にうんざりした」と言えます。～の部分に“何にうんざりしたのか”を挿入します。

本文では、“Ron felt so tired of the smell of soup.”と「スープのにおいに飽き飽き」したロンの様子が浮かびます。

## VOCABULARY

## (V1) extra

日本語でも映画の「エキストラ」と使われることがあるので、音にはなじみがあるのではないのでしょうか。extra には「臨時の、余分な」という意味があり、映画のエキストラは「(俳優が)臨時雇いの」という意味のからきています。本文でも、「普段持っている以上の、プラスアルファ」と使われています。

“extra”の用例としては、“extra money”というと「追加料金、臨時収入」などの意味があり、また、“extra time”というと「サッカーなどの延長時間、ロスタイム」のことにもなりますし、“make use of the extra time”というと、「空いた時間を利用する」と表現できます。

## (V2) savory

味を表す表現の1つで、「いい味のする、よい香り・においのする」。“savory dish”で「風味あるおいしい料理」のようにいえます。また、この“savory”には、「辛口の、ぴりっとする」という意味もあり、“savory herb”「香辛野菜」のようにも言えます。味を表す表現で、「香りがよい」と「ピリッとする」が同じ言葉で言えてしまうとはちょっと違和感があるかもしれませんが、とにかく「プラスな意味でおいしい」時には使えそうな語彙なので、食事の感想を言うときのために、覚えておくとよいでしょう。