

## Chapter 10: On The Spot

I had a bad day at work today. I was listening to the boss make a pitch to one of our biggest clients, when he suddenly put me **on the spot**. He said I would be discussing the financing for the project! I was never told that I would be discussing this. The boss told me that he would handle everything. Anyway, I must have had **the deer in the headlights look** on my face as I stood up to speak. After a very difficult beginning, I was able to **get my feet under me** and deliver a good presentation. What made me **livid** was that after the meeting, my boss didn't even thank or congratulate me. I learned my lesson today. From this day on, I'll always be ready for the unexpected.

### Breakdown

A) Put Someone On The Spot: This means you are expected to do something without any preparation.

1) He **put me on the spot** when he asked me to comment on the project. Considering the situation, I did the best I could. I hope the client was satisfied.

2) This firm expects you to be always ready. There are situations where you will **be put on the spot**, and we expect you to deliver.

3) I was **put on the spot** at work yesterday. However, I handled it very professionally and was able to answer all the client's questions.

B) The Deer In The Headlights Look: If you have a "deer caught in the headlights look," it means that you look scared.

1) I knew that Mary was scared to give her presentation because when she stood up to speak, she looked like **a deer caught in the headlights**. As she gets more experience, I'm sure she will gain confidence as well.

2) When I stood up to teach my first class, I looked like **a deer caught in the headlights**. I was nervous.

C) Get My Feet Under Me: When you get your feet under you, you start feeling comfortable after a difficult start.

1) It took me about a month or so to **get my feet under me**. After I did, I really started to enjoy my new job.

2) It was a terrible presentation that went from bad to worse. I was never able to **get my feet under me**.

3) I was very nervous when I started giving my presentation, but after a few minutes, I **got my feet under me** and things went very well.

D) Livid: This is an adjective that describes a person who is extremely, extremely angry.

1) I was **livid** when the promotion was given to my colleague instead of me.

2) I have never seen the boss as **livid** as he was during the meeting this morning.