

## **Chapter 5: No Ifs, Ands, Or Buts About It.**

Jake: Sorry, I was so busy yesterday that I couldn't finish the report.

Mr. Thomas: You do know that the deadline is today, don't you?  
Jake: I'm sorry I got **bogged down** with the Lestix Inc issue; it took longer than expected.

Mr. Thomas: You knew that this report needed to be done by today. It was an absolute must. I'm sorry, but there are **no ifs, ands, or buts about it.**

Jake: Look, Mr. Thomas, it **slipped my mind**. Lately, I have been busy with other projects, proposal planning, and meetings. Can you please **let me slide** this time?

Mr. Thomas: I don't have time to listen to your **sob story**. If you think that you can just **coast** at this job, you are totally wrong.

Jake: It won't happen again.

### **Breakdown**

A) Bogged Down: When you get bogged down with something you get stuck, or you can't progress when you are doing something.

- 1) I'm sorry that I couldn't help you, but I got **bogged down** with another project.
- 2) I didn't expect this to take so long, but I got **bogged down** with the small details.
- 3) Please consider the big picture when coming up with a plan to solve the problem. If you get **bogged down** with small details, it will lead to delays. I am looking for a quick response to this situation.

B) No ifs, ands, or buts about it: This means that no excuses will be accepted.

- 1) I understand that there were difficulties, but you knew that the report being done on time was important. I'm sorry but there are **no ifs, ands, or buts about it**.
- 2) I need the report now. **No ifs, ands, or buts about it.**
- 3) Please stop making excuses about missing the deadline. There are **no ifs, ands, or buts about it**.
- 4) I can't deal with this now. I need to explain what happened to the client, and I know he will be upset! I have to tell the truth **no ifs, ands, or buts about it**.

C) Slipped My Mind: If something slips your mind, it means that you forget about it.

1) I would like to apologize for handing in this report late. It just **slipped my mind**. It won't happen again.

2) I understand that it could **slip your mind** once or twice, but three times. What is going on with you?

3) How could something like completing the proposal **slip your mind**? Please explain that to me!

4) I can't believe today is your birthday. It **slipped my mind**.

D) Let Something/One Slide: This means to forgive a mistake or to give a second chance to someone.

1) Since you are new here, I am going to **let you slide** this time. But please be more careful next time.

2) This mistake is so big that we can't **let it slide**. Could you please come to my office and see me?

E) Sob Story: Since the word sob means to cry, this is a story that someone tells hoping to get your sympathy.

1) I just want to tell you that at this firm, we expect results. I am not interested in listening to your excuses or **sob stories**.

2) Last week you gave me the **sob story** about your cat being sick and this week you are telling me about your sick mother. I don't have time to deal with your personal issues.

3) How many **sob stories** do we have to listen to? I need you to stop making excuses and to start getting results.

4) Please stop with your **sob stories!**

F) To Coast: This means to try to do something without making any kind of effort. Someone who coasts at their job does the minimum required amount of work.

1) This is not a job for anyone who expects **to coast**. This job requires dedication, hard work, and tremendous effort. I just want you to know what will be expected of you, if you want to work here.

2) It is impossible to get a promotion if you expect to get it by **coasting**. You have got to roll up your sleeves and start working hard.