

## (008) Sour Grapes

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A young businessman applied for a job with an international company. He was asked to go for an interview. He was on a short-list of three candidates. He was excited because the post was attractive. It offered a good salary with allowances. Foreign travel was involved. The office was conveniently located in the centre of the city.

He did not get the job. They said he did not have enough experience. The young executive was disappointed and frustrated. Eventually he said to himself, "The job was not so good anyway. The salary was not that high. The housing allowance was quite low. I could only afford a 500 square foot flat. They only gave 2 weeks paid holiday a year. I did not have my own room in the office. Also, the company's policy was to fly economy not business class. It is probably fortunate that I did not get the job."

This man was feeling what is called 'sour grapes'. You find faults in something because you cannot have it. This expression comes from an old story involving a fox. The fox was walking through the fields. He spotted a bunch of grapes hanging from a branch. They were big, deep red and delicious looking.

"I bet those grapes are very sweet," the fox said to himself. He leapt up to grab them in his jaws. He could not reach them. Again and again he tried to snatch them but they were too high up.

Finally, exhausted and angry, he gave up. As he walked away, he muttered to himself, "They were probably sour, anyway."

Sometimes we discover we cannot have something we want. Then, we decide to find faults in it.