

## Grammar Lesson

Lesson 04: Could you repeat that?  
レッスン 04: もう一度言っていましたか?

**Target: Asking what unfamiliar words mean in English**  
 目的: 見慣れない単語の意味を英語で確認してみましょう!

Reading  
単語

## New vocabulary introduced in the reading

• to have a lot on one's plate	たくさんやることがある
• a cash cow	もうかる商品
• to keep something under wraps	～を隠しておく
• to leak out	漏れる
• competitive advantage	競争上の優位性
• to keep something secret	～を隠しておく
• Shoot	じゃあ、話して!
• to scale back something	規模を縮小する
• to work out the kinks (in something)	解決すべき問題点がまだいくつか残っている。

## 1

Read the passage and circle the new words as you find them

**Jon:** Hey David, can you give me a hand with this please?  
**David:** Sure. But I'm a little busy, I've got a lot on my plate at the moment.  
**Jon:** Sorry? What does that mean?  
**David:** I mean there are lots of things I need to do.  
**Jon:** Ah, OK.  
**David:** So, how can I help?  
**Jon:** It's a report I'm working on. I just have a few questions. What does "cash cow" mean?  
**David:** Oh, a cash cow is something that makes a business a lot of money.  
**Jon:** Ah, I see. Thanks. And here it says that we need to keep this part of the project under wraps. Why do you think that is?  
**David:** Well, if the information leaks out then we could lose our competitive advantage which would not be good for the company.  
**Jon:** Would you mind repeating that?  
**David:** Sure. If the information leaks out then we could lose our competitive advantage which would not be good for the company.  
**Jon:** So, you're saying that it's really important to keep this secret?  
**David:** Exactly.  
**Jon:** OK, great. I understand. I just have one final question.  
**David:** Shoot.  
**Jon:** The other day I saw James and he looked pretty upset. Do you know why that was?  
**David:** Yeah. The boss just scaled back his hours.  
**Jon:** I didn't catch that. Can you speak more slowly?  
**David:** Sure. What I said was, the boss just scaled back his hours.  
**Jon:** So, he had his hours reduced?  
**David:** That's correct.  
**Jon:** OK. I see. By the way, how's your project going?  
**David:** We are still working out a few kinks.  
**Jon:** What's "a kink?"  
**David:** Ah, "a kink" is "a problem."  
**Jon:** So, you mean there are still a few problems you need to solve?  
**David:** Yeah, pretty much.  
**Jon:** OK. Good luck.

## 2

Answer the questions below

1. What does Jon say to ask what "cash cow" means?
2. What does Jon say to explain what "cash cow" means?
3. What does Jon say when he wants David to repeat what he said?
4. What does Jon say when he paraphrases what David said?
5. What does David say to state Jon's paraphrase is correct?
6. What does Jon say when he didn't hear something?
7. What does Jon say when he wants David to speak more slowly?
8. What does Jon say when he wants to know what "a kink" means?

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