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*(Feifei and Finn bump into each other at the supermarket)*

**Finn:** Hello Feifei. I didn't know you shopped at this supermarket too.

**Feifei:** Hi Finn. Usually I don't. But it's close to the office and I have to rush home to welcome an important guest.

**Finn:** Mmmm, who is it? Someone I know?

**Feifei:** No, it's my landlady. 我的房东今晚要过来，我租房子的合同下个月就要到期了，所以我想趁她来的时候讨好讨好她，希望再签合同的时候别涨价。

**Finn:** I see what you mean. So you'd better butter her up then!

**Feifei:** Butter? Oh, yes. But I'm a really bad cook. If I bake a cake it would probably be horrible...

**Finn:** I don't mean butter for a cake. In English when you say you'll 'butter someone up' you mean you'll be especially nice to them in the hope they'll do something good for you in return.

**Feifei:** Oh, I see. 其实短语 *butter someone up* 的意思是讨好、巴结一个人，以便日后能从这个人那儿得到点儿好处。

**Finn:** Yes, you're right - it can have a negative connotation. Let's hear some examples of how to use 'to butter someone up' or 'to butter up someone', which are today's expressions in Authentic Real English.

### **Examples**

*Johnny: I was very impressed with your presentation, Mrs Beany. You are really intelligent and perceptive and...*

*Mrs Beany, the boss: Don't waste your time buttering me up, Johnny. I'm not raising your salary anytime soon.*

*The director was always ready to butter up Angelina Jolie. He knew she was looking for her next role and he wanted her in his movie.*

**Feifei:** Oh, look. It's 6pm already. I'm very late. I might not be on time to meet my landlady and she will be angry with me. She's a very busy woman.

**Finn:** Mmmm... then you're in a jam!

**Feifei:** Jam?!

**Finn:** Yes. In English you say someone 'is in a jam' when you mean they're in a difficult situation – but that's a different kind of jam!

**Feifei:** 在美式英语里，我们用短语 **in a jam** 来表达某人遇到困难，陷入窘境。这里的 **jam** 和我们吃的那种 **jam** 可是两回事儿啊。

**Finn:** That's right. It's an expression for another day. Bye!

**Feifei:** Bye!