The Write Tribe

Read the stories and do the idioms exercise below.

STORY 1 : Make a long story short

Vera: How did you get to school, Yong Kit?
Yong Kit: I woke up in the morning.
Vera: Ok.
Yong Kit: I brushed my teeth, washed my face, peed and pooed and then gobbled my breakfast, wore my uniform and ...
Vera: Yong Kit, cut the long story short! Why tell me the unnecessary details? How did you get to school?
Yong Kit: To make the long story short, I took a train.

Long story short means leaving out the unnecessary details and only telling what's important.

STORY 2 : Miss the boat

Jaratt is very enthusiastic about taking part in art competitions. However, he is a very forgetful boy. A prestigious art competition was taking place in the community centre. Jaratt has to register early in order to participate. However, he has been procrastinating.
"Jaratt, have you registered?" his Mom asked.
"I am going to do it now!" Jaratt called out.
When he opened the form, he felt displayed. He had to register by May 12. However, today is already May 13th! He had missed the boat!

Miss the boat originated from 1900s. In the past, people travelled by boats across the river. Most boats will leave by 6pm, before the sun sets. The next boat will only be available in the morning. Therefore, if one misses the boat, he or she has to wait till morning! Miss the boat means to lose an opportunity or chance.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

STORY 3 : No pain, no gain!

One sunny Sunday, Yu Xiang was exercising in the park. Suddenly, dark clouds loomed in the sky. Yu Xiang looked up to find his favourite super hero - Thor.

Yu Xiang: Thor! What are you doing at Yishun Park?

Thor: I am here to exercise!

Yu Xiang admired Thor's big chunky muscles. He wanted to have big strong muscles like Thor too.

Yu Xiang: Can I exercise with you?

Thor nodded and handed Yu Xiang a ginormous dumbbell It was at least 10 kg! Yu Xiang tried to lift it. It was so hard. Yu Xiang was sweating bricks.

Yu Xiang: It's too tough, Thor. Can you give me something lighter?

Thor: No pain. No gain! You want muscles like me, you have to work hard!

Yu Xiang lifted the 10 kg dumbbell, 10, 000 000 times and became so muscular that he joined the avengers. He is now called Captain Yu Xiang.

The end.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

idiom	meaning
Beat around the bush	
It's not rocket science	
So far so good	
Break a leg	
Let someone off the hook	
Better late than never	
Speak of the devil	
Cut somebody some slack	
Easy does it	

avoid telling what you really want to say	**things are going well so far**	**The person we were just talking about shows up**
better to go late than not go at all	**not a difficult task**	**good luck**
Don't be so critical	**slow down**	**let someone go without punishment**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

idiom	meaning
Getting out of hand	
A dime a dozen	
Get something out of your system	
Bite the bullet	
Get your act together	
That's the last straw	
Give someone the benefit of the doubt	
Go back to the drawing board	
Hang in there	

getting out of control	**To believe or trust what someone tells you even though it may not be true**	**to not give up**
finally telling someone what's bothering you	**start planning something again because earlier attempts were unsuccessful**	**get things in order / buck up**
common, worthless, cheap. Easy to find	**tolerate the pain for a while so it will be over soon**	**My patience has run out**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

idiom	meaning
A blessing in disguise	
Call it a day	
Hit the sack	
No pain, no gain	
Make a long story short	
Miss the boat	

Don't beat around the bush and come straight to the point	**go to sleep**	**Lose a chance**
something bad that turned out to be good	**You have to work for what you want**	**stop working on something and rest**

LIVEWORKSHEETS