



Read the stories and do the idioms exercise below.

STORY 1 : It's better late than never

“Rinnggggggggg!” Vera’s alarm clock continued to ring incessantly. She was in a deep slumber not realizing she had overslept! Today was the day of her singing competition! Vera had been looking forward to it for six months. She had been practicing day and night!

Finally, she wakes up! “Oh no! I have overslept!” Vera exclaimed and began sobbing. “Don’t be upset!” Vera’s mom consoled her. “It’s better late than never!” she continued. Vera rushed off to the competition. Even though the competition was nearly over, the judges gave her a chance. Vera won first prize! “You are right, Mom! It’s better to arrive late than not come at all. Imagine, if I had decided not to go? I wouldn’t have had a chance!” Vera squealed in delight!

STORY 2 : Bite the bullet

“Please, stop!” Yu Xiang begged the dentist. Yu Xiang loves sweets so much. His obsession for sweets led him to the dentist. Two of his teeth needed to be pulled out. Yu Xiang was wincing in pain. “Now, now Yu Xiang! If I don’t pull your teeth, you will continuously be in pain. Bite the bullet and get through it.” the dentist coaxed Yu Xiang. Yu Xiang had no choice but to tolerate the pain. He bit the bullet and soon his pain was over. “Now, how do you feel?” the dentist asked Yu Xiang. “Much better!” Yu Xiang exclaimed.

STORY 3 : Break a leg

“Alright guys! I am going to perform my dance number. Wish me good luck!” Jovina said.

“**Break a leg**, Jovina!” Jaratt chimed.

“What! Why would you say that?” Jovina asked, incensed.

“Oh! Don’t you know. In the past, many performers believed if you say something bad, the opposite will happen. So by saying, break a leg, I am actually wishing you good luck!” Jaratt explained.

“Wow! I didn’t know that!” Jovina exclaimed. “Well then, I shall *break a leg*!” Jovina continued with a wink.

idiom	meaning
Beat around the bush	
A dime a dozen	
A blessing in disguise	
Break a leg	
Bite the bullet	
Better late than never	

avoid telling what you really want to say	common, worthless, cheap. Easy to find	something bad that turned out to be good
better to go late than not go at all	tolerate the pain for a while so it will be over soon	good luck