

The Write Tribe

Read the stories and do the idioms exercise below.

STORY 1 : So far so good

Yu Zhe loves watching soccer matches. Today, he is watching his favourite team play. Unfortunately, he needed to go to the toilet. He was worried to even miss one minute of the game. Besides, he made a bet with Eiji that his team would win. If Yu zhe loses, he would have to buy an ice cream cone for Eiji. Yu Zhe quickly went to the toilet and came back.

"How is the game going?" Yu Zhe asked Eiji.
"So far so good!" Eiji replied.
Yu Zhe heaved a sigh of relief. He was happy that all is well so far.

STORY 2 : Speak of the devil

Han Yi and Cecilia were talking about Vera.
Cecilia: How's Vera doing? Does she still have 100 Write bu... Speak of the devil! Vera is here!
Vera: Hi guys!
Han Yi: Wow! We were just talking about you, Vera! And, here you are! What a coincidence!

Speak of the Devil is usually used when a person being spoken about unexpectedly arrives. In some cultures, if this happens, it is considered a good omen or a sign of luck!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

STORY 3 : That's the last straw

Teacher Becca was at her wits' end! No matter how many times she told the students to be quiet, it was falling on deaf years. To make matters worse, Boon Keng spills water on to the floor. Becca lost all her patience.
"That's the last straw! All of you get to the principal's office right now!" Becca boomed.

The original idiom is - The straw that broke the camel's back
Centuries ago in the Middle East, straw (dried grass or grain) was used for weaving or building and could be bought and sold by traders, who transported their goods using camels. An Arabian story described a man who made his camel carry as much straw as possible. Still unsatisfied with the huge weight being carried by the animal, the man added a single last piece of straw. This last straw proved too much for the camel to bear and he collapsed with a broken back, leaving the man with no way to take his goods to market. The story is a metaphor for the times when someone faces repeated problems or is badly treated again and again until finally, one small thing pushes them to the point of explosion. They might get angry and retaliate or decide "enough is enough" and try to change their situation. We use this idiom to highlight the problem that finally created too much pressure to cope with, saying "it was the last straw" or "it was the straw that broke the camel's back"

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**

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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	

something bad that turned out to be good	**go to sleep**	**stop working on something and rest**

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