



Read the stories and do the idioms exercise below.

STORY 1 : On the ball

Vera had been distracted since the beginning of her basketball game. She is a good player. However, today her focus was off. Noticing Vera's distraction, her coach looked her in the eyes and said, "Vera keep your eyes on the ball or we will lose the game!"

Not wanting to let her team down, Vera was on the ball for the rest of the game. Eventually, they won!

The term 'On the ball' originated from ball games. The full saying is, 'Keep your eyes on the ball!'

As long as the player focuses on the ball, it would not go to the opposing team. On the ball also means doing a good job!

STORY 2 : Pull someone's leg

Li Yuan was at it again! It was April Fools Day and he wanted to trick his sister, Cecilia. "Hey Cecilia!" he cooed. Perplexed, Cecilia looked up to him. "I see you have two horns on your head!" Li Yuan laughed. "What!" Cecilia screeched and ran towards the mirror. Nothing was wrong with her head. "I was only pulling your leg!" Li Yuan laughed. Incensed, Cecilia took her light saber, bought from The Write Store and kicked Li Yuan to outer-space. Legend says, Li Yuan is still roaming in space.

This idiom originated in England in the 1800s. Street robbers used to 'pull someone's leg' using a wire which would cause the person to trip up. When they were on the floor, another street robber would steal the victim's money and valuables. Over time, people started to trip each other up as a way of making them stumble, knock into other people and look foolish.

STORY 3 : Pull yourself together

Yong Kit has been working all week to learn how to make a toy aeroplane. Everything was perfect. He stepped back to marvel at his own handiwork. He decided to take a picture of his plane and share with his friends. Just as he took his camera, he tripped and fell on his plane. It smashed into smithereens. Yong Kit became so angry that he started throwing anything he could find. Soon his house looked like it was attacked by a tornado. Just then, Teacher Maha waltzed in, "Yong Kit, pull yourself together! Relax!"

Yong Kit realized that it was important to relax. What has happened has happened!

Pull yourself together means to relax especially after something terrible has happened.

| 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 |

| 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 |

| 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 | |
| On the ball | |
| Pull someone's leg | |
| Pull yourself together | |

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| Don't beat around the bush and come straight to the point | To calm oneself down after something terrible | Lose a chance |
| play a prank | go to sleep | stop working on something and rest |
| something bad that turned out to be good | You have to work for what you want | be focused |