The Write Tribe

Read the stories and do the idioms exercise below.

STORY 1 : to make matters worse

Li Yuan was already feeling upset that his favourite pen has run out of ink. He was crying profusely which caught the attention of his younger sister, Cecilia.
“Why are you crying, Li Yuan?” Cecilia asked.
“My pen has run out of ink!” Li Yuan lamented.
“That’s all! Leave it to the expert! I am great at refilling ink!” Cecilia boasted. She grabbed the pen roughly and broke it into two. To make matters worse, she accidentally spilled all that blank ink on their mother’s pristine white carpet. Seeing the horror her white carpet has become, their Mother, Helen, blew her top!
“WHO DID IT!” Helen demanded.
“Li Yuan.” Cecilia blurted out.

To make matters worse usually means to make a bad situation much worse. Another idiom with the same meaning is - TO ADD INSULT TO INJURY

STORY 2 : Under the weather

Emily was looking pale as a sheet. She has been coughing and sneezing non-stop. Also, she was running a fever.
“Emily, what happened to you?” Vera inquired
“Nothing much. Just feeling under the weather!” Emily muttered.
“You better see a doctor!” Vera advised.

in the older days, when a sailor was feeling seasick, in order to help him recover, he was sent below deck to get out from under the harsh weather. That is where the phrase originated from. Sometimes, feeling under the weather could refer to someone feeling sad.

Feeling under the weather, a man holding an umbrella in rain.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

STORY 3 : We'll cross that bridge when we come to it

Charlene is a worry-wart. She's always worrying about everything. Vera and Charlene were planning a trip to the Philippines. However, Charlene was a bundle of nerves, asking questions non-stop.

Charlene: What if we miss the flight?
Vera: We will cross that bridge when it comes.

Charlene: What if we get food poisoning?
Vera: We WILL cross that bridge when it comes

Charlene: What if aliens kidnap us?
Vera: WE WILL CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN IT COMES!

Charlene: What if we can't find the bridge?
Vera: We will...

Vera stared at Charlene, for a long, long time.
Vera: We will cross that bridge when it comes means we will deal with the problem when it comes and not worry about it now. OKAY!

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	
On the ball	
Pull someone's leg	
Pull yourself together	

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**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

idiom	meaning
Time flies when you're having fun	
To get bent out of shape	
The best of both worlds	
so far so good	
Speak of the devil	
That's the last straw	
to make matters worse	
feeling under the weather	
we will cross that bridge when it comes	

You get both of what you want	You don't notice how long something lasts when it's enjoyable	To get upset
Things are going smoothly as of now	**The person you were talking about arrives**	**patience running out**
Let's not talk about that problem right now	**Feeling unwell**	**Make a problem worse**

LIVEWORKSHEETS