



The Write Tribe

Read the stories and do the idioms exercise below.

STORY 1 :Hit the sack

After studying for hours and hours, Zi Yuan finally decided it was time to sleep. "Good night, Mom! I am going to hit the sack!" With that, Zi Yuan soundly slept like a baby.

Long, long time ago, people didn't have comfortable mattresses. People usually slept on sacks full of hay. Hay is dried grass. To make it more comfortable, people hit the sacks. That is why, we say hit the sack when we want to sleep.

STORY 2 : It's not rocket science

Cecilia was trying to break an egg. However, she was scared that it will be difficult. She didn't want egg shells on her omelette. Yuck! As she stood there frightened, her brother Li Yuan came along. "Come on, it's easy! It's not rocket science!" he scoffed. With that, he broke the egg - on her head. Cecilia was mad.

Flying a rocket or even building one takes very advanced science and mathematics. Only a genius can do it. So when we say, it's not rocket science, it means it's not difficult. Breaking an egg is not rocket science. It's easy peasy lemon squeezy!

STORY 3 : Let someone off the hook

Seeing Cecilia covered in egg, made her mother's anger hit the ceiling. "I am not going to let him off the hook! He will be punished!" Cecilia's mother promised her. Li Yuan was punished. He was not let off the hook. Till today, he hangs on a hook and possibly for an eternity. Or maybe till he stops cracking eggs on Cecilia's head.

Fishermen use hooks to catch fish. If a fish gets caught in a hook, it will be killed. If a fisherman lets a fish off the hook, it goes free and gets to be alive. So if we let someone off the hook, it means we let him off without punishment.

idiom	meaning
Beat around the bush	
It's not rocket science	
A blessing in disguise	
Break a leg	
Let someone off the hook	
Better late than never	
Hit the sack	
Cut somebody some slack	
Easy does it	

avoid telling what you really want to say	go to sleep	something bad that turned out to be good
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	
Call it a day	
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	stop working on something and rest