

Topic

Conversation for Idioms

Lesson 15 Leadership



the shots



light a under someone



put someone on the



some slack

- 1. Jack is the leader of the football team. He gets to call the shots on what the members should do.
 - Which is true about the statement?
 - a. Jack has the right to tell people what to do.
 - b. Jack must give other people the chance to be the leader of the team.



- 2. My mom tried to light a fire under me so I would finish my homework quickly.
 - When is it reasonable to light a fire under someone?

Origin

The origin of the phrase came from when chimney sweeps were scared to go up the chimneys, so a fire would be lit under them in order to motivate them to climb to the top.



- 3. I dislike it when they put me on the spot to answer the teacher's questions. I'm just as clueless as everyone else!
 - When do we use the idiom?
 - a. when we want someone to spot something that's lost
 - b. when we want someone to make a quick decision



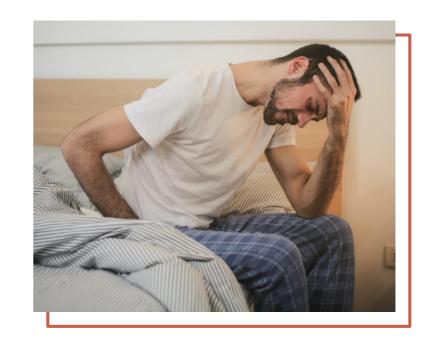
📙 Origin

This phrase comes from the days when a person was asked to stand 'on the carpet' in front of a head teacher or a boss at work, for example. Then, the person will be thoroughly questioned.

4. A: Brett missed work again.

B: Cut him some slack.
He has been very sick lately.

In what situations would you cut someone some slack?



U Origin

It comes from the loose part of a sail or rope. Therefore, to cut someone some slack means to loosen a tight restriction.

Quick Review

cut someone some slack

to treat someone in a better way

light a fire under someone

to push someone to work more efficiently



put someone on the spot

to force someone to answer a difficult question

call the shots

to be in a position to tell others what to do

1. call the shots

to push someone to work more efficiently

2. cut someone some slack

to be in a position to tell others what to do

3. light a fire under someone

to force someone to make a quick decision

4. put someone on the spot

to treat someone in a less harsh way

Practice

1. Father calls the police for a birthday party here, so you better talk to him.

2. You should not put me on the stage. I don't know how to answer that question.

3. Mina hopes that after getting her gym membership, it will light a tree under her and she will start exercising next week.

4. I am new to this place. I need some time to adjust, so please cut me some snacks and let me do what I want to do.

Discussion

