

It's not rocket science

Idiom of the month

a cura di Sarah Gudgeon

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1. Divide these tasks into 'easy' and 'difficult'. Write each one under the correct column.

- riding a bike
- building a spaceship
- driving a car
- cooking pasta
- finding a cure for cancer
- walking on the moon

EASY

DIFFICULT

2a. Read

I can't ride this bike!

Yes, you can! You just need to practise more often.

No, I can't. It's too complicated!

Come on! It's not rocket science! Just pedal!

2b. Complete

I don't know why my brother takes so long to build his toy spaceships.

....., he just has to glue the numbered pieces together.

When we want to emphasise that something isn't difficult to do, we often say 'It's not rocket science' because we all know that sending rockets into space is not easy at all!

3. Read these idioms. Match each idiomatic phrase (a – f) to the correct definition (1 – 6).

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>a. I need to recharge my batteries, so I'm going on holiday for a week.</p> | <p>1. ... provoke me.</p> |
| <p>b. My sister makes me really mad, she really knows how to push my buttons.</p> | <p>2. ... in agreement on many things and share the same views.</p> |
| <p>c. Jenny and Bernadette are on the same wavelength, that's why they're best friends.</p> | <p>3. ... I know what motivates...</p> |
| <p>d. I know what makes Max tick: money, money, money.</p> | <p>4. ...got no energy left.</p> |
| <p>e. It's not rocket science, we just have to follow the instructions.</p> | <p>5. ...relax.</p> |
| <p>f. Phew! I've run out of steam now; I'm too tired to finish this project.</p> | <p>6. ...it's not difficult.</p> |

4. Complete these sentences with an idiom from exercise 3.

- a. I want to go to a nice beach somewhere to
- b. My dad and I are not.....; that's why we fight all the time.
- c. I don't know why we can't install this new software.....
- d. I don't understand Frankie at all, I don't know.....him.....
- e. I try to stay calm at basketball training but the coach really.....
.....
- f. I was really excited about making a tree house in the garden, but I've.....

Teacher's Notes

1. EASY: riding a bike, driving a car, cooking pasta
DIFFICUT: building a spaceship, finding a cure for cancer, walking on the moon

- 2b. Complete
*I don't know why my brother takes so long to build his toy spaceships. **It's not rocket science**, he just has to glue the numbered pieces together.*

3. Match each idiomatic phrase to the correct definition.
a 5 b 1 c 2 d 3 e 6 f 4

4. Complete the sentences with an idiom from exercise 3.
 - a. I want to go to a nice beach somewhere to **recharge my batteries**.
 - b. My dad and I are not **on the same wavelength**; that's why we fight all the time.
 - c. I don't know why we can't install this new software, **it's not rocket science**.
 - d. I don't understand Frankie at all, I don't know **what makes** him **tick**.
 - e. I try to stay calm at basketball training, but the coach really **knows how to push my buttons**.
 - f. I was really excited about making a tree house in the garden, but I've **run out of steam**.

* Sarah Gudgeon

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