

# It's not rocket science

Idiom of the month

a cura di Sarah Gudgeon

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1. Write down three things that you think it's quite easy for people to do, and three more things that are very difficult and require special skills or brainpower.

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).**

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

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

- a. I went to Greece for three weeks last summer. It felt great when I came back. I'd really had the chance to .....
- b. My dad and I argue about politics, my future, my friends, everything. We are not ..... at all.
- c. I've been trying to install this software all morning without success. I know .....  
....., but I still can't do it!
- d. I don't understand Frankie at all; he hasn't got a job, or any ambitions, I just don't know

.....him.....

e. I lost my temper at the basketball match last night. I know I shouldn't, but Mikie really

.....

f. I had all sorts of great plans for transforming the garden into an oasis 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 went to Greece for three weeks last summer. I felt great when I came back. I'd really had the chance to **recharge my batteries**.
  - b. My dad and I argue about politics, my future, my friends, everything. We are not **on the same wavelength** at all.
  - c. I've been trying to install this software all morning but without success. I **know it's not rocket science** but I still can't do it!
  - d. I don't understand Frankie at all; he hasn't got a job, or any ambitions, I just don't know **what makes him tick**.
  - e. I lost my temper at the basketball match last night. I know I shouldn't but Mikie **really knows how to push my buttons**.
  - f. I had all sorts of great plans for transforming the garden into an oasis, but I've **run out of steam**.

### \* Sarah Gudgeon

Sarah Gudgeon is a trained journalist and EFL teacher from Manchester, England. She has written numerous books for Pearson over the years and is a regular contributor to the Pearson Portal on [pearson.it](http://pearson.it).