Task 1 – the words in the idioms

a) Work in pairs. Describe the pictures a–e with a partner.

b) Now write the idioms from the box under the correct picture.

| lie low | at a snail’s pace | break the ice | send someone packing | a night owl |

Task 2 – the meanings of the idioms

a) Match the idioms in Task 1 with situations 1–5. Try to work out the meaning of each idiom.
Task 2 – the meanings of the idioms (continued)

b) Write the idiom for definitions 1–5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Idiom</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1   tell someone to go away</td>
<td>send ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2   hide so that you will not be found</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3   do or say something to start a conversation in a social situation, especially meeting strangers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4   a person who stays up late</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5   extremely slowly</td>
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</table>

Task 3 – gap fill

1. ‘I fired my new employee because I saw him stealing money from the till,’ said the shop manager. ‘That’s a good enough reason to ________________.’

2. After the robbery, the thief decided to ________________ for a while. He knew that the police would be looking for him, so he stayed with his brother, hardly ever leaving the flat.

3. He still hasn’t finished his essay! He works ________________.

4. She’s always been ________________. At college she would often stay up working until 3 in the morning.

5. Telling a joke at a party where you don’t know anyone can help to ________________.

Task 4 – idioms in context

*Your teacher will give you and the other students in your group a story. Choose which idiom best summarises that story.*

*Then retell the story to other students, who will try to guess what the idiom is.*

Franz, the night owl
Task 5 – discussion

Work in small groups to discuss the questions.

1. What’s the best thing to do if you want to break the ice?
2. Do you know any night owls?
3. Have you ever sent someone packing?
4. When do you think a person might need to lie low?
5. Is moving at a snail’s pace ever a good thing?

Task 6 – using the idioms

Prepare a short conversation using as many of the idioms as you can.

Cooler – idioms in your language

Discuss in groups.

1. Do you have any idioms in your language?
2. What do they mean?