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- Jen:** Hello, I'm Jennifer. Welcome to Authentic Real English. Joining me in the studio today is Helen. Hi Helen!
- Helen:** Hi Jen! 你怎么上班来了? 我以为你今天请假休息了呢?
- Jen:** No, that's next week. I'm taking two weeks off work and I can't wait!
- Helen:** Are you going on holiday?
- Jen:** Not this time, it's too expensive, but I do have a few irons in the fire that will keep me busy across the fortnight...
- Helen:** Irons in the fire? 烧铁? 这是什么意思? 你几时成了铁匠?
- Jen:** No, Helen, I'm not an ironmonger...
- Helen:** ...because that could be great! 我看中了一个特别漂亮的手工打造的铁床架子, 不过实在是太贵了。Perhaps with your new iron-making skills you can make me one, instead!
- Jen:** I definitely don't have any iron-making skills!
- Helen:** But you said you had a few irons in the fire... Oh! 我理解错了, 是不是你有很多衣服要烫? 你衣服可多了, 那得花很多时间才能烫完。
- Jen:** No, that's not what I meant!
- Helen:** So what did you mean?
- Jen:** This is another English phrase which you shouldn't take too literally. If you have a few irons in the fire, it means that you have a few different projects or potential ideas going on at the same time.
- Helen:** I see. 你不早点解释, 原来这个短语 *irons in the fire* 和打铁, 烫衣服都没关系, 它的意思是同时有好几件事情要办, 或者是同时你有好多选择。So you have a few irons in the fire because you have a few different options for your fortnight off?

**Jen:** That's right – I can't wait.

**Helen:** So, tell me, Jen, what are your irons in the fire – what are you planning?

**Jen:** Well, I have a friend in Paris who I haven't seen for ages, so I could go there... I'd like to pop up to Scotland to visit my sister and her children for a few days... There's also a cheap deal to Turkey that I've seen and I already have some yoga classes booked in!

**Helen:** Wow, that's a lot!

**Jen:** There was one thing you *were* right about, though...

**Helen:** What's that?

**Jen:** I do have a huge pile of ironing to do, too! Join us again for another edition of Authentic Real English from [www.bbcukchina.com](http://www.bbcukchina.com). Bye for now!

**Helen:** Bye!