

Can You Believe It?

Stories and Idioms from Real Life



A*List



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Contents

Unit	Title	Lexile/Words	Page
01	An Engineer Is Enthusiastic About Odd New Home	700L / 150	8
02	A Man Eats Out and Gets More Than He Ordered	520L / 187	14
03	On Top of the World	590L / 190	20
04	Face-To-Face After 56 Years	660L / 216	26
05	A Boy Fights a Lion Tooth and Nail	660L / 196	32
Review Units 01-05			38





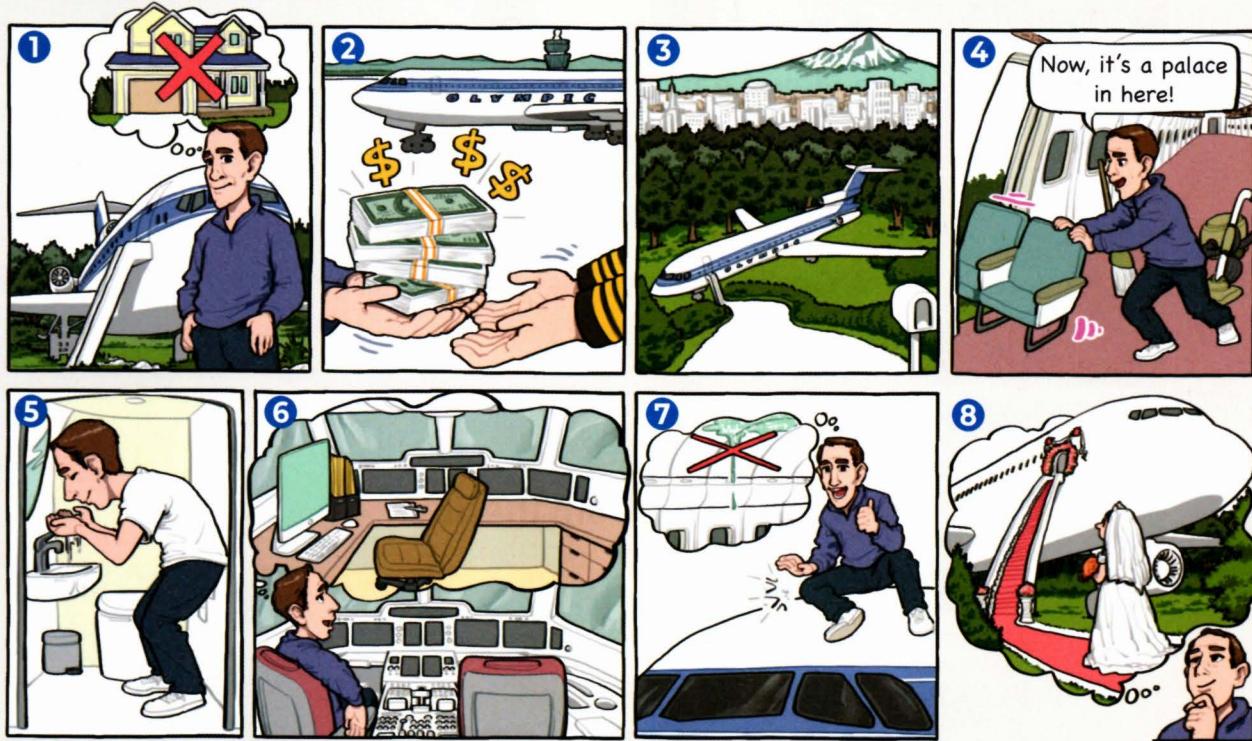
Unit	Title	Lexile/Words	Page
06	 A Man Tries to Turn Over a New Leaf	810L / 184	44
07	 A Gorilla Lends a Helping Hand	550L / 185	50
08	 Money Rains from the Sky	730L / 215	56
09	 A Janitor's Dream Comes True	650L / 252	62
10	 Bullfighting Is in Her Blood	670L / 221	68
Review Units 06-10		74	
Appendix		80	
Workbook & Idiom Book			

Can You Believe It? 4

An Engineer Is Enthusiastic About Odd New Home

02 Listen

Look at the pictures below and listen to the story.



03 New Idioms & Expressions

- **follow the crowd** do what everyone else does
- **instead of (doing) something** in the place of (doing) something
- **pay for something** give money for something
- **belong to someone** be the property of someone
- **take something out** remove something
- **on the other hand** however; in contrast
- **plan on (doing) something** expect (to do) something in the future
- **be enthusiastic about something** like something very much
- **point something out** explain something; show something
- **at present** now
- **what if** what will happen if
- **soulmate** perfect life partner

Words in parentheses () can be used with the idiom, but aren't necessary.

04 Read the Story

Now, read the story carefully. Pay special attention to the idioms and expressions.

* Lexile: 700L * Words: 150

An Engineer Is Enthusiastic About Odd New Home :

PORTLAND, OR, USA

① Bruce Campbell recently bought his dream home. Campbell, 49, is not someone who **follows the crowd**. Instead of a traditional house in the suburbs, he got a Boeing 727! **②** He **paid** \$100,000 for his new home, which used to **belong to** the Greek airline Olympic Airways.

③ Campbell's unusual home is parked on his rural property near the city of Portland.

④ He cleaned the cabin and **took out** most of the seats. "Now, it's a palace in here!" he says. **⑤** The cabin is huge, but the bathrooms, **on the other hand**, are tiny. **⑥** Campbell **plans on using** the cockpit as his office.

⑦ Campbell, an engineer, **is enthusiastic about** his new home. The plane is much stronger than most homes, he **points out**. And the roof will never leak!

⑧ **At present**, Mr. Campbell is a bachelor. But **what if** he meets his **soulmate**? Then, he jokes, he'll buy a huge Boeing 747!



* **rural:** in the countryside

* **cockpit:** the place where the pilot sits to fly the airplane

* **bachelor:** a man who has never been married

Reading Comprehension

Read and write the answers.

1 How much did Campbell pay for his new home?

2 Who did the plane belong to before Campbell bought it?

3 What did Campbell do to the cabin?

4 What does Campbell plan on doing with the cockpit?

5 Why is Campbell enthusiastic about his new home?

6 What is Campbell's marital status at present?

7 What will Campbell do if he meets his soulmate?

8 Would you be enthusiastic about living in a plane? Why or why not?

About You

Read and answer the questions.

1 What are you enthusiastic about?

2 Do you like to follow the crowd? (In fashion? In music?)

3 What kind of person would be a soulmate for you?

4 Where are you living at present?

Complete the Idioms

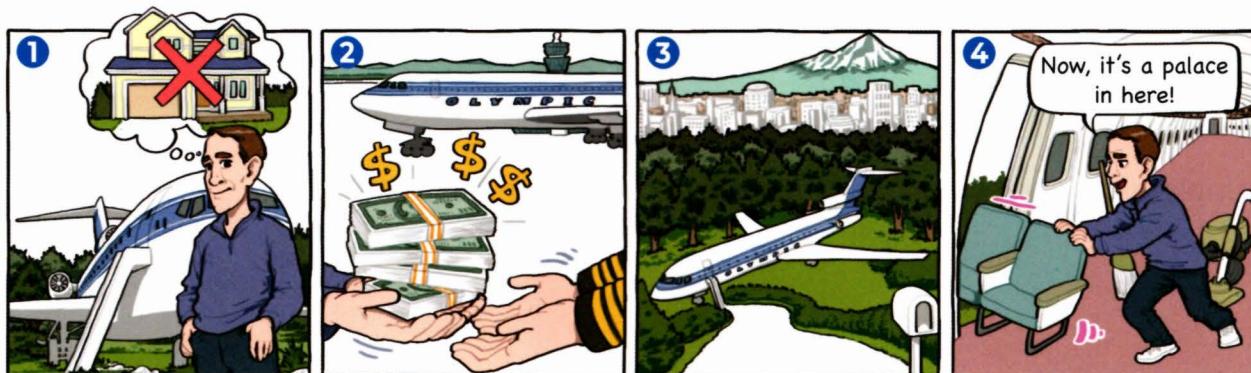
Look at each definition and then complete the idiom or expression.

1 be the property of	= _____ to
2 give money for	= _____ for
3 in contrast	= on the other _____
4 now	= at _____
5 perfect life partner	= _____
6 explain	= _____ out
7 in the place of	= _____ of
8 do what everyone else does	= follow the _____

Tell the Story

Look at the pictures below. Tell the story using as many idioms as you can.

- 1 First, work with the whole class to retell the story.
- 2 Then, tell the story to a partner or a small group in your own words.



Paraphrase

A Read and fill in the blanks.

Bruce Campbell lives in a plane ① _____ a traditional house. He ② _____ \$100,000 _____ it. The cabin feels large because he took most of the seats out. The bathrooms, ③ _____, are tiny. Campbell ④ _____ his home and ⑤ _____ that it's stronger than most homes. He's a bachelor ⑥ _____. He jokes about buying a bigger plane if he meets his ⑦ _____.



B Listen and check your answers.

Write About Yourself

Complete the sentences. Write something true about yourself.

- 1 I paid _____ food last week.
- 2 I also paid for _____ last week.
- 3 Yesterday, I paid _____.
- 4 I'm very enthusiastic _____
because _____.
- 5 I like to take _____ from the library.

Complete the Story

A Read the true story and fill in the blanks. Put the verbs in the correct form and tense.

pay...for

point out

what if

instead of

plan on

be enthusiastic about

on the other hand

Tired of Waste

CARLTON, WA, USA Doug and Michelle Wilcox's dream house is good to the environment.

The couple built their home from recycled materials ① _____ wood or brick. They used 1,600 old tires and thousands of tin cans. "There are six billion people on our planet, and we can't **keep on wasting** precious natural resources," Doug Wilcox ② _____.

The walls are made of old tires packed with dirt. Tin cans fill the walls between the tires.

There are large windows on the south side of the house, which **take advantage of** the sun to generate electricity.

The Wilcoxes built the house themselves. It was very hard work, but they

③ _____ only \$20 per square foot _____ it. Traditional houses, ④ _____, cost between \$45 and \$65 per square foot.

⑤ _____ there is an earthquake? Tom Griepentrog, a civil engineer, says, "The house is earthquake-proof. It's extremely safe and stable."

The Wilcoxes ⑥ _____ their tire house. "For us it feels right," says Michelle. In the future, they ⑦ _____ helping other people to build tire houses. "We want to teach people to respect the Earth," they say.

* keep on doing something: continue to do something

* take advantage of something: use something well

B Read or tell the story to a partner.