

Listening and speaking

How on earth did he do that?



- 1 Look at the photos and read about Reg Spiers. He says, 'I just got in the thing and went.' What did he get into? Where did he want to go? Why?

THE MAN WHO POSTED HIMSELF TO AUSTRALIA

In the mid-1960s, Australian athlete Reg Spiers found himself stranded in London with no money to buy a plane ticket home. Desperate to get back in time for his daughter's birthday, he decided to post himself to Australia in a wooden crate. 'I just got in the thing and went.'



- 2 Work in pairs. Read these lines from an interview with Reg and his English friend John on the BBC World Service. Try to work out Reg's remarkable story.

- 1 He had his wallet pinched.

He can't have had enough money for the flight.

- 2 He worked for Air France in the export cargo section.
3 We thought he was joking.
4 We lined the inside with paper.
5 We made up a company – a fictitious address in London and in Perth.
6 It was about 60 hours in the thing.
7 It's so hot I've taken all my clothes off.
8 She didn't believe me.



- 🔊 10.11 Listen and check your ideas.

- 3 🔊 10.11 Listen again. Are these statements true (✓) or false (✗)? Correct the false ones.

- 1 Reg and John met at the Commonwealth Games in London.
2 John was surprised by Reg's visit.
3 John refused to build the box for Reg.
4 Reg's family in Australia thought his plan was a joke.
5 Reg had no food, only bottles of drink for the journey.
6 He was strapped into the box.
7 He was frightened because it was pitch black.
8 His wife thought he was very brave.

What do you think?

- Was Reg brave or silly? Were his friends right to help him?
- Why might it not be as easy to do what Reg did today?

Vocabulary

Phrasal verbs with *out* and *up*

- 1 Look at these examples of phrasal verbs from this unit. Replace them with a verb or phrase from the box.

invented finally chose calculated
give him a bed developed

- 1 We **built up** a friendship.
2 I was able to **put him up**.
3 We **made up** the name of the company.
4 I **worked it out** – it was 60 hours in the box.
5 I **ended up** choosing the first one I tried.
- 2 Read the dictionary entries for *two* of the phrasal verbs. Answer the questions.
- 1 How many meanings does each have?
2 What do *sth* and *sb* stand for?
3 Which of the meanings are separable? Which inseparable?

PHRV work sth out 1 to find the answer; to solve sth: *I can't work out how to do this.* 2 to calculate sth: *I worked out the total cost.*

work out 1 to progress in a good way: *I hope things work out for you* 2 to do physical exercise to keep your body fit: *We work out to music at my exercise class.*

PHRV make sth up 1 to invent sth, often sth that is not true: *to make up an excuse* 2 to form sth: *the different groups that make up society* **make up (with sb)** to become friends again after an argument: *Has she made up with him yet?*

- 3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of a phrasal verb in 2.

- 1 Help! I can't _____ these instructions.
2 That's a lie. You _____ that _____, didn't you?
3 I know we argue a lot, but we always kiss and _____ afterwards.
4 Don't worry, things will _____ in the end. They always do.
5 I _____ at the gym every day.
6 Women _____ 56% of the students in this university.
7 Can you _____ this bill for me? I don't understand all those figures.
8 You must have _____ the answers by now.