

## Someone should have stopped him!

2 Read a true story and answer the questions.

- What's shocking about the story? What kind of child do you think Drew is?
- Explain the double meanings of *grounded* and *flight* in the title.

# Australian boy grounded after 1,800-mile flight to Bali

12-year-old \*Drew from Sydney, Australia decided to run away from home after an argument with his mother. Running away is not that unusual for young children, however, Drew ran away in spectacular fashion. He found his parents' credit cards and booked himself a 1,800-mile flight from Sydney to the Indonesian island of Bali, where he spent four days in a hotel!

Two airlines refused to let him fly without written permission from his parents, but the third didn't ask and sold him a ticket. Drew then booked the hotel online. He tricked his grandmother into telling him where his passport was kept, and headed off. His parents thought he'd gone to school.

He used self-service check-in at Sydney airport, and it was only when he changed planes at Perth airport that staff asked why he was travelling alone, but they allowed him to continue after checking he was over 12. Drew got through Indonesian immigration by telling them his mother was waiting for him in arrivals. After checking into his hotel, telling staff there that he was waiting for his older sister to arrive, he spent four days relaxing on the beach and exploring the surrounding area on a rented scooter!

\* not his real name, which wasn't made public

The school had contacted Drew's parents to ask where he was, and he was reported missing to the police. His foreign hideout was eventually discovered when he boasted about his holiday on social media, posting a video which was geotagged.

'It was great, because I wanted to go on an adventure', Drew said. 'He doesn't like the word *no*', said his mother. Drew is now grounded until further notice, and the airline Drew flew with have since changed their policy on children flying unattended.



3 Use the prompts to make sentences about Drew's story.

- 1 If he / not argue / his mother / he / not run away.
- 2 If only Drew's parents / keep / credit cards in a safe place.
- 3 If the airline / ask / written permission / Drew / not be able / buy a ticket.
- 4 His grandmother wish / not tell him / where his passport was.
- 5 If he / not use / self-service check-in, staff / might / stop him.
- 6 The immigration officials / should / check / his mother / really wait / for him.
- 7 If the school / not contact / Drew's parents, they / not know / he / run away.
- 8 Supposing Drew / not post / video on social media – how long / take / to find him?

What do you *think* the answer to question 8 is? Why?

## Talking about you

4 What do you wish was different about your life, present and past? Choose some of these topics to make a wish list. Discuss your lists in groups.

- home
- family
- friends
- social life
- work
- holidays
- money
- relationships

### My wish list

If only I had ...

I wish I/I'd ...