

The Ringing Dog 10



1. Quick Reading

Look at the pictures on page 43.

What is the story about?

Now read quickly to get the main idea.

LONDON, ENGLAND ¹It's Christmas time in London. Rachel Murphy, 27, buys a Christmas gift for her roommate. It's a small cellular phone. ²She wraps it and puts it under the Christmas tree in their apartment. ³**A little bit later**, Rachel notices a pile of torn paper under the tree. The phone is gone! "**What's going on?**" she wonders. ⁴She suspects Charlie, her roommate's dog, who **is sleeping like a log** near the tree. ⁵She **looks high and low for** the phone, but it's nowhere. She can't **figure it out**. The phone **has vanished into thin air!**

⁶Rachel gets the phone number from the telephone company and dials the number. She hears ringing in Charlie's stomach. "**What in the world?**" she thinks. She's confused, but **all at once** she **gets the picture**. Charlie swallowed the phone! ⁷She rushes the dog to the vet. "Don't worry," the vet says. "Just let nature take its course." ⁸**Sure enough**, 24 hours later, the phone passes through Charlie's system. It seems to be in perfect working order!

New idioms and expressions

| | |
|---|--|
| a little bit later | a short time later |
| What's going on? | What's happening? |
| sleep like a log | sleep very deeply |
| look high and low for someone or something | look everywhere for someone or something |
| figure something out* | solve a problem; understand something |
| vanish into thin air | disappear quickly and completely |
| What in the world? | What?; How strange! (an expression of shock or surprise) |
| all at once | suddenly; unexpectedly |
| get the picture | understand the situation or the facts |
| sure enough | as expected |

*phrasal verb (see Lexicon and Appendix D)


 **2. Listen**

Cover the story and look only at these pictures. Listen to the story two or three times.



3. Read the Story

Now read the story carefully. Pay special attention to the idioms so that you're ready for Exercise 4.

 **4. Listen and Complete**

Close your book. Listen to the story again. When the tape or your teacher pauses, try to complete the idiom.

5. Tell the Story

Cover the story and look at the pictures above. Tell the story using as many idioms as you can.

- a. First, work with the whole class to retell the story.
- b. Then tell the story to a partner or small group.

6. Answer the Questions

About the story.....

- a. Where does Rachel look for the missing phone?
- b. What is Charlie doing?
- c. What can't Rachel figure out?
- d. All at once, Rachel gets the picture. What happened to the phone?

About you.....

- e. Do you have a pet? If so, does it get into trouble like Charlie?
- f. Did you ever own something that vanished into thin air? Did you look high and low for it? Did you ever find it?
- g. Do you sleep like a log, or are you a light sleeper?
- h. What is the best gift you ever received? On what holidays do you give gifts?

7. Write about Yourself

Complete the sentences, writing something true about yourself.

- a. I used to have _____, but it/they vanished into thin air.
- b. I often lose my _____, and have to look high and low for it/them.
- c. Sometimes it's hard for me to figure out _____
_____.

8. Write a Dialogue

Work with a partner. Write a dialogue using at least three idioms from the unit. Act it out for a small group or the class.

9. Take a Dictation

10. Complete the Dialogue

a. A mother and her son, Troy, are talking.

Fill in the blanks with idioms from the box.

- a little bit later
- what's going on
- looking high and low for
- figure out
- get the picture
- vanish into thin air



Troy, (1) _____? I've been
(2) _____ you.

How come?*



You shouldn't (3) _____
when I ask you to do something. I told you
three times to wash the dishes.

Oh, Mom. Just a few more minutes. Just let me
(4) _____ this computer game.



Turn it off.

Can't I wash the dishes
(5) _____?



No, I said now. Do you want me
to unplug that computer?

Oh, Mom. Please?



Troy, I'm at the end of my rope.**

OK, OK. I (6) _____.



* How come?: Why? (informal)

** be at the end of one's rope: be at the limit of one's patience

b. Work with a partner. Role-play the dialogue together.