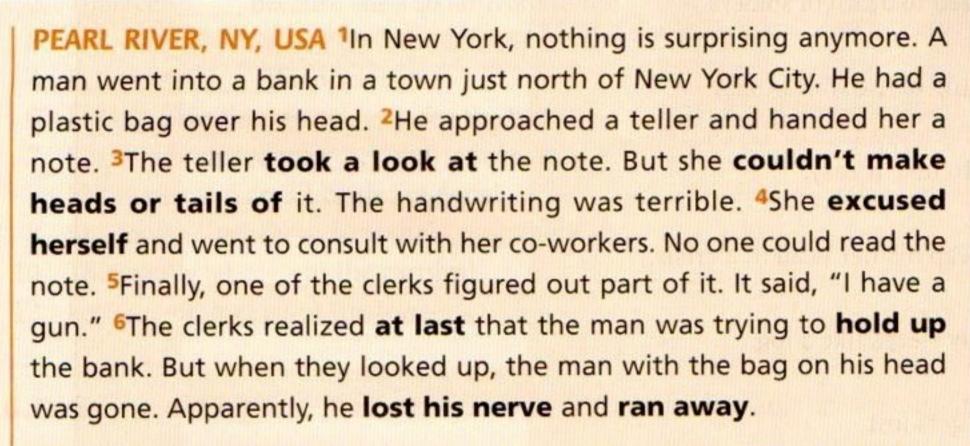
Robber Chickens Out

1. Quick Reading

Look at the pictures on page 51. What is the story about?

Now read quickly to get the main idea.



Why didn't the teller react to the plastic bag on the man's head? She said only, "I thought maybe he had a skin problem." Spolice officers are still trying to make sense of the robber's note. "The note says he has a gun, but we have to spend more time studying the rest of it," said one officer.

New idioms and expressions

chicken out* decide not to do something you planned because

you're afraid

take a look at someone or something · · · · · look at someone or something quickly

cannot make heads or tails of something · · · not be able to understand something

excuse oneself ask permission to leave a person or place

at last · · · · · · finally; after a long time

hold someone or something up* · · · · · · rob someone or something at gunpoint

lose one's nerve · · · · · · · · · become afraid and not do something

run away* · · · · · · leave quickly; escape

spend time doing something use time to do something

recycled idiom: figure out *phrasal verb (see Lexicon and Appendix D)

50 Can You Believe It?

2. Listen

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



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.

5. A	Answer the Questions
	About the story
b	. What did the clerks realize at last?
c	. Why did the man run away?
d	d. What are police officers still trying to do?
	Tell about a time when you wanted to do something but you lost your nerve.
f.	. What do you like to spend time doing?
g	Did you ever visit a foreign country? If so, what was especially difficult to make sense of?
	Write about Yourself Complete the sentences, writing something true about yourself.
	. Sometimes I can't make sense of
b	. I usually try to run away from
c.	. Once I wanted to, bu
	I chickened out.
N	Vrite a Dialogue
	Nork with a partner. Write a dialogue using at least three idioms from the unit. ct it out for a small group or the class.
To	ake a Dictation

10. Complete the Dialogue

- a. A husband and wife are talking. Fill in the blanks with idioms from the box.
- run away
- make sense of
- spend time
- · take a look at
- at last
- chicken out



Guess what!* I'm writing a letter to my boss and asking for a raise.

> Ah, (1)_____! Good for you.** You should have done it months ago.





I know. I always (2) Oh, honey, where are you going? Don't (3) _____ yet.

How come?





I want you to (4) my letter-you know, to see if you can (5)_____ it.

> I'm in a hurry.*** I want to get to the bank and the library before they close. I can (6)____ helping you tonight. OK?





OK.

- * Guess what!: a way of starting a conversation
- ** Good for you.: an expression of encouragement
- *** be in a hurry: need to go somewhere quickly

recycled idiom: How come?

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