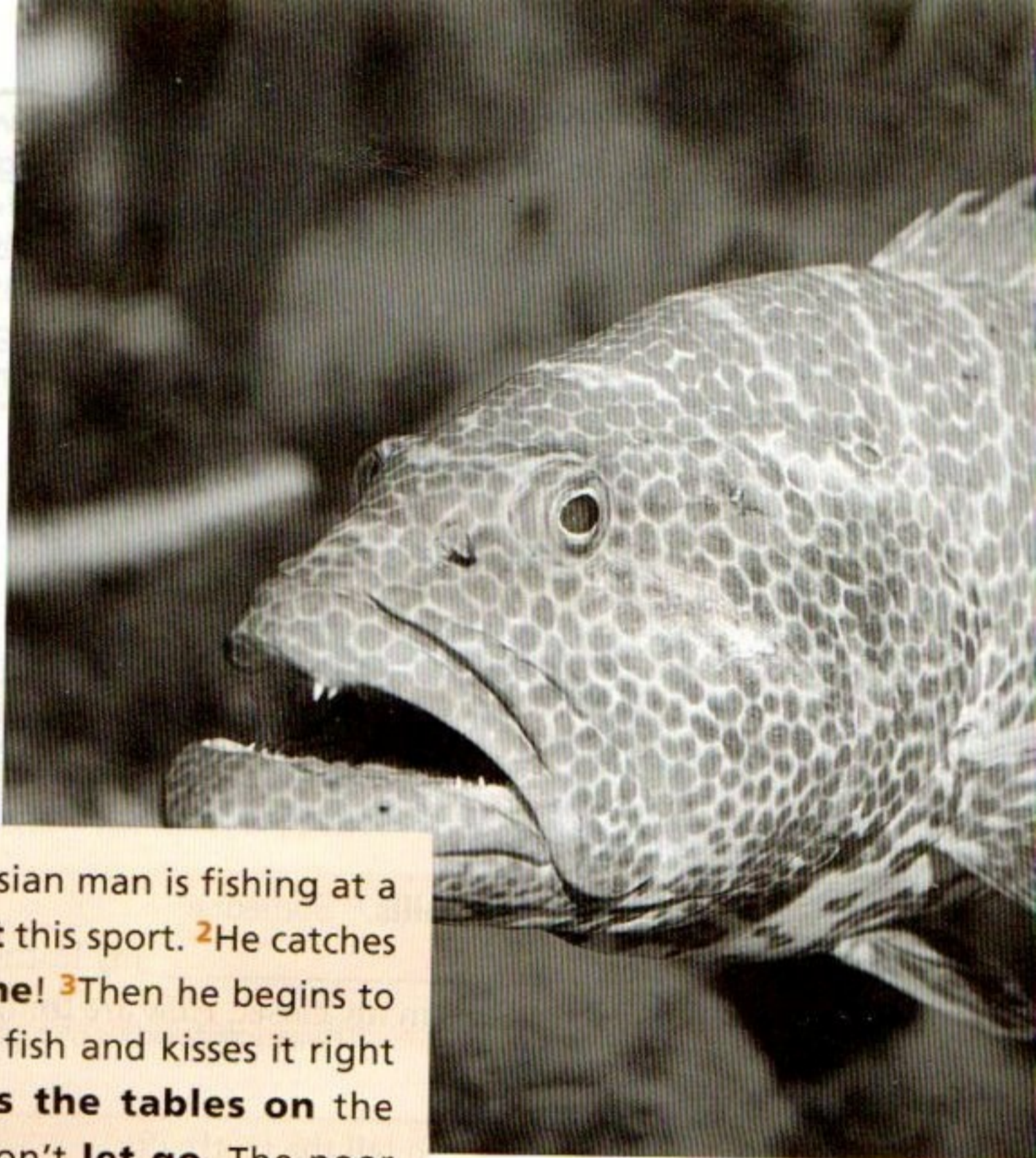


Fish Turns the Tables on Fisherman



1. Quick Reading

Look at the pictures on page 39.

What is the story about?

Now read quickly to get the main idea.

KONAKOVO, RUSSIA ¹One day, a Russian man is fishing at a lake near Moscow. He **is crazy about** this sport. ²He catches a very large fish and **is on cloud nine!** ³Then he begins to **show off** for his pals. He grabs the fish and kisses it right on the mouth. ⁴But the fish **turns the tables on** the fisherman and bites his nose. ⁵It won't **let go**. The poor fisherman **is in hot water** now. "**Take it easy,**" his friends advise. ⁶Then they have an idea. They **cut** the head **off** the fish. ⁷But the fish still won't let go of the fisherman's nose. It has strong teeth! ⁸Finally, doctors in a local hospital **set** the fisherman **free**. "**Play it safe,**" they tell him. "Don't kiss any more fish!"

New idioms and expressions

turn the tables on someone	change a situation completely so that the unexpected happens
be crazy about someone or something ..	like someone or something very much
be on cloud nine	be very happy
show off (for someone)*	try to attract attention to oneself
let go (of someone or something)*	stop holding; release
be in hot water	be in a difficult situation; be in trouble
take it easy	stay calm; relax
cut something off*	remove something (often with a knife or scissors)
set someone or something free	liberate someone or something
play it safe	be careful; avoid danger

*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. What is the Russian man crazy about?
- b. What does he do to show off for his friends?
- c. What happens next?
- d. How do his friends try to help?
- e. What do the doctors do? What do they tell the man?

About you.....

- f. Do you like to fish? If so, are you crazy about it? Do you clean the fish?
Do you cut the heads off?
- g. What sports or hobbies are you crazy about?
- h. Tell about a happy memory when you were on cloud nine.
- i. Do you know people who show off? If so, what do they do?
- j. Have you ever been in hot water? Why? When? Tell the story.
- k. Are you the type of person who plays it safe, or do you like to take risks?
Give an example.

7. Write About Yourself

Complete the sentences, writing something true about yourself.

- a. I'm crazy about _____.
- b. I'm on cloud nine when _____.
- c. I usually try to play it safe when _____.

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

Handwriting practice area with six horizontal lines on a light orange background.

10. Complete the Dialogue

a. A young boy is talking to his older sister, Lupe.

Fill in the blanks with idioms from the box.

- crazy about
- show off
- let go
- in hot water
- take it easy
- play it safe



Lupe, can you help me? I'm really (1) _____.

Again? You're always in some sort of trouble. You know, I'm not (2) _____ solving your problems all the time.



Come on! Please?

You're lucky I'm so nice. Maybe I'm too **softhearted***. What do you want?



Well, I was skating really fast, and, uh, I fell down.

Why do you always have to (3) _____ when you're skating? Did you hurt yourself?



No, but I was wearing Dad's watch and I ...

Oh, no! You didn't break Dad's watch, did you? His good watch? How stupid!



(4) _____! I'm going to buy him a new one. I'll (5) _____ and get him the most expensive one I can find. I just need your wallet. Thanks, Sis.

(6) _____ of that! I'm not giving you a **red cent.****



* be softhearted: be kind and sympathetic

** a red cent: a penny

recycled idiom: Come on!

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