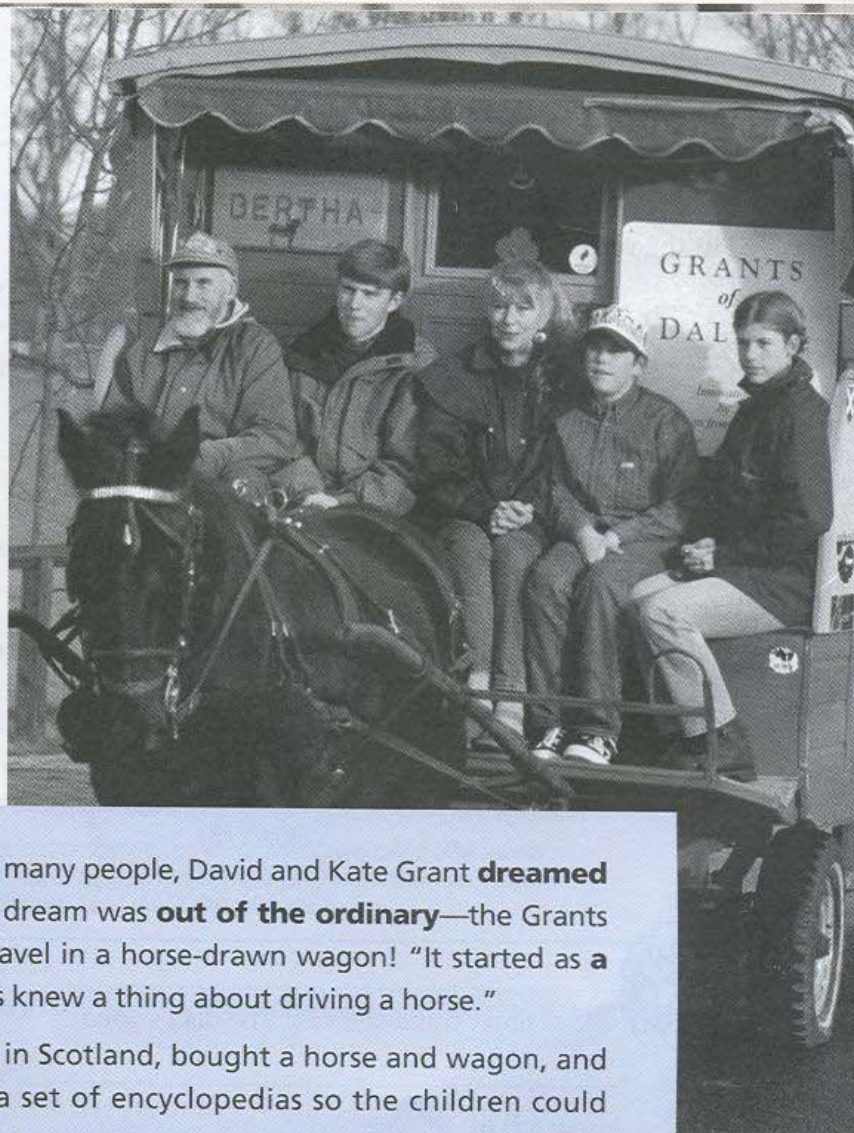


Family Hits the Road with a Horse, a Wagon, and a Dream



1. Quick Reading

Look at the pictures on page 69.

What is the story about?

Now read quickly to get the main idea.

ORKNEY ISLANDS, SCOTLAND ¹Like many people, David and Kate Grant **dreamed of** going around the world. But their dream was **out of the ordinary**—the Grants and their three children wanted to travel in a horse-drawn wagon! “It started as a **pipe dream**,” says David. “None of us knew a thing about driving a horse.”

²In 1990, the Grants sold their house in Scotland, bought a horse and wagon, and **hit the road**. They brought along a set of encyclopedias so the children could **keep up with** their studies.

³The trip **got off to a good start** as the family rode through Belgium, France, and Italy. ⁴But then they **ran into** some problems. They arrived in Slovenia in 1991 at the start of the Balkan wars, just as jets were bombing the country.

⁵Two years later, in 1993, after crossing Hungary, Russia, and Kazakhstan, **red tape** prevented them from entering China. ⁶They had to go 1600 kilometers **out of their way** into Mongolia. There, thieves tried to rob them, and the Grants used a slingshot to **drive** them away.

⁷In 1996, the family flew from Japan to North America for **the last leg** of their trip. They spent more than a year crossing the United States and Canada. ⁸In late 1997, after seven years **on the road**, the family sailed from Nova Scotia back to Scotland. Kate says she’s ready to **settle down** now, but David is not so sure. “Maybe I’ve got another expedition in me,” he says.

Balkan wars: wars that began with the breakup of the former Yugoslavia
slingshot: a forked stick with an elastic band used to shoot small stones
expedition: an adventurous trip or journey that has a specific purpose

New idioms and expressions

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| hit the road | leave, start a trip (usually in a car) |
| dream of (doing) something* | think about something that you wish for the future |
| out of the ordinary | unusual; different |
| a pipe dream | an unrealistic plan |
| keep up (with someone or something)* | maintain the pace (of someone or something) |
| get off to a good start | have a successful beginning |
| run into someone or something* | meet someone or something unexpectedly |
| red tape | unnecessary bureaucratic routines |
| out of one's way | not in the direction one is going |
| drive someone away* | force someone to leave |
| the last leg | the final stage of a trip |
| on the road | traveling; moving from one place to another |
| settle down* | begin to live a stable life in one place |

recycled idiom: spend time

*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. Match

Complete the idioms using the words in the box. Then write the number of the matching definition.

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------|
| ordinary | leg | tape | down |
| the road | dream | a good start | |

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| ___ a. the last _____ | 1. unnecessary bureaucratic routines |
| ___ b. out of the _____ | 2. the final stage of a trip |
| ___ c. a pipe _____ | 3. have a successful beginning |
| ___ d. red _____ | 4. an unrealistic plan |
| ___ e. hit _____ | 5. leave; start a car trip |
| ___ f. settle _____ | 6. unusual; different |
| ___ g. get off to _____ | 7. begin to live a stable life in one place |

6. Tell the Story

Look only at the pictures and the New Idioms box on page 69. Tell the story using as many idioms as you can.

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

7. Answer the Questions

About the story

- What did the Grants dream of doing?
- Why was their dream out of the ordinary?
- When did they hit the road? How long were they on the road?
- How did the children keep up with their studies?
- What problems did they run into?
- Why couldn't they enter China?
- How far out of their way was Mongolia? What happened there?
- What was the last leg of their trip?
- Are the Grants ready to settle down now?
- Would you like to go around the world as the Grants did? Why/why not?

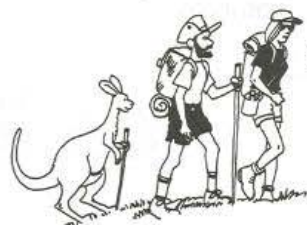
About you

- Do you like to be on the road? Tell about the last time you hit the road.
- Tell about something you've done that is out of the ordinary.
- Tell what you know about the wars in the Balkans.
- What do you dream of doing? Is it a pipe dream or is it realistic?
- Is it hard for you to keep up with anything in your life (such as your studies, your e-mail messages, housecleaning, laundry, etc.)?

8. Take a Dictation

Listen to the tape or your teacher and write the dictation in your notebook.

9. Complete the Idioms



- a. For many years, Selma and her husband dreamed _____ walking through Australia. It wasn't a pipe _____! They're now on the last _____ of their trip through that country.

- b. Tarik loves to be on _____; he doesn't want to settle _____.



- c. Maria's college career is getting off to a _____; she's studying hard and keeping _____ with her courses.

10. Look at Grammar

dream of something

dream of doing something

Chang is dreaming of a long vacation in Hawaii.

Chang is dreaming of taking a long vacation in Hawaii.

Note: This phrasal verb is transitive and inseparable. For more information on phrasal verbs, see Appendix D.

keep up

keep up with someone

keep up with something

School is hard for Mindy; it's difficult for her to keep up.

School is hard for Mindy; it's difficult for her to keep up with the other children.

School is hard for Mindy; it's difficult for her to keep up with math and reading.

Note: *Keep up* is an intransitive phrasal verb. *Keep up with* is transitive and inseparable. For more information on phrasal verbs, see Appendix D.

settle down

In the past ten years, I've had five different jobs and lived in five different cities.

Now it's time for me to settle down.

Note: You can also settle down *with someone*, settle down *in a place*, and settle down *and do something* (get married, have a family, get a steady job, etc.) *Settle down* is an intransitive phrasal verb. See Appendix D for more information on phrasal verbs.

Complete the sentences with help from the grammar box above. Make sure they are true for you.

- When I'm older, I would like to settle _____ in _____
and (do what?) _____.
- It's not easy for me to keep up _____
because _____.
- I often dream _____ someday
because _____.

11. Write a Dialogue

Work with a partner. Write a dialogue using at least four idioms from the unit.
Act it out for the class.

12. Complete the Dialogue

- a. Luisa and Antonio are a married couple talking about their next vacation. Fill in the blanks with idioms from the box. Put the verbs in the correct form and tense.

- settle down (v)
- hit the road (v)
- keep up with (v)
- dream of (v)
- out of the ordinary
- on the road
- run into (v)



Honey, look at this brochure about the Colorado River.

Oh, no. What are you
(1) _____
now?



I want to (2) _____ next summer
and do something fun. Something
(3) _____. This would be perfect!



What do you mean, perfect?



Well, we could raft for a week on the river!

No, the Colorado River is too dangerous. We could
(4) _____ problems.



Antonio, you're so boring! You never
want to do anything.

And all you want to do is go, go, go. You always want to be
(5) _____.



Is that bad?

No, darling, but it's hard for me to (6) _____
you. I want a quiet vacation **for a change***. You know I like to
(7) _____ in one place and just **chill out****.



* for a change: for once; for something different

** chill out: relax (informal)

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