

Globe-Trotting Frog Comes Home

1. Quick Reading

Look at the pictures on page 39.

What is the story about?

Now read quickly to get the main idea.

SWANSEA, MA, USA If you love a good mystery, this story is for you!

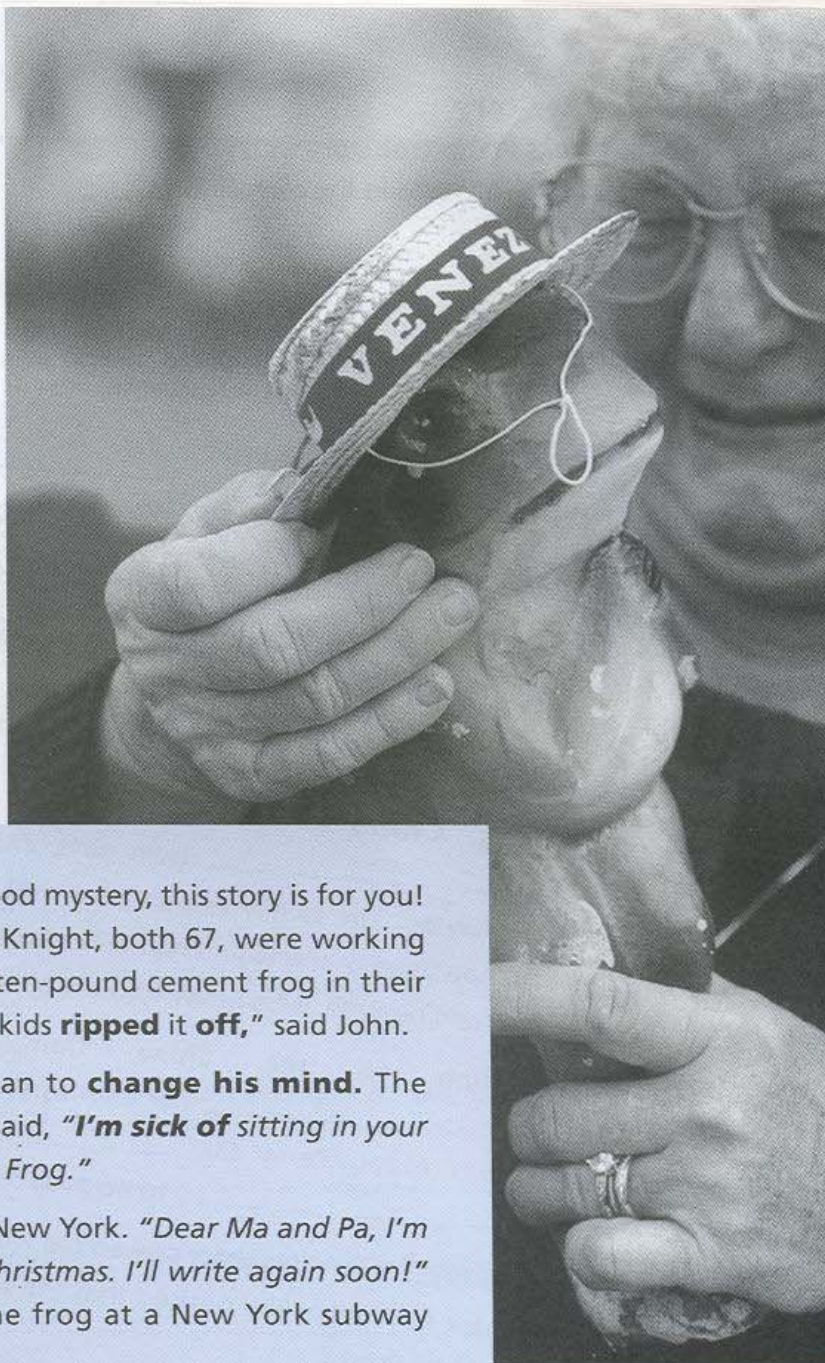
¹One spring day, Gertrude and John Knight, both 67, were working in their yard. They noticed that the ten-pound cement frog in their garden was gone. ²"I thought some kids **ripped it off**," said John.

³But several weeks later, John began to **change his mind**. The Knights got a strange postcard that said, "*I'm sick of sitting in your garden. Had to **get away**. Love, the Frog.*"

⁴Then the Knights got a letter from New York. "*Dear Ma and Pa, I'm in New York! I should **be back** by Christmas. I'll write again soon!*" Inside the letter was a photo of the frog at a New York subway station.

⁵For the next eight months, cards and pictures arrived from around the world. The Knights **heard from** the frog in Indonesia, Sweden, and Italy. ⁶A letter from Paris said, "*Hi Mom and Dad, Can't stay here too long. They eat frog legs!*" Finally, the frog **dropped them a line** from Japan, which said "*I'll catch you later, around Christmas.*"

⁷**Sure enough**, just before Christmas, the **globe-trotting** frog arrived home in a limousine. There was also champagne and a letter for the Knights. "*Thanks for **being good sports!***" it said. ⁸The Knights **don't have a clue** who took the frog. But they sure **got a kick out of** his adventure!



Gertrude Knight sheds tears of joy at the return of her frog.

New idioms and expressions

globe-trotting	traveling around the world
rip something off / rip someone off*	steal something /steal from someone
change one's mind	change one's opinion or point of view
be sick of something	be tired of; be bored with something
get away*	leave one's daily routine; go on vacation
be back	be again where you were before
hear from someone*	receive a phone call, letter, or e-mail from someone
drop someone a line	write a short letter to someone
I'll catch you later	I'll see you later
sure enough	as expected
be a good sport	be able to laugh at jokes and pranks that involve you
not have a clue	not know anything
get a kick out of something	enjoy something a lot

*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.

enough	sport	from	line
mind	out of	off	

___ a. change your _____	1. as expected
___ b. rip _____	2. enjoy a lot
___ c. get a kick _____	3. receive a letter or call from
___ d. drop a _____	4. steal
___ e. be a good _____	5. write a short letter
___ f. hear _____	6. be able to laugh at jokes about you
___ g. sure _____	7. change your opinion or point of view

6. Tell the Story

Look only at the pictures and the New Idioms box on page 39. 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

- a. What did John Knight think happened to the frog at first?
- b. When and why did he change his mind?
- c. According to the postcard, why did the frog have to get away?
- d. When did he promise to be back?
- e. For how long did the Knights continue to hear from the frog?
- f. What did the card from Japan say?
- g. When did the globe-trotting frog arrive home?
- h. What was the message in the letter?
- i. Do the Knights know who took the frog?
- j. How did they feel about his adventure?
- k. In your opinion, what kind of person took the frog?

About you

- l. Do you like to get away? Where do you go?
- m. How often do you drop your friends and family a line? How often do you hear from them?
- n. What kinds of sports or adventures do you get a kick out of?
- o. Are you a globe-trotter (or would you like to be)? Tell about your travels (or your plans).

8. Take a Dictation

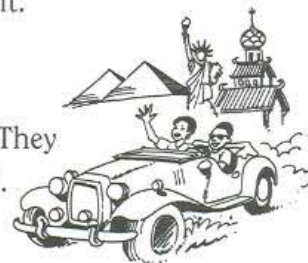
Listen to the tape or your teacher and write the dictation in your notebook.

9. Complete the Idioms



- a. Hector wanted to fix the sink, but he changed his _____ . He realizes he doesn't have a _____ how to do it.

- b. Tina and Diego are a _____ couple. They get _____ out of traveling the world.



- c. A thief ripped _____ my bike.

10. Look at Grammar

be sick of something

be sick of doing something

Jose was sick of the hard work.

Jose was sick of working so hard.

Note: *be sick of* = *be tired of* = *be sick and tired of* (The third expression is stronger than the first two.)

get away

get away from something

Daisy is tired; she needs to get away.

Daisy needs to get away from the stress of her job.

Note: You can get away from *work, the stress, the routine, the city, it all* (= everything), and *the rat race* (= the fast pace of everyday life). *Get away* is intransitive; *get away from* is transitive and inseparable. For more information on phrasal verbs, see Appendix D.

rip off something / **rip** something off

rip off someone / **rip** someone off

That man ripped off my bag! / That man ripped my bag off! / That man ripped it off.

Someone ripped off my mother. / Someone ripped my mother off. / Someone ripped her off.

Note: *Rip off* is a transitive, separable phrasal verb. Remember that when you use a pronoun (*it, her, etc.*) with a separable phrasal verb, it must go between the verb and the particle. 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.

- I'm sick of _____
because _____.
- I'd like to get away _____
because _____.
- Someone ripped _____.

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. A mother and her 18-year-old daughter, Lucy, are saying goodbye. Lucy **is about to*** move to San Francisco. Fill in the blanks with idioms from the box. Put the verbs in the correct form and tense.

be sick of (v)
 be back (v)
 not have a clue (v)
 change one's mind (v)
 get away (v)
 drop a line (v)
 catch you later (v)
 hear from (v)



Lucy, there's still time to
 (1) _____ about this.

No, Mom. I've got to (2) _____. This town is too small for me. I (3) _____ it. San Francisco is calling me!



I know, honey. Don't forget to call and write. I'm afraid we'll never (4) _____ you.

Don't worry. I (5) _____ every week. And I (6) _____ here for Christmas vacation. That's only three months away!



Yeah, that's true. How long do you think it will take you to find a job?

I (7) _____, Mom. I'll just have to see. I'd **better**** go. Goodbye, Mom.



Goodbye, sweetheart. I'll miss you. Give me a big kiss. Drive carefully and call the minute you get there.

OK. Bye, Mom. (8) _____!



* be about to do something: be ready to do something

** had better: should

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