

READING

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Across the ocean

More people have been into space or climbed Mount Everest than have rowed across the Atlantic Ocean. But on 5 December 2011 Jamie Windsor and John Haskell, two firefighters from Cardiff, in Wales, **set off** from La Gomera in the Canary Islands hoping to do exactly that – to reach the Caribbean island of Barbados in just a few weeks.

The two men decided to take on the Atlantic Dash challenge after John's wife had been diagnosed with cancer. They wanted to raise money for a charity helping patients affected by the same disease. Their families were supportive, but at the same time quite astonished, as neither man had ever rowed before. So for five months Jamie and John trained hard for the race in the calm waters of Cardiff Bay. But nothing could prepare them for the long days and nights in the middle of the Atlantic.

The specially-designed boat meant rowers could be **self-sufficient** during the crossing. They had a device that made seawater drinkable and food stored in **watertight** containers. A big challenge was that because race rules did not permit the boat to **drift**, at least one of the men had to row at all times. To ensure this, they worked out a two hours on-two hours off timetable. This was very difficult for the two men, especially John, who admitted that at one point he had started seeing things due to lack of sleep. At one stage he believed he was talking to an old woman on a bike who was cycling alongside their boat!

The crossing was not without problems. As well as John's hallucinations, the two friends had to face what were at that point the worst storms and roughest seas of the new millennium, battling 10–15 metre waves at times. They also ran into white-tip sharks and were nearly run down by a cargo ship during a storm.

The rowers kept their fans up to date about their progress via tweets and a website that **tracked** their **route** across the ocean. They had expected the trip to take 70 days, so it turned out to be a real surprise for them to reach the finish line in just under 46 days. In fact, they got within just a couple of days of breaking the record time for an Atlantic crossing in a wooden rowing boat.

The men completed the journey on 20 January 2012. They were both relieved to find themselves back on dry land. They were met by family, friends and members of the fire services as they entered the marina at Port St Charles. What pleased them most was that they met their fundraising target: they had collected over £25,000 for the charity from sponsors.

Multiple-choice

1 Work in pairs. Look at the pictures (1–4) and discuss the questions.

- 1 Why do you think people make these journeys?
- 2 Would you consider doing something similar? Why?/Why not?

2 Read the article about a memorable journey quickly. How is the journey described in the text different from those in the pictures?

EXAM STRATEGY

- Remember that the order of questions follows the order of the information in the text. This can help you find exactly where the information is.
- Underlining the relevant parts of the text will help you complete the task.

3 EXAM TASK Read the text. For questions (1–5) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

- Where did the men want to get to?
 - Cardiff
 - La Gomera
 - Barbados
 - the Caribbean
- Why did they want to row across the Atlantic?
 - to raise money for themselves
 - to take on a new challenge
 - to help people with cancer
 - to prepare for another race
- What does *self-sufficient* in paragraph 3 mean?
 - arrogant
 - independent
 - confident
 - egoistic
- What is **NOT TRUE** about the crossing?
 - There was a big storm.
 - The men encountered sharks.
 - They crashed into a ship.
 - One man started imagining things.
- Why were they surprised when they arrived?
 - They broke a world record.
 - They arrived earlier than expected.
 - They managed to row for 70 days.
 - They didn't expect their friends to meet them.

Words in context

4 Match the highlighted words in the article with the underlined words or phrases with a similar meaning in the sentences (1–5).

- Submarines are specially designed in a way that prevents water from getting into them.

- The fastest way into the city is down the main road.

- They were never at any risk of getting lost, because we followed them using a GPS device.

- The expedition departed from the capital towards the mountain forests. _____
- The boat started to move with the wind, slowly floating out to sea. _____

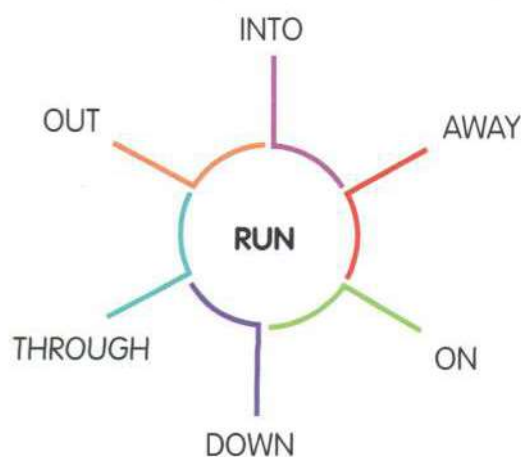
5 Complete the sentences (1–5) with the correct form of the highlighted words from the article.

- Satnavs allow you to choose the fastest or the shortest _____ from A to B.

- Neither of us wanted to row, so our kayak just _____ down the stream lazily.
- The two families _____ together on a road trip along the coast.
- We can send help immediately because we've been _____ the expedition's position.
- The shed roof is being fixed to make it _____.

Phrasal verbs with run

6 Find the phrasal verbs *run into* and *run down* in the article. What do they mean? Match the phrasal verbs from the mind map with their definitions (1–6).



- continue without stopping _____
- hit and knock to the ground _____
- say, discuss or read quickly _____
- meet by chance _____
- be used up or finished _____
- to leave or escape from a place _____

7 Complete the sentences (1–6) with the correct phrasal verb with run. Use the correct form.

- Could we just _____ the list of those who signed up for the trip?
- You won't believe who we _____ at the shopping centre yesterday!
- The motorcyclist jumped the red light and ended up _____ the pedestrian.
- Do we have any provisions left, or have we _____ already?
- This lecture will never end! It just keeps _____ for ever.
- She _____ from home at the age of sixteen.

8 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- What's the most exciting journey you've ever been on? What made it exciting?
- What's your dream destination? How would you like to travel there?
- Do you prefer to travel in comfort or do you prefer travelling to be an adventure? Why?

LANGUAGE REVIEW

participles

1 Choose the correct participle form to complete the sentences (1–8).

- Did you see that woman *carrying/carried* a huge backpack?
- We saw a strange man *dressing/dressed* as a gorilla.
- The police will remove and may destroy any luggage *leaving/left* unattended.
- Not *knowing/known* the answer, I remained silent.
- The taxi rank is *locating/located* outside the main terminal building.
- Growing/Grown* up in a rural area, they had never experienced big-city life.
- Zoe and I sat on our hotel balcony, *watching/watched* the sunset.
- Having completed/Had completed* his round-the-world tour, he flew back home.

Grammar reference pages 125–126

Grammatical multiple-choice cloze

2 EXAM TASK Read the text. For questions (1–5) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

Coping with TRAFFIC

Many large cities around the world have struggled to keep up with the increase in traffic in recent times. Densely populated areas, growing car ownership, as well as narrow roads ¹ for much lower volumes of traffic all contribute to this. In 1975, Singapore decided to introduce a congestion charge – a fee paid ² drivers entering the most traffic-heavy zones of the city. London introduced a congestion charge in 2003. Public opinion was initially opposed to ³ idea, but people soon became more supportive of the scheme. Despite this, its first decade ⁴ mixed success, and the number of cars in the city fell by only 10%. However, the scheme proved massively profitable, ⁵ allowed the city council to invest in other measures aimed at improving traffic conditions in London. These included cycle lanes, pedestrianized areas and better road surfaces.

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|---|---------------------|----------------|------------|--------------------|
| 1 | A build | B built | C building | D are building |
| 2 | A by | B for | C of | D at |
| 3 | A the | B an | C such | D some |
| 4 | A has been bringing | B was bringing | C brought | D had been brought |
| 5 | A who | B which | C what | D that |

Lexical multiple-choice cloze

EXAM STRATEGY

Think of your own answer to complete each gap. Then choose the option that is closest to your idea.

3 EXAM TASK Read the text. For questions (1–10) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).



The rise of package holidays in the 20th century made us believe that travelling was about jetting off to beach resorts for two weeks of sun, fun and sand. And, more recently, due to the advent of ¹ airlines, it has been a race to tick off experiences and destinations. Books with helpful titles, ² *1000 Wonders of the World*, are bestsellers. Many holidaymakers set out with the ³ of crossing off all the must-see sites they have read about.

When you book a holiday today, the first thing you ⁴ yourself is, *Where shall I go?* But isn't the why and how just as important as the where?

Don't we also go on holiday to ⁵ our batteries and to meet interesting people? As the cost of flying increases and *carbon guilt* sets in, the purpose of travel will ⁶ become more important than ever. This new way of travelling could be described as *deep travel*. It will be about getting under the skin of a place. We will ⁷ real experiences rather than artificial culture packaged up for tourists. It will be about the ⁸ of local character and the detail. It will be about the things that make a place ⁹. It will be as much about the particular smell of a place, for example fresh spices in Turkey, as it is about exploring ¹⁰ shops and restaurants. So get away from the crowds, and see what you can find!

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|----|----------------|---------------|------------|-------------|
| 1 | A low-charge | B low-hire | C low-cost | D low-price |
| 2 | A like | B so | C such | D as |
| 3 | A prospect | B end | C scheme | D intention |
| 4 | A say | B ask | C question | D tell |
| 5 | A remake | B recharge | C refill | D restore |
| 6 | A safely | B surely | C firmly | D solidly |
| 7 | A search | B attempt | C seek | D hunt |
| 8 | A appreciation | B opinion | C regard | D judgment |
| 9 | A alone | B independent | C unique | D separate |
| 10 | A community | B public | C district | D local |