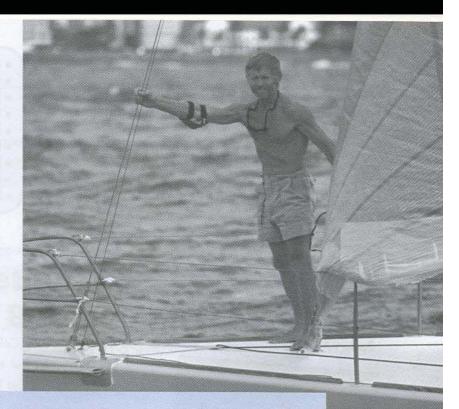
# Solo Sailor Operates on Himself—via E-mail

# 1. Quick Reading

Look at the pictures on page 87. What is the story about?



**CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA** 1Viktor Yazykov was on **the first leg** of a sailboat race around the world. The Russian was alone in the Atlantic Ocean, 1,000 miles from shore. He **was in his element.** 

<sup>2</sup>But he **was concerned about** his elbow, which he had injured earlier. Every day it was getting redder and larger. He sent an e-mail message to race headquarters. "RIGHT ELBOW DOESN'T LOOK GOOD. IT FEELS DEAD." <sup>3</sup>Dr. Dan Carlin in Boston was in charge of providing emergency care for the sailors via computer. "YOU HAVE GOT TO OPERATE ON YOUR ELBOW," he typed. He carefully **laid out** the steps of the surgery. "IT WILL BE PAINFUL," he warned.

**4In the middle of** a violent storm, Yazykov began cutting his arm. He **kept a stiff upper lip**, following the doctor's instructions **to the letter**. <sup>5</sup>Then something **went wrong**. Blood was all over the place, forming a large pool on the floor, rolling with the motion of the boat. <sup>6</sup>Yazykov knew that if he **passed out**, he'd die. Using his good arm and his teeth, he tied two cords around his arm. The bleeding stopped, but his arm became cold and white, like a piece of rubber. "PLEASE, WHAT SHOULD I DO BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE?" he wrote to Dr. Carlin.

<sup>7</sup>Carlin knew that Yazykov was killing his arm. "TAKE THE CORDS OFF IMMEDIATELY," he wrote back. But the doctor was confused. **Why in the world** was there so much blood? Suddenly, he **put two and two together**. Aspirin! Yazykov had been taking aspirin for weeks and it had made his blood thin. "STOP ALL ASPIRIN," he ordered. <sup>8</sup>After an anxious ten hours, Dr. Carlin finally heard from Yazykov. He **was out of the woods**. "I AM OK. GETTING STRONGER. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP."

Victor Yazykov returns after his misadventure on the high seas.

# New idioms and expressions

the first leg · the first part of a trip be in one's element ..... be in a happy and comfortable situation

be concerned about someone or something worry about someone or something

lay something out\* ...... arrange or organize something in the middle of something ...... while something is happening; during

something

**keep a stiff upper lip** ..... be brave and calm in a difficult situation to the letter · · · · · · · · · · exactly as written or instructed; perfectly

go wrong · · · · · fail; not happen as planned pass out\* · · · · · lose consciousness; faint why in the world? ..... why really? why in fact?

put two and two together · · · · · · · · · figure something out; reason from the facts

be out of the woods · · · · · · · · be out of danger after an illness, injury, or difficult situation

recycled idioms: be in charge of, have got to, all over the place, take something off, hear from

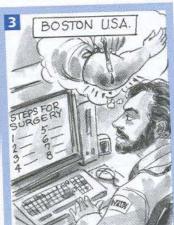
\*phrasal verb (see Lexicon and Appendix D)

#### 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.

woods	out e	lement	wrong
upper lip	world	leg	
_ <b>a.</b> pass	and to vice should be visited to the vice should be vice at the vice should be vi	1. be brave a	nd calm
<b>b.</b> be out of the		2. be in a happy and comfortable situation	
_ c. keep a stiff		3. the first pa	art of a trip
_ d. why in the		4. be out of danger	
e. be in one's		5. fail; not happen as planned	
_ <b>f.</b> go		6. why really	
<b>g.</b> the first		7. lose consc	iousness

# 6. Tell the Story

Look only at the pictures and the New Idioms box on page 87. 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.

88 Can You Believe It?

Book 3

7	Answer	the	Questions
	WILLAMOCI	CHIC	ONCOLIONS

# About the story.....

- a. Where was Viktor when he became concerned about his elbow?
- b. What did the doctor tell him?
- c. What did he lay out in his e-mail message?
- d. When did Viktor begin the surgery?
- e. How did he react while he was cutting his arm?
- f. Was he able to follow the doctor's instructions?
- g. What went wrong?
- h. What would happen if Viktor passed out?
- i. What did the doctor tell Viktor to do with the cords on his arm?
- j. When did the doctor finally hear from Viktor? How was he?
- k. Would you enjoy sailing alone around the world? Why/why not?

# About you.....

- 1. Tell about a dangerous situation when you kept a stiff upper lip.
- m. Have you ever passed out? What happened?
- n. When are you in your element?
- o. What are you concerned about these days?
- p. When you take a trip (by car, by plane, by boat), what kinds of things can go wrong?

#### 8. Take a Dictation

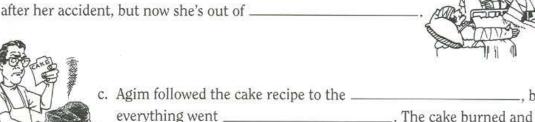
Listen to the tape or your teacher and write the dictation in your notebook.

# 9. Complete the Idioms



- a. Herve loves playing the drums. When he's in the a concert, he's really in his
- b. Everyone was very concerned \_\_\_\_\_ Katia

had a funny shape.





#### 10. Look at Grammar

#### be concerned

be concerned about someone

#### be concerned about something

I haven't heard from Bill in a long time, and I'm concerned.

I haven't heard from Bill in a long time, and I'm concerned about him.

I haven't heard from Bill in a long time, and I'm concerned about his well-being.

#### go wrong

#### go wrong with something

Everything went wrong today at work!

A lot of things went wrong with our new project.

Something also went wrong with my computer and fax.

Luckily, nothing went wrong with my phone.

**Note:** The subject used with this expression is usually an indefinite pronoun, such as *everything*, *something*, *nothing*, *many things*, *several things*, etc.

# lay out something

#### lay something out

I laid out my ideas carefully, but no one liked them.

I laid my ideas out carefully, but no one liked them.

**Note:** In the above examples, *lay out* means organize and present. You can lay out *plans, ideas, the steps of a process,* and *your thoughts about something. Lay out* also means *spread out,* as in *I laid out the map on the floor.* It is a transitive, separable phrasal verb. For more information on phrasal verbs, see Appendix D.

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

a.	My last vacation/trip was;
	went wrong.
b.	The first time I tried,
	——— went wrong.
c.	There are many problems in the world. I'm particularly concerned
d.	I'm concerned
	because he/she
e.	I laid out

# 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 Story

- a. Fill in the blanks in this true story with idioms from the box. Put the verbs in the correct form and tense
- keep a stiff upper lip (v)
- · in the middle of
- why in the world
- lay out (v)
- out of the woods
- go wrong (v)
- be very concerned about (v)

# **Internet Angels**

China Yongxin Deng, Ürümqi, his three-year-(1) \_\_\_ old son. The boy, Shao-Shao (whose name means "laughter"), had a very serious and rare heart disease. Deng wanted his son to have surgery, but doctors in China disagreed. should they operate? The boy was too ill and could not live through an operation. But Deng was determined. He turned to the Internet for help\*. He posted a notice: "Seeking Help to Save My Son." He (3) and asked for "any help or information." He received many replies. Strangers from California, whom Deng calls his "Internet Angels," helped to find more than \$110,000 for Shao-Shao's surgery. his graduate studies, quit everything and took his wife and child to Los Angeles. Doctors there told the Dengs that the heart surgery was dangerous. Something could (5) during his three operations. Everything went Shao-Shao (6) well\*\*, and the boy is now (7) \_\_\_ The Dengs were amazed by all the people who helped them out. "How can we thank people whose names we'll never know?" Deng asked. "Now our son is really a 'laughing' boy!" \* turn to someone or something for help: look for help from someone or something \*\* go well: be successful (the opposite of go wrong) recycled idioms: live through, help out

b. Read or tell the story to a partner.