

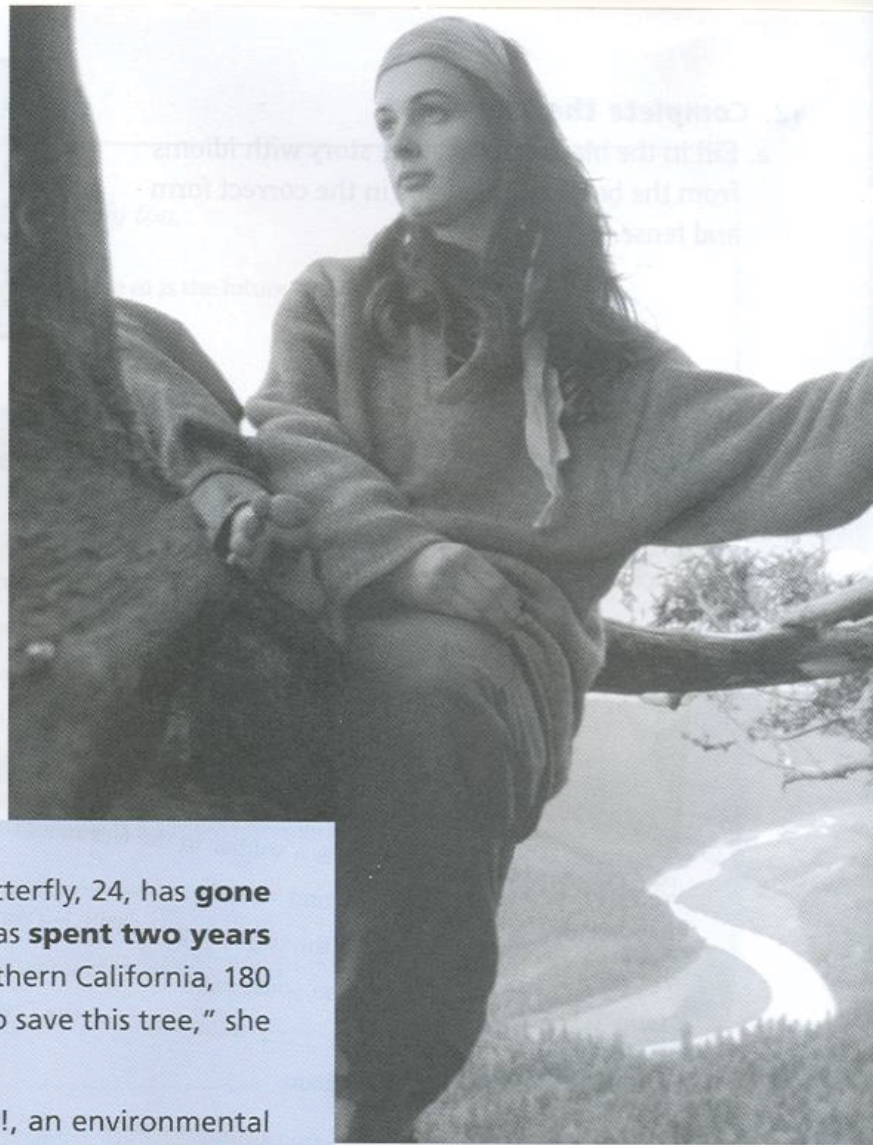
3 Out On a Limb

1. Quick Reading

Look at the pictures on page 15.

What is the story about?

Now read quickly to get the main idea.



SAN FRANCISCO, CA, USA ¹Julia Butterfly, 24, has **gone out on a limb** for her beliefs. She has **spent two years** living in a giant redwood tree in Northern California, 180 feet above the ground. "I'm trying to save this tree," she says.

²Butterfly is a member of Earth First!, an environmental protection group. She and her group are **going head to head with** a lumber company, which owns the forest.

³The company wants to **chop down** the 1000-year-old trees and sell the wood. ⁴To protect the tree, Butterfly stays in it **around the clock**. Only 3% of redwood forests remain, **according to** Butterfly. "The world needs to know that the magnificent redwood forests are almost gone. I'm **taking a stand** for life in its beautiful form."

⁵Butterfly **puts up with** horrible weather. Powerful storms often hit her tree house. ⁶She pulls up all her food with a rope. She cannot bathe. ⁷Her only convenience is a cell phone to **keep in touch with** her family.

⁸Butterfly plans to stay in the tree as long as she can. What does she **look forward to** back in civilization? "I'd like to **take a hot shower**," she says.

New idioms and expressions

go out on a limb	do something that could have dangerous consequences
spend time doing something	use time to do something
go head to head (with someone)	argue or fight (with someone)
chop something down*	cut something down, usually a tree
around the clock	continuously; without a break
according to someone or something ..	as said by someone or something
take a stand	clearly and loudly declare your point of view
put up with someone or something* ..	endure or tolerate someone or something
keep in touch (with someone)	communicate regularly (with someone)
look forward to (doing) something* ..	anticipate (doing) something with pleasure
take a shower or bath	wash yourself in the shower or bath

*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.

stand	clock	up with	forward to
touch with	to head with	down	

___ a. keep in _____	1. continuously
___ b. around the _____	2. tolerate
___ c. chop _____	3. clearly declare your point of view
___ d. go head _____	4. fight with
___ e. put _____	5. communicate regularly with
___ f. take a _____	6. anticipate with pleasure
___ g. look _____	7. cut down

6. Tell the Story

Look only at the pictures and the New Idioms box on page 15. 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

- Why is Butterfly in the tree?
- How much time has she spent living there?
- What is Earth First!? Why is it going head to head with a lumber company?
- According to Butterfly, why is it important to take a stand?
- What problems does she have to put up with in the tree house?
- Why does she need a cell phone?
- What does Butterfly look forward to?
- Do you think Butterfly has the right to stay in the tree? Why or why not?

About you

- Which social or political causes are important to you? Which one(s) would you go out on a limb for?
- Do you care about the environment? Tell how you help save the earth.
- Are there environmental groups in your country? What are their goals?
- Tell about a time when you put up with an inconvenience such as horrible weather or no electrical power.
- Imagine that you were living in a tree for a year. What would be difficult to put up with? What would you look forward to? What would you spend time doing?

8. Take a Dictation

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

9. Complete the Idioms



- a. Alma's working around _____ on her new novel. She _____ all her time writing.

- b. Fathi has put _____ cold weather for four months and is looking _____ summer.



- c. George is always fighting with his wife. Now he's going _____ with her about which TV show to watch.



10. Look at Grammar

look forward to something

look forward to doing something

I'm looking forward to dinner.

I'm looking forward to having dinner with you.

Note: This phrasal verb is often used in the present continuous. It is also used in the simple present when addressing someone directly, as in *I look forward to seeing you again* or, in a letter, *I look forward to hearing from you*.

keep/stay in touch

keep/stay in touch with someone

Good-bye, Joe. Stay in touch!

She keeps in touch with old friends by e-mail.

Note: The imperative *Keep in touch!* is a standard parting for friends who don't see each other very often. *Stay in touch* means the same thing. Compare with the expressions *get in touch with* (=contact someone) and *lose touch with* (=lose contact with).

It's very hard to get in touch with Silvia. She's never home!

I've lost touch with Toshi. He moved and didn't leave his new number.

put up with someone

put up with something

I cannot put up with nasty people.

I cannot put up with nastiness.

according to someone

according to something (a source of information)

According to my mother, I am very stubborn.

According to today's newspaper, women work harder than men.

Note: Do not use *me* after *according to*. Instead, say *in my opinion*.

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

- I'm really looking forward _____
because _____.
- I regularly keep in touch _____.
- It's hard for me to put up _____
because _____.
- According _____, I am _____.
- In my opinion, _____.

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. Two university students are talking about a street demonstration to protest higher tuition costs. Fill in the blanks with an idiom from the box. Put the verbs in the correct form and tense.

- around the clock
- go head to head with (v)
- put up with (v)
- keep in touch (v)
- go out on a limb (v)
- according to



Hey, Mira. I heard about the protest march on Saturday. **Way to go***!

Yeah, we're really
(1) _____ the university
administration. I've been working
(2) _____ on it.



You're brave, girl, to organize this thing. You're really (3) _____.

Yeah, well...



(4) _____ my brother, the university president is not too happy about it.

Yeah, I know. But we can't
(5) _____ that huge
tuition increase. It's not fair



That's for sure. Well, I've **got to run****. Good luck on Saturday.

Thanks, so long! (6) _____!



* Way to go!: Good work! (informal)

** have got to run: must leave quickly

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