

# 5 Businessman Freaks Out

## 1. Quick Reading

Look at the pictures on page 19.  
What is the story about?

Now read quickly to get the main idea.



**KIEV, UKRAINE** <sup>1</sup>A Ukrainian businessman wants to buy New Year's gifts for his 50 employees. <sup>2</sup>He **goes shopping** and decides to get a pager for each employee. <sup>3</sup>The salesman explains how they work. "Look," he says, "when someone calls, your pager rings. You see the caller's phone number and a short message on the screen." <sup>4</sup>The businessman **pays for** the 50 pagers, puts them in his car, and **heads for** the office. <sup>5</sup>**On the way**, he suddenly hears a very loud noise. All 50 pagers start ringing at the same time! The businessman **freaks out** and crashes into a lamp post. <sup>6</sup>When he **calms down**, he sees the message on the 50 pagers. It says, "**Congratulations on** a successful purchase!"

## New idioms and expressions

<b>freak out*</b> .....	lose one's self control
<b>go shopping</b> .....	shop
<b>pay for something*</b> .....	give money for something
<b>head for a place*</b> .....	go in the direction of a place
<b>on the way (to a place)</b> .....	along the route (to a place)
<b>calm down*</b> .....	become calm and quiet
<b>congratulations on something</b> .....	I commend/salute you for something important.

\*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. Complete the Idiom

Cover page 18. Look at each definition below and then complete the idiom.

- go in the direction of = head \_\_\_\_\_
- give money for = pay \_\_\_\_\_
- become quiet = calm \_\_\_\_\_
- lose one's self control = freak \_\_\_\_\_
- along the route to a place = on the \_\_\_\_\_
- shop = go \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Tell the Story

Cover the story and look at the pictures above. 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.



## 6. Answer the Questions

### About the story .....

- Why does the businessman go shopping?
- What does the businessman do after he pays for the pagers?
- What happens on the way to the office?
- How does the businessman react?
- What is the message on the pagers?
- Do you think the man likes the message?

### About you .....

- Do you have a pager or a cellular phone? Why? How much did you pay for it?
- Do you like to go shopping? Where?
- Do you usually head for home after class? If not, where do you go?
- When do you congratulate people? What do you say?

## 7. Write About Yourself

Complete the sentences, writing something true about yourself.

- When I am nervous or worried, \_\_\_\_\_ helps me calm down.
- I always freak out when \_\_\_\_\_.
- I like to go shopping at \_\_\_\_\_.  
I usually pay \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.

## 8. Take a Dictation

A Ukrainian businessman \_\_\_\_\_ for gifts for his 50 employees. He decides to get 50 pagers. He \_\_\_\_\_ them, puts them in his car, and \_\_\_\_\_ the office. \_\_\_\_\_, there's a very loud noise. All 50 pagers start ringing at the same time! The businessman \_\_\_\_\_ and crashes his car. When he \_\_\_\_\_, he sees the message on the pagers. It says, " \_\_\_\_\_ a successful purchase!"

### 9. Complete the Story

a. Read the true story and fill in the blanks with idioms from the box.

- calms down
- heads for
- pay for
- freaks out
- goes shopping
- on the way

## The Blue Toyota



**KENTUCKY, USA** One day, Betty Vaughn, a schoolteacher, (1) \_\_\_\_\_ at a mall near her house. She leaves her blue Toyota in the big parking lot for a few hours. When she goes back to the car, she (2) \_\_\_\_\_. There's a deep new scratch on the car door! Betty (3) \_\_\_\_\_ home. (4) \_\_\_\_\_, she drives slowly, thinking about her husband. What is she going to tell him? He'll **be ticked off**.\* He won't want to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the repair to the car.

When her husband takes a look at the car, he notices right away that it isn't their car. Betty drove home in someone else's blue Toyota! (Even the keys were the same!) After Betty (6) \_\_\_\_\_, she calls the police to report the problem.

\* be ticked off: be angry

recycled idioms: go back, take a look at

b. Read or tell the story to a partner.