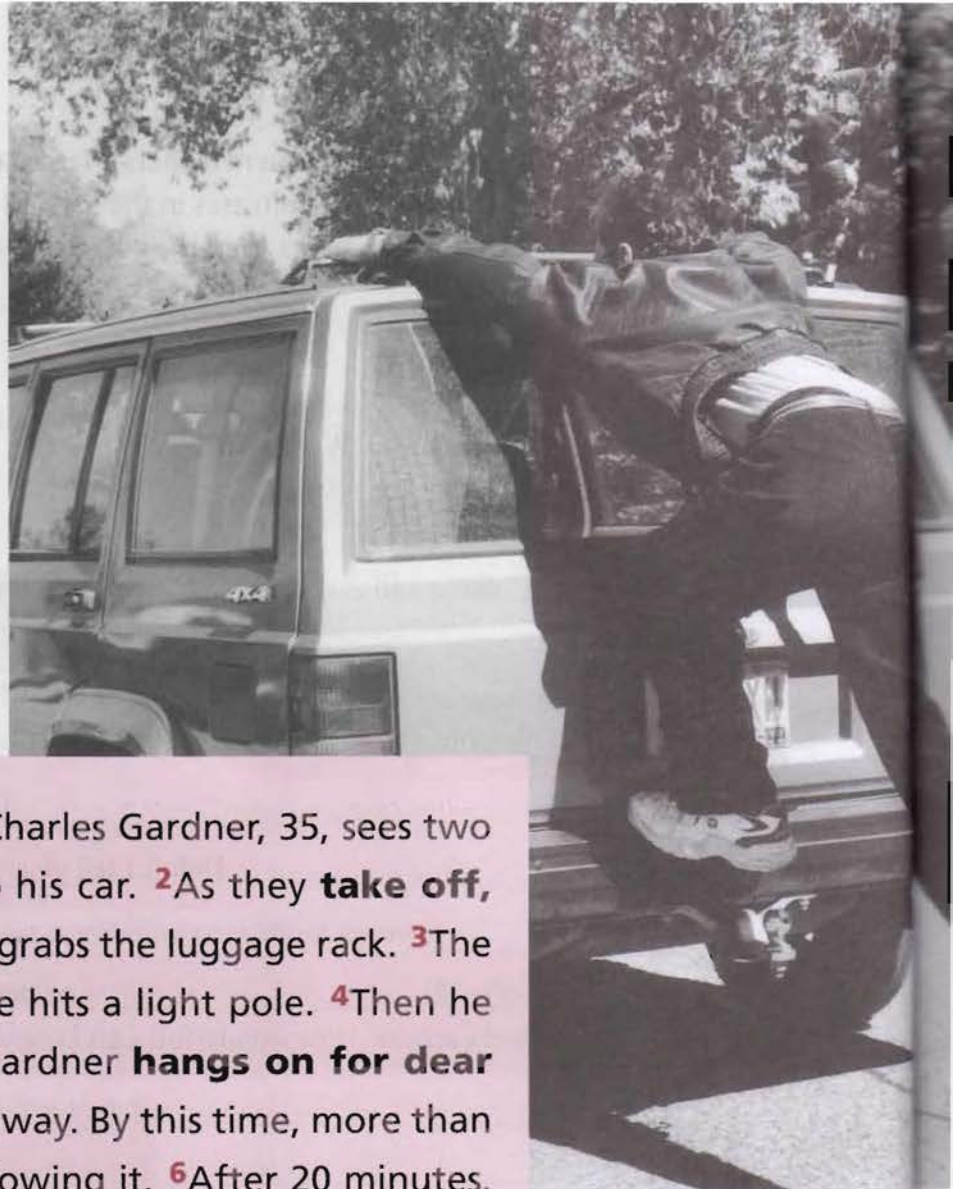


Man Hangs on for Dear Life



1. Quick Reading

Look at the pictures on page 39.

What is the story about?

Now read quickly to get the main idea.

CHICAGO, IL, USA ¹One day Charles Gardner, 35, sees two teenage boys **breaking into** his car. ²As they **take off**, Gardner jumps on the car and grabs the luggage rack. ³The teenage driver **speeds up**. He hits a light pole. ⁴Then he drives through two fences. Gardner **hangs on for dear life**. ⁵The car gets on the highway. By this time, more than two dozen police cars are following it. ⁶After 20 minutes, the driver **slows down**. Police surround the car. The teens **are in big trouble**. **As for** Gardner, he has some cuts, but he is okay. "It's a miracle that he wasn't killed," said police officer Michael Kuemmeth.

New idioms and expressions

hang on for dear life	hold something very tightly
break into something*	enter illegally by force
take off*	leave (by car, on foot, by plane)
speed up*	go faster
slow down*	go more slowly
be in (big) trouble	have big problems; be in a difficult situation
as for someone or something	regarding or concerning someone or something

recycled idiom: get on

*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. Match

Cover page 38. Match the definition in column A to the idiom in column B.

A

- ___ a. enter illegally by force
- ___ b. go faster
- ___ c. leave
- ___ d. hold something very tightly
- ___ e. be in a difficult situation

B

- 1. take off
- 2. hang on for dear life
- 3. be in big trouble
- 4. break into
- 5. speed up

5. Tell the Story

Cover the story and look at the pictures above. 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.

6. Answer the Questions

About the story

- When Gardner first sees the boys, what are they doing?
- What does he do when the car takes off?
- When the teenage driver speeds up, what does Gardner do?
- Why does the driver finally slow down?
- Why are the teens in big trouble? What kind of punishment do you think they should get?

About you

- When you were a teen, were you ever in big trouble?
- Are you a good driver? When do you speed up? When do you slow down?
- Has anyone ever broken into your car, apartment, or house?
- Is your life busy and fast? How do you slow down?

7. Write About Yourself

Complete the sentences, writing something true about yourself.

- Recently I was in big trouble when _____
_____.
- When I'm on a plane and it is taking off, I _____
_____.

8. Take a Dictation

One day Charles Gardner, 35, sees two boys _____
his car. They _____, and Gardner jumps on the
car. The driver _____. He hits a light pole. Then
he drives through two fences. Gardner _____.
The car gets on the highway. By this time, more than two dozen police cars are
following it. After 20 minutes, the driver _____
and police surround the car. The teens _____.
_____ Gardner, he is okay.

9. Complete the Dialogue

- a. Blanca and Julia are going to school.
Blanca is giving Julia a ride on her bike.
Fill in the blanks with idioms from the box.

- be in big trouble
- slow down
- as for
- speed up
- am hanging on for dear life



Blanca, you're going too fast!

We're late! We have to
(1) _____ a little.



But not down this hill!

We'll (2) _____ if
we're late for school again. Ms. Vine will...



...I know, I know, but please
(3) _____ a little. I don't
want to fall. And (4) _____
Ms. Vine, she can just wait.

Don't sweat it!*

Everything's under control!**



I (5) _____.

* Don't sweat it!: Don't worry about it. (informal)

** Everything's under control!: Everything is fine.

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