









Work in pairs. Look at photos A–E of unusual things seen on a journey. Describe what you see and try to explain the situations. What difficulties might the people in the photos have had using the forms of transport? Say why.

SA: This has got to be top of my list of weird things seen on the way to college! I get bored silly when I'm travelling. I'm not a reader, so what I love to do is people-watch. Last week, bus services had been disrupted because of the storm so I took the tube. I'd got on a few stops before these characters, and luckily, I had a seat because when the doors opened at Oxford Circus, a guy wearing a rhinoceros outfit boarded the train and shuffled over to sit by a businessman in his pinstripe suit – who disappeared pretty quickly, I can tell you. But then on hops a tall thin man, painted head to toe in gold!

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I can only guess that the two were on their way to a fancy-dress party – alternatively, I suppose, the gold man could have been one of those human statues? Or maybe, the rhino man could have been part of a 'save the rhinos' campaign or something. I suppose – whatever floats your boat, huh? Anyway, they got off after two stops and the poor old rhino man hobbled down the platform, clearly uncomfortable, while the gold guy strode off, with the crowds of commuters parting in front of him! Amazing what you see on the tube!

SB: I had a very strange experience last week on the 4.40 from Waterloo. Got there at 4.30 and the station concourse was crammed. Usually, I try to steer clear of rush hour – but I had no choice that day. Everyone was clustering round the info boards, waiting for platform numbers to flash up. And there it came. Platform fourteen. Immediately, the crowd surged forward, and everyone pushed and shoved their way through the barriers. It would drive me up the wall to do that every day! The train was waiting, and I knew everyone would be scrambling madly for a seat so when I saw an opening in the crowd, I flew down the platform to the very end of the train. And, as usual, I entered a totally

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empty carriage. With a sigh, I sank into a seat by the window – or rather I was about to sink, when I noticed something odd on the floor. There was a pair of shoes – exactly where a pair of feet would be placed! The shoes were a woman's pair, in fairly good condition. For the life of me, I couldn't comprehend why the owner might have left them. Was she at this very moment padding barefoot back along the platform in search of her forgotten shoes? Had she taken them off because her feet were hurting? Maybe she'd bought a new pair? Intriguing. However, by now the carriage had filled up, the train lurched forward and with a foot I pushed the shoes forward under the seat in front.

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SC: Have you seen that amazing film Up? There's a great scene where the old man attaches a load of balloons to his house and they lift him up, up, and away.

I was reminded of that the other day while I was in my mate's car. I tend to spend car journeys checking out car makes and motorbikes – it's a hobby of mine. We rounded a bend and there on the bridge was a quite incredible sight: a mass of brightly-coloured balloons in midair! It took me a moment to realise that they were tied to the back of a bike! The cyclist, a woman, was pedalling furiously – I hoped she wasn't about to take off! Suddenly, the wind gusted and she started to

wobble dangerously. Then the wind lifted the balloons and the woman couldn't keep the bike upright! It slid to the ground. She stumbled for a moment but then got her balance and managed to grab the balloons, which seemed to have detached themselves from the bike. She staggered to the side of the road with them. It was then that I saw a banner on the bike: *Just married!* It was rather bizarre!

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1. Look at that guy _____ along the platform, carrying an enormous suitcase. He can hardly walk in a straight line.

2. It felt quite scary when crowds of passengers on the ferry suddenly _____ to the back of the ship.

3. I put my sister's shoes on by mistake and found myself _____ around in sandals two sizes too big!

4. I _____ across to the other side of the car when the tube hurtled round a bend at top speed.

5. I (a) _____ getting off my motorbike and hurt my ankle so I (b) _____ around for days.

6. Dan was so angry that he _____ quickly over to the ticket collector and demanded his money back.

7. Peter (a) _____ up the hill on his bike on a good day, but (b) _____ on the bad days.

IDIOMS RELATED TO MOVEMENT | Look at the highlighted idiom from the recording. What do you think it means? Choose a or b. Do you know any other idioms related to travel or movement?

'Or maybe the rhino man could have been part of a save the rhinos campaign or something. I suppose – whatever floats your boat, huh?'

- ◯ a. People can do whatever they like.
- ◯ b. Some people are very strange.

IDIOMS RELATED TO MOVEMENT | Study Active Vocabulary. Then complete the sentences with the words below.

boat | downhill | force | plain | ride | steer | wall

1. There are new roadworks in the town centre, and it is driving motorists up the (a) _____ .
   So you'd better (b) _____ clear of the main junction for at least a week.

2. He encountered some obstacles while training to become a pilot. It wasn't all _____ sailing.

3. It was because of Angela's commitment that the new rail project was successful. She was the driving _____ behind it.

4. The airline used to have an excellent reputation, but in recent months, it's been going _____ quickly.

5. Everyone's furious about the increase in car parking fees. We're all in the same (a) _____ – we have no other option.
   We know the city needs money, but no one likes to be taken for a (b) _____ .

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