

C1-C2 English Worksheet

Karl Bushby's 28-Year Walk Around the World: The Journey Home

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Article

At 29, former British paratrooper Karl Bushby set out from Punta Arenas, Chile, in 1998 with an audacious plan: reach Hull without using transport to advance along his route. He tried to map out a viable path across the Americas, Asia and Europe, including the treacherous Bering Strait. He vowed to hold fast to two self-imposed conditions: no transport-assisted progress and no visit home until he could arrive on foot. Temporary departures were permitted only if he resumed from the exact point where he had stopped. Conceived as a twelve-year expedition, the venture has stretched to almost three decades.

Bushby would come up against formidable obstacles, from hostile terrain to visa restrictions and long periods of bureaucratic limbo. In 2006 he crossed the ice-choked Bering Strait with a companion; in 2024 he swam the Caspian Sea alongside other adventurers. When sponsorship deals fell through, he survived by taking paid work and relying on help from strangers. Their hospitality enabled him to press on despite prolonged delays. After swimming the English Channel, he landed near Dover on 5 October 2026. Yet the final stretch to Hull remained, so arriving in Britain was not the same as completing the expedition.

As the finish approaches, the psychological question has become as daunting as the physical one. Bushby can draw on decades of resilience, but he must also weigh up the personal sacrifices of his quest: time apart from his son, strained relationships and an unconventional life without a settled home. He credits strangers' generosity with helping him pull through dangerous episodes. Now he must come to terms with the prospect of losing a purpose that has defined his adulthood. His story invites a difficult distinction between tenacity and obsession: does devotion to a goal justify everything given up along the way?

True/False

Decide if each statement is True (T) or False (F).

No.	Statement	T / F
1	Bushby permitted himself to use transport when it shortened his route.	
2	After an interruption, he could travel elsewhere if he returned to his previous stopping point.	
3	Administrative obstacles and lost funding had little influence on the expedition's duration.	
4	He reached the British coast by crossing the Channel in the water.	
5	Support from strangers helped him keep going when the expedition became difficult.	
6	Reaching Dover also meant that he had already fulfilled his aim of arriving in Hull.	
7	The expedition is portrayed as having had no effect on his personal relationships.	
8	The prospect of finishing raises questions about his future sense of purpose.	

Phrase Match

Match the phrases (1-10) to the correct definitions (A-J).

Phrases (1-10)	Definitions (A-J)
1. set out	A. use as a source of strength
2. map out	B. encounter a difficulty or obstacle
3. hold fast to	C. begin an undertaking
4. come up against	D. failed to happen as planned
5. fell through	E. stay loyal to a principle
6. press on	F. assess something carefully before making a judgement
7. draw on	G. plan carefully in advance
8. weigh up	H. continue despite difficulties
9. pull through	I. accept a difficult reality
10. come to terms with	J. survive a serious ordeal

Synonym Match

Match the words (1-10) to their closest synonyms (A-J).

Words (1-10)	Synonyms (A-J)
1. audacious	A. daunting
2. viable	B. bold
3. treacherous	C. unorthodox
4. permitted	D. persistence
5. formidable	E. fortitude
6. prolonged	F. perilous
7. unconventional	G. tense
8. resilience	H. extended
9. strained	I. feasible
10. tenacity	J. allowed

Use the New Language

Choose 5 words or phrases from the worksheet and write your own sentences.

No.	Your sentence
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

Discussion Questions

Student A	Student B
1. What is the most demanding journey you have ever undertaken?	1. What drives someone to devote most of their adult life to a single ambition?
2. Have you ever pursued a goal long after your original deadline had passed?	2. How can we distinguish admirable tenacity from self-destructive obsession?
3. Which remote part of the world would you most like to explore on foot?	3. Are decades of sacrifice justified by a personally meaningful achievement?
4. What everyday comforts would you find hardest to give up for several years?	4. Who has the right to judge whether an explorer has accepted too much risk?
5. When have unexpected obstacles forced you to rethink an ambitious plan?	5. Could years spent travelling fundamentally alter a person's values and identity?
6. What personal qualities help you press on when progress seems impossible?	6. Do immigration restrictions place unreasonable limits on genuine exploration?
7. How much do you rely on the generosity of strangers when travelling?	7. Is the completed objective less important than the relationships built along the way?
8. Would you find a long solo expedition liberating or deeply isolating?	8. How might someone come to terms with the loss of a purpose that has defined their life?

Answer Key

True/False	1=F, 2=T, 3=F, 4=T, 5=T, 6=F, 7=F, 8=T
Phrase Match	1=C, 2=G, 3=E, 4=B, 5=D, 6=H, 7=A, 8=F, 9=J, 10=I
Synonym Match	1=B, 2=I, 3=F, 4=J, 5=A, 6=H, 7=C, 8=E, 9=G, 10=D

Example Sentences With the Phrases

No.	Example sentence
1	The research team set out to document the changing coastline.
2	Before leaving, they tried to map out several safe routes.
3	She chose to hold fast to her principles despite criticism.
4	Start-ups often come up against unexpected funding problems.
5	Our travel plans fell through when the ferry was cancelled.
6	The climbers decided to press on despite worsening weather.
7	In a crisis, people often draw on skills they rarely use.
8	You need to weigh up the benefits and risks before committing.
9	The injured walker managed to pull through with prompt medical care.
10	It can take years to come to terms with an unexpected change.