

# Miscalculations

I can understand texts about mistakes.

Revision: Student's Book page 102

1 Write the measurements using abbreviations for the units.

- 1 six feet \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 nine inches \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 five feet ten inches \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 two metres sixteen centimetres \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 seventy-four kilometres \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 fifty-six millimetres \_\_\_\_\_

2 Read the texts (A–C) and match the titles with the texts. There is one extra title.

- 1 Side to side
- 2 Safe and sound
- 3 In and out
- 4 There and back?



**A**

Imagine you were in the middle of a long-distance flight. How would you feel if you were told that your plane had run out of fuel? That's what happened to passengers on an Air Canada flight in 1983. The plane was the first to use metric measurements. However, the fuel gauge wasn't working, so the captain calculated the fuel needed – but in pounds, not kilograms. This resulted in the plane only carrying half the amount it needed. It ran out of fuel above a place called Gimli. Fortunately, the pilot was able to land there safely with minimal fuel, earning the plane the nickname the 'Gimli Glider'.

- B** Crossing the new Millennium Bridge for the first time in June 2000, the people of London got a more thrilling journey to work than they expected. As they passed over the River Thames, the footbridge started to swing. It was a beautiful, elegant bridge, designed especially for the new century. Unfortunately, the designers hadn't calculated the effect of thousands of people walking on it at the same time. Although it wasn't particularly dangerous, the bridge was very wobbly, especially when it was windy. It had to be closed for nearly two years while the design was modified, at great expense.

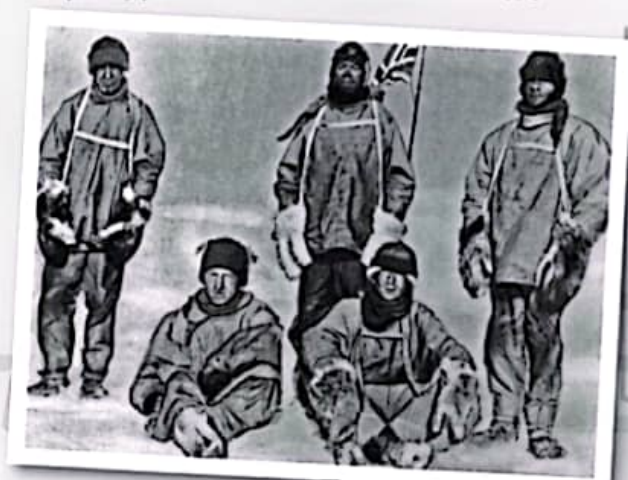
## Reading Strategy

When a statement can match more than one text, you need to make sure you have matched all of the possible texts to each statement. First decide which text matches with a particular statement. Then check that none of the other texts match the statement.

3 Read the Reading Strategy. Then match the texts (A–C) with statements 1–4. One text matches with two statements.

- 1 This mistake could have had fatal results.
- 2 More than one person was responsible for this mistake.
- 3 This problem took a long time to fix.
- 4 The mistake was due to lack of knowledge rather than miscalculation.

- C** In 1912, explorer Robert Scott fatally miscalculated the amount of food his team would need while trying to become the first to reach the South Pole. His team had rations of 4,500 calories per day. If Scott had known more about physical health at that time, he would have taken nearly double that amount of food. So the team must have lost about 25 kg of weight before they got to the Pole. The journey was doubly tragic for Scott. He was beaten to the South Pole by Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen and, worse, he and his men died of starvation on the return journey, just eleven miles from their next food supply.



$a^2 + (x - 2)$

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