

NEWS LESSON

A Knock on the Door at 1.30am

BEFORE YOU READ

1 Warm up

Talk about these questions with a partner.

1. Have you ever lost something important? What happened?
2. Has a stranger ever helped you?
3. Would you take the time to return a lost wallet?

2 Key words

These words are in the article. Write the letter of the meaning (A to H) in each box.

1	**wallet**	☐	A	the person who runs a place
2	**cash**	☐	B	in the right way
3	**pocket**	☐	C	money in notes and coins
4	**manager**	☐	D	sleeping
5	**loudly**	☐	E	a small case for money and cards
6	**properly**	☐	F	a small bag sewn into your clothes
7	**chance**	☐	G	with a lot of noise
8	**asleep**	☐	H	a time when you are able to do something

3 Read

Read the article and underline the key words from task 2. The paragraphs are numbered.

Simon Kelsey lost a month's travel money on a night out in Australia. He had no idea anyone was looking for him.

1 In 1989, Simon Kelsey was a young British man at the end of a year in Australia. He had finished university, flown out and spent ten months working long hours on building sites along the east coast. The work was hot and hard, but he loved it, and by the end he had saved enough money to travel slowly home.

2 It was his last night in Darwin, in the north of the country. He was out with a group of travelling friends, and the next morning they were all flying to Timor, hoping to move from island to island all the way to Singapore. In his pocket was a wallet with $1,000 in cash inside. In those days, people carried cash, and that money was enough to live on for a month.

3 At some point in the evening, the wallet fell out of his pocket. He did not notice. He went back to the hostel and went to bed.

4 At 1.30 in the morning, somebody knocked loudly on his door. Half asleep, he opened it. Outside stood the hostel manager and an elderly couple he had never seen before. The couple were holding his wallet.

5 They had found it and decided to return it. There was no phone number inside, only a student identity card with his name on it. So they had gone from one backpacker hostel to another, asking for him. His hostel was the fourth one they tried. Every single dollar was still inside the wallet.

6 Think about what that meant. It was the middle of the night. They were not young. They had no reason to believe they would ever find him, and nobody would have known if they had given up after the second hostel.

7 He was tired and had been drinking, so he thanked them and went back to bed. It was only the next morning, on the way to the airport, that he understood what they had done. Without them, he says, his whole trip would have been ruined. He never got the chance to thank them properly.

8 Instead, he made himself a promise. When somebody needs help and he can give it, he goes further than he has to. He does not ask for anything back. He just tells the person to pass it on to somebody else.

Sources: The Guardian, The kindness of strangers: In 1989 I lost a wallet with $1,000 in it. Picture: .

4 True, false or not given

Circle **T** (true), **F** (false) or **NG** (the article does not say).

1. Simon lost his wallet on his last night in Darwin. (T) (F) (NG)
2. Some of the money was missing when the wallet came back. (T) (F) (NG)
3. The couple found Simon by asking at several hostels. (T) (F) (NG)
4. The couple lived in Darwin. (T) (F) (NG)
5. Simon thanked the couple properly the next morning. (T) (F) (NG)

5 Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed.

believe	couple	identity	notice	reason	ruined	understood

1. The rain _____ our picnic, so we went home early.
2. Did you _____ the small mistake on the first page?
3. Many children _____ in ghosts until they are about ten.
4. I _____ the joke only after my friend explained it twice.
5. At the airport, the officer asked to see my _____ card.

6 Verb forms

Write the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. In 1989, Simon Kelsey _____ a young British man at the end of a year in Australia. **(BE)**
2. By the end of his year, he _____ enough money to travel slowly home. **(SAVE)**
3. Half asleep, he _____ the door. **(OPEN)**
4. They _____ from one hostel to another before they found him. **(GO)**
5. Today, when someone needs help, he _____ further than he has to. **(GO)**

7 Language focus: phrasal verbs

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed. A phrasal verb is a verb plus a small word like up, on or out. The small word changes the meaning, so learn the two words together.

fell	given	knocked	looked	pass	taken	went

1. Yesterday my phone _____ out of my pocket on the bus.
2. We left the museum early and _____ back to the hotel.
3. Someone _____ on the door at midnight, but nobody was home.
4. He had almost _____ up, but then he found the right address.
5. Please read this and _____ it on to your classmates.

SPEAK

8 Talk about it

Discuss in pairs or small groups. Give reasons for your answers.

1. Why do you think the couple did not simply leave the wallet with the police?
2. What is the kindest thing a stranger has done for you?
3. Is it better to thank someone, or to help somebody else instead?

9 Role-play: a wallet at one in the morning

Work in pairs. Read your card, then have the conversation. Swap roles and do it again.

Student A · the finder

You have found a wallet with cash and a student card. It is nearly midnight. You want to go and look for the owner tonight. Explain why it matters and ask your friend to come with you.

Student B · the friend

You are tired and want to go home. You think the wallet should go to the police in the morning. Give your reasons, ask questions, then agree on a plan.

Useful phrases

I've just found a wallet on the pavement.
I can't leave it until tomorrow.
Wouldn't it be easier to take it to the police?
What if we try the hostels first?
I'm tired, but I'll come for one hour.
Let's do it, and we'll feel better afterwards.

Afterwards, tell the class: what did you decide to do, and was it the right choice?

ANSWER KEY

2 Key words

1 E · 2 C · 3 F · 4 A · 5 G · 6 B · 7 H · 8 D

4 True, false or not given

1 T · 2 F · 3 T · 4 NG · 5 F

5 Vocabulary

1 ruined · 2 notice · 3 believe · 4 understood · 5 identity

6 Verb forms

1 was · 2 had saved · 3 opened · 4 had gone · 5 goes

7 Language focus

1 fell · 2 went · 3 knocked · 4 given · 5 pass

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