

A journey!

Read the following story:

“False alarm leads to tube shut down

Public-spirited pensioner Fred Smith set off a major security alert on the Tube yesterday. Fred was suspicious when two young men with rucksacks got on at Piccadilly Circus and sat next to him, talking in quiet tones.

At one point Fred thought he heard one of them say, ‘But I don’t want to be a terrorist’. The other replied, ‘Nor do I, so the only answer is to hijack.’ This was enough for an increasingly nervous Fred. He got off at Green Park and reported what he had heard to station staff straight away.

In a very efficient operation, the two men were picked up on a video surveillance camera as they got off the train a few stops down the line and were immediately arrested. The whole area was closed off. The men were told to take off their rucksacks and turn out the contents. When the police inspected the rucksacks they found only clothes, bottles of water, books and other personal things.

It turned out that the two students were about to set off on a trip around the Netherlands. They had actually been discussing how they didn’t want to be tourists, but travellers, and as they had very little money they would need to hitch-hike.

An embarrassed Fred later apologised for his over-zealous actions. ‘I’m getting on a bit nowadays, and my hearing isn’t as good as it used to be. My wife Rosy gave me a good telling-off, I can tell you!’ But officials said that events like this, though inconvenient, shows that the public were being vigilant.”

1. What was the misunderstanding that led to the emergency?
2. Find at least eight phrasal verbs in both the headline and article.
3. Now use at least four of them to show that you understand what they mean.
4. Some of the phrasal verbs are used more than once. Do they always have the same meaning? If not, what are the other meanings?