

## “It’s All Greek to me”



JOURNALIST Pete Smiley, The Chronicle. Alright?

ALFREDO Are you from the paper?

JOURNALIST Yes. **A bit nippy** today isn't it. Shall we **kick off** with a little chat and then Derek will be along later to **sort out** some photos, alright? So, you're Alfredo, yes? Where are you from, Alfredo?

ALFREDO I am from Spain, Alain, he is from France.

ALAIN Hello.

ALFREDO And Maria is from Austria.

DANIELA Are you an arts journalist?

JOURNALIST Not exactly, love, no. I cover all sorts really. To be honest, arts is **not really my cup of tea**, but I tell you what, this is **more up my street**. Nice work. Anyone I know? Looks like the editor. **Spittin image**. So, the exhibition ... you've got an appeal up and running, yes?

ALFREDO Yes. The Cathedral is responsible for this project.

ALAIN Our job is the restoration of the building and the sculptures.

JOURNALIST I should think that **costs the earth**?

DANIELA Yes. It is very expensive.

JOURNALIST And the cathedral **foots the bill** for all this?

ALFREDO Yes.

JOURNALIST Are you **feeling the pinch** in the current climate?

ALAIN I do not understand.

JOURNALIST Are you managing to **keep the wolf from the door**?

ALFREDO Yes, we are paid for our work.

DANIELA And we do sculptures for ourselves as well.

JOURNALIST So you **earn a bit on the side**? You **make ends meet**?

ALFREDO We are fine thank you.

JOURNALIST I guess you're also here to **brush up** your English? Let me tell you I was in France last week, and I tell you what, **the shoe was on the other foot** there alright. **I didn't have a clue what they were all on about**. **It was all Greek to me**. But then again I was in Amsterdam last year and I couldn't believe it - they all spoke perfect English. **Just the ticket**. Get everyone to speak English - and **Bob's your uncle**.

**a bit nippy** - a bit cold (weather)  
**kick off** - start  
**sort out** - supervise/do  
**not my cup of tea** - not something I like  
**more up my street** - something I do like  
**spittin(g) image** - close resemblance  
**costs the earth** - very expensive

**foots the bill** - pays  
**feeling the pinch** - be short of money  
**keep the wolf from the door** - survive  
**earn a bit on the side** - extra income  
**make ends meet** - have enough money  
**brush up** - improve  
**the shoe was on the other foot** - my turn to have this experience  
**I didn't have a clue** - I didn't know  
**what they were on about** - what they were saying

**It was all Greek to me** - I didn't understand it at all.  
**just the ticket** - the perfect solution  
**Bob's your uncle** - there, it's done