



There are hundreds of stupid ways to die. The Darwin Awards are dedicated to documenting the best of them.

In groups, imagine what might have happened and write the follow-up to the narrative.

<p>Sometimes it really is reasonable to work “harder” and not “smarter”. In 1996, a man in Bulgaria attempted to clean his chimney.</p>	<p>The man attempted to clean his chimney using a hand grenade. The logic behind this dangerous idea is still a mystery, but the result was predictable. The grenade exploded, destroying both the chimney and the unfortunate man. This explosive attempt at home maintenance earned him a posthumous Darwin Award.</p>
<p>Darren's death was a puzzle. The 33-year-old was found slumped in the hallway of his house, bleeding from stab wounds. Had an assailant attacked him? Police could find no supporting evidence. A year later the inquest revealed why Darren can take his place among the stars of the Darwin Awards.</p>	<p>Left alone in the house while his wife was on holiday, he decided to 'fork around and find out' if his new jacket was stab-proof...</p>
<p>Logistics was uppermost in the mind of a warehouse employee of Tanarumono Logistics. The worker needed to change a light bulb ten meters overhead and the forklift could only reach 2.5 meters, clearly not close enough.</p>	<p>Expressed as a math problem: <i>A person can reach a light fixture 2 meters overhead — and wants to replace a lightbulb 10 meters overhead — so how many 15-cm wood pallets must be stacked onto a 2.5 meter forklift platform, to reach the burnt bulb?</i></p>
<p>In 2008 46-year-old David Monk was on holiday in Italy, with a group of friends. After having a few beers one evening, the lads decided to steal a protective mat that covered the metal barriers at the bottom of the slope and use it as a sledge.</p>	<p>They hiked up the hill, hurled themselves down it, and promptly slammed straight into the very same barrier they'd stolen the protective matting from. David died on the spot, earning himself a Darwin award in the process. “He was a brilliant guy,” David’s friend Alan MacGregor told the Daily Mail. We’re not sure “brilliant” is the word we would’ve chosen...</p>
<p>In 2001, a story appeared in the <i>South Idaho Press</i> detailing the death of a man named Marco, who had been driving a van full of friends back from a day on the mountain when his brakes failed.</p>	<p>In a truly heroic manoeuvre, Marco leapt from the moving vehicle before it careered off a cliff edge – without telling anyone else about the brake problem first. Thankfully one of the other passengers stepped in to save the day, managing to bring the van to a halt. They then walked back up the hill to find that Marco had fatally miscalculated his cowardly leap to safety and hit his head on the pavement, killing himself. No-one else was injured.</p>