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# Trapped underground

WORKSHEET A

The story of the 33 miners trapped underground in Chile has been in newspapers and on TV all over the world.

On 5<sup>th</sup> August the miners were working about 700 metres underground in the San José mine, about 800 kilometres north of the Chilean capital, Santiago, when the roof of part of the mine collapsed. Because of the rocks that had fallen down, the miners could not escape, but fortunately they did have oxygen, some food and water, a small underground shelter where they could spend time together, and some tunnels where they could walk around.

The people on the surface decided to drill narrow holes down through the rock, hoping to contact the miners. It was a very difficult job because of the distance the drill had to travel and also because the rock was so hard.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> August a drill went down very close to the shelter. The miners heard and saw it, and used sticky tape to put a piece of paper on it with a message saying, in Spanish, 'All 33 of us are fine in the shelter'.

When the drill went back up and the people on the surface saw the message, they were of course delighted – the miners were alive! The whole of Chile celebrated. The next thing to do, of course, was to try to rescue the miners – but drilling a hole wide enough for the miners to escape through was going to be even more difficult. The rescuers had to tell the miners that it was probably going to be at least November – maybe even Christmas – before they could get them out.

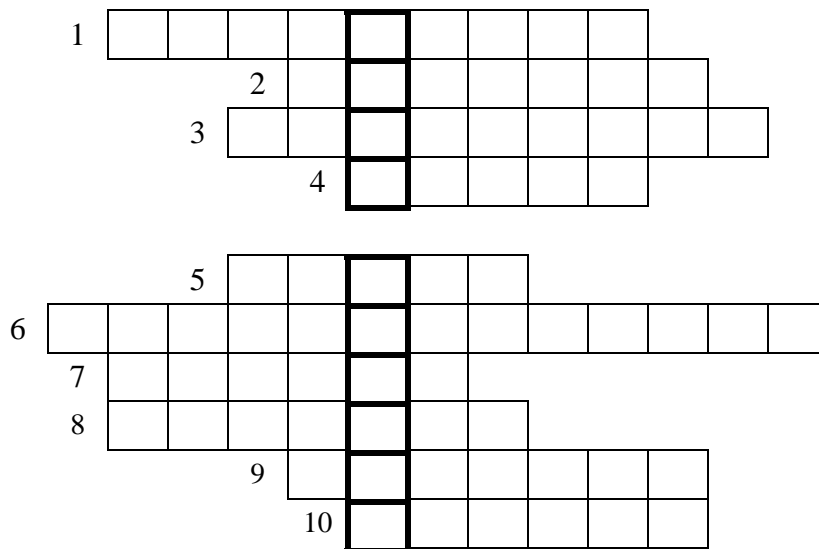
Soon after receiving the miners' message the people on the surface sent medicines down to them. A few days later they sent the miners their first hot meal – but they had to send the food in small cups because the drill hole is not wide enough for plates. The miners have also received clothes and MP3 players.

Relatives of the miners are camping near the mine and writing messages on pieces of paper that are then sent down the hole. Psychologists are also communicating with the miners and trying to help them stay cheerful, because although hopefully their lives are not in danger any more, they are still in a strange and frightening situation.

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## Exercise 1

Complete the crossword below. If all the words are correct, the names of the two kinds of metal that are mined at the San José mine will read from top to bottom.



1. People were \_\_\_\_\_ when they found out that the miners were still alive.
2. The accident happened on 5<sup>th</sup> August but it was not possible to \_\_\_\_\_ the miners until seventeen days later.
3. Some \_\_\_\_\_ of the miners have sent messages down the narrow hole.
4. To get the miners out it is going to be necessary to \_\_\_\_\_ a wider hole.
5. The miners are trapped because of the \_\_\_\_\_ that fell down when the roof of part of the mine collapsed.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ are trying to help the miners stay cheerful.
7. The miners cannot \_\_\_\_\_ from the mine.
8. The miners have been \_\_\_\_\_ since 5<sup>th</sup> August.
9. The miners' \_\_\_\_\_ said 'All 33 of us are fine in the shelter'.
10. It is not going to be easy to \_\_\_\_\_ the miners.

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WORKSHEET C

## Exercise 2

The text from Worksheet A has been copied below, but now contains some mistakes. Twenty of the words in bold are incorrect, and five are correct. Decide which are incorrect, and correct them.

The story of the 33 miners trapped underground (1) **at** Chile has been in newspapers and on TV all over the world.

On 5<sup>th</sup> August the miners were working about 700 metres underground in the San José (2) **mina**, about 800 kilometres north of the Chilean capital, Santiago, when the roof of part of the mine (3) **collased**. Because of the rocks that had fallen (4) **up**, the miners could not (5) **escape**, but fortunately they did have oxygen, some food and water, a small underground shelter where they could (6) **send** time together, and some (7) **funnels** where they could walk around.

The people on the (8) **face** decided to drill narrow holes down through the rock, hoping to (9) **contract** the miners. It was a very difficult job because of the distance the drill had to travel and also because the rock was so hard.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> August a drill went down very close to the shelter. The miners heard and saw it, and used (10) **stick** tape to put a piece of paper on it with a message saying, in Spanish, 'All 33 of us are (11) **wine** in the shelter'.

When the drill went back up and the people on the surface saw the message, they were of course (12) **delighted** – the miners were (13) **live**! The whole of Chile (14) **selebrated**.

The next thing to do, of course, was to try to rescue the miners – but drilling a hole wide enough for the miners to escape through was going to be even more difficult. The (15) **scuers** had to tell the miners that it was probably going to be at (16) **east** November – maybe even Christmas – before they could get them out.

Soon after receiving the miners' message the people on the surface sent medicines down to them. A few days later they sent the miners their first hot (17) **meal** – but they had to send the food in small cups because the drill hole is not (18) **narrow** enough for plates. The miners have also received (19) **cloths** and MP3 players. (20) **Revatiles** of the miners are (21) **camping** near the mine and writing messages on pieces of paper that are then sent down the hole. Psychologists are also (22) **commicating** with the miners and trying to help them stay (23) **heerful**, because although hopefully their lives are not (24) **on** danger any more, they are still in a strange and frightening (25) **situation**.