

e-lesson

Week starting: September 20, 2010

1. Trapped underground

This week's lesson is about the miners who have been trapped underground in a mine in Chile since early August – a story that has been reported by the media worldwide.

Level

Pre-intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level A2–B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Ask your students what story from Chile has been in the news recently. How much do they know about the Chilean miners' situation? What do your students imagine it would be like to have to stay underground for a very long time? If there are any mines in your students' country, encourage the students to say what they know about them.
2. Divide the class into pairs and hand out Worksheet A. Give the students five to ten minutes to read through the main text, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary.
3. Keeping the students in their pairs, hand out Worksheet B and ask the students to complete the crossword.
4. Check answers in open class.
5. Ask the students to turn over their copies of Worksheets A and B or to hand them back to you temporarily. Keeping the students in their pairs, ask them to attempt Exercise 2 on Worksheet C, which contains the main text with twenty mistakes that they have to identify and correct. The words containing the mistakes are all in bold, as are five other words that are correct. Point out that the mistakes are all lexical or grammatical, and that no correction requires them to write any additional words.
6. Check answers in open class.

Answers:

Exercise 1

1. delighted 2. contact 3. relatives 4. drill 5. rocks 6. Psychologists 7. escape
8. trapped 9. message 10. rescue

If the sentences have been completed correctly, *gold* and *copper* will read from top to bottom.

Exercise 2

1. in 2. mine 3. collapsed 4. down 6. spend 7. tunnels 8. surface 9. contact 10.
tape 11. fine 13. alive 14. celebrated 15. rescuers 16. least 18. wide
19. clothes 20. Relatives 22. communicating 23. cheerful 24. in

Words in bold that are correct: 5. escape 12. delighted 17. meal 21. camping
25. situation

2. Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5i075ahoJZZkuwcSyRJcUkUDZKuFQD9I7VCVO0>

An Associated Press news article (September 14th) about the many job offers the trapped miners have received for after they escape. With photos and illustrations of the planned rescue technique. Challenging for pre-intermediate level.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/americas/09/02/chile.miners.health/index.html?iref=mpstoryview#fbid=45N35I2hp1r&wom=false>

Video reports from CNN, including footage of the miners themselves in their underground shelter. Accessible to pre-intermediate level.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_Copiap%C3%B3_mining_accident

The *Wikipedia* entry on the accident that led to the miners becoming trapped. Intermediate level and above.