

# The rescue of the 33

WORKSHEET A

The successful rescue of 33 miners from the San José gold and copper mine in Chile on 13<sup>th</sup> October was a big news story all over the world. In fact, around one billion people watched at least some of it on TV.

The men had been trapped underground for longer than any other miners in history – 69 days in total. The story began on 5<sup>th</sup> August when the roof of part of the mine collapsed, trapping the men 700 metres beneath the surface. On 22<sup>nd</sup> August it was discovered that the miners were still alive, and so the rescue effort began. While the rescuers started drilling a 700-metre hole that would be wide enough for the miners to escape through, the miners themselves did a vital job by clearing away the pieces of rock that fell down the hole during the drilling – about 500 kilograms of rock every hour.

NASA and the Chilean navy together made a rescue capsule – a kind of very narrow lift – that would be able to carry the miners, one by one, up to the surface. No miner with a waistline of more than 90cm would be able to fit inside, however, so a few of them had to do extra exercise to lose weight.

On 12<sup>th</sup> October the *Fénix 2* (Phoenix 2) capsule carried the first member of a team of rescuers down the mine: they would stay there until all 33 of the miners had been taken to the surface. *Fénix 2* took around 15 minutes to lift each miner to the surface. The first miner arrived shortly after midnight on 13<sup>th</sup> October, and the last 22 hours later, around 10pm.

Since the rescue the miners have had to get used to the fact that they are now celebrities, with journalists queuing up to talk to them. Suddenly they are receiving VIP treatment: Manchester United and Real Madrid, for example, have invited all 33 of them to travel to Europe to watch football matches at their stadiums. As for *Fénix 2*, it soon became a tourist attraction, going on display in the Chilean capital, Santiago.

The cost of the rescue was probably somewhere between 10 and 20 million US dollars, but anyone who saw the moving pictures of the miners reaching the surface and seeing their loved ones again – coming ‘back from the dead’, as some newspapers described it – would agree that its end result was priceless.

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WORKSHEET B

### Exercise 1

Here are some simple definitions for words that appear in the text on Worksheet A. Find the words they refer to and fill in the gaps.

1. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ a \_ (adjective): from or belonging to Chile
2. c \_ \_ \_ \_ r \_ \_ \_ (noun): a famous person (often in entertainment or sport)
3. q \_ \_ \_ \_ (verb): to be part of a line of people who are waiting for something (British English)
4. \_ \_ \_ \_ h (noun): a game in which players or teams compete against each other, for example in football, rugby, tennis, etc (British English)
5. \_ \_ \_ y (noun): the part of a country's armed forces that can fight at sea
6. l \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ n \_ s (noun): people you care about very much, especially your husband/boyfriend/wife/girlfriend and family members
7. \_ \_ t \_ l (adjective): very important, or necessary
8. If something is \_ n \_ is \_ \_ \_ \_ (expression), it has been put in a particular place so that people can see it easily (for example an object in a museum).
9. If something is \_ r \_ c \_ l \_ s \_ (adjective), it is so valuable that you cannot put a price on it.
10. t \_ \_ \_ (verb): to prevent someone from leaving a place (especially a dangerous place)
11. m \_ v \_ \_ \_ (adjective): making you feel emotional
12. \_ a \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ n \_ (noun): the measurement around a person's waist
13. p \_ o \_ \_ \_ \_ (noun): in ancient stories, an imaginary bird that burnt to death but then came back to life again
14. If a building or another structure c \_ \_ \_ \_ p \_ es (verb), it falls down suddenly.
15. If something or someone f \_ \_ s (verb) somewhere, they are small enough, or the right size or shape, to go there.

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WORKSHEET C

## Exercise 2

### Team A

Using the information in the text on Worksheet A, make questions using the words in the boxes. Use only one box for each question, and don't repeat any questions. When you have prepared the questions, Team B will have to answer them as part of a quiz.

When	Where	How many	describe
exercise	capsule	What metals	vital

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### Team B

Using the information in the text on Worksheet A, make questions using the words in the boxes. Use only one box for each question, and don't repeat any questions. When you have prepared the questions, Team A will have to answer them as part of a quiz.

When	Where	How many	display
invited	cost	How far	Chilean