

Lucky escapes

WORKSHEET A

Below are descriptions of three lucky escapes: two of the cases are real and one has been invented. Can you identify which case is not true?

1. In December 2010 a French scientist on an expedition in the Amazon rainforest in Peru was almost killed by an anaconda, the world's largest snake. He was asleep in a hammock tied between two trees by a river when suddenly he woke up to find that the huge snake – around seven metres long and 30 centimetres in diameter – had wrapped itself around his legs and waist (anacondas kill through constriction rather than venom). His two colleagues were walking in the jungle about a kilometre away, but luckily they heard his screams for help and came running back. They didn't have any kind of weapon, however, so instead they kicked the snake until it released the man's body and slid away into the river. The scientist had not suffered any serious injury.

2. In January this year a British man survived a 300-metre fall down the side of a mountain in Scotland. Climbing with friends, he had just reached the top of the 1,300-metre mountain when he suddenly slipped at the edge of a near-vertical slope. He fell at high speed, mostly flying through the air but also hitting rocks a few times, before coming to a halt on a flatter part of the slope. The man was not wearing any kind of head protection, but the large rucksack on his back probably saved his life by acting as a cushion. His friends immediately called for a rescue helicopter, whose crew expected to find him either dead or with very serious injuries: instead he was standing up reading his map, having suffered only bruises to his face and fractures of small bones in his back.

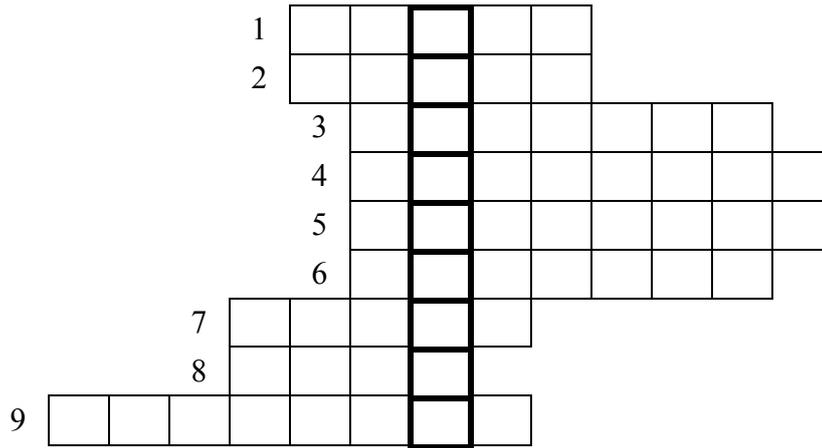
3. In August 2010 two Norwegian men on a kayaking expedition around the Arctic islands of Svalbard woke up to find a very unwelcome visitor looking inside their tent – a polar bear. One of the men immediately reached for his rifle, but the bear, an adult male, broke it in two with its paw. The bear then took one of the men in its jaws, pulled him out of the tent, and dragged him 40 metres away. At one point the bear stood on its back legs with the man still in his mouth, shaking him from side to side. Luckily the men had another rifle and the other man opened fire with it, killing the bear after five shots. His friend, seriously injured but still alive, was taken to hospital by air ambulance and has since made a good recovery. In Norway it is permitted to kill a polar bear in self-defence, as in this case, but not in any other circumstances.

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WORKSHEET B

Exercise 1

Complete the crossword below. If all the words are correct, a word that means the same as *lucky* will read from top to bottom.



1. It was very lucky that the Norwegian men had a second _____.
2. The _____ the British man fell down was almost vertical.
3. The polar bear _____ the Norwegian man away in its mouth.
4. The helicopter crew were very surprised to find the British climber was _____ up reading his map.
5. It was probably very lucky that he was wearing a _____.
6. The helicopter crew had expected him to be far more seriously _____.
7. The two Norwegian men had been travelling by _____.
8. The Norwegian man's friend needed more than one _____ to kill the bear.
9. The Norwegian man's _____ were serious.

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WORKSHEET C

Exercise 2

Decide whether the following sentences are correct or incorrect. Then bet a minimum of ten points up to a maximum of fifty on your choice.

		Correct/ Incorrect	Points bet	Points lost	Points won
1	His friend was serious injured but still alive.				
2	The rucksack acted as a cushion.				
3	They were on a kayaking expedient.				
4	The bear broke the rifle with its hand.				
5	The bear dragged him out of the tent.				
6	He survived a 300-metre fell.				
7	In Norway it is only permit to kill a polar bear in self-defence.				
8	The man suddenly slipped and fell.				
9	They killed the animal in self-defence.				
10	He opened the fire with his rifle.				
11	After falling 300 metres he finally came to a halt.				
12	He suffered serious injured.				
13	The man's friend saved his life by shoting the bear.				
14	He suffered fractures to small bones in his back.				
15	They called for a rescue helicopter.				
Total points lost and won					
Final total (subtract total points lost from total points won)					