



Topic: Sea Rescue

Level: Intermediate

Grammar Focus: Verbs



Discussion:

A. Look at the picture. What do you see? These words will help you.

accident boat sea man woman life preserver paper drowning panic

B. Read and answer the following questions.

1. How many people in the picture?



2. How did the man end up in the water? You can use your imagination.
3. What is the purpose of the life preserver or tube?
4. Why is the life preserver painted red and white?
5. What does the expression 'man overboard' mean?
6. Imagine that the man catches the tube. What would happen next?

C. General chat about dangers at sea and safety measures.

What else do boats carry in case of an emergency? Who is responsible for the safety of crew and passengers? Are boats safer now than one hundred years ago? Why?

Have you ever been on a boat? Did you enjoy it?

D. Word Play

1. Verbs are action words. If a person did these actions in the water, would they need to be rescued? Yes, no or maybe.

drown swim panic float flounder tread water dive snorkel sink



Story:

A. Read the following story. Take your time. Pause at the end of each sentence when you meet a full stop.

Sea Rescue

It is hot today. The sun is shining and the sea is warm. The sea is a deep blue. Many people have come to the seaside. They want to play on the sand and swim in the sea. There are families with children. There are young couples. There are friends wanting to relax and have fun. There are lifeguards watching the swimmers.

A young boy is swimming through the waves. He is drifting away from the shore. He is happy to be swimming on his own. He begins to get tired. His arms are feeling heavy and sore. He stops swimming. He tries to stand up. The water is too deep for him to touch the bottom with his toes. He panics.

A lifeguard is watching the boy and sees him stop swimming. He sees his arms waving. He runs to the sea and is soon swimming to the boy. He reaches the boy and drags him back to the shore. People gather around the lifeguard and the boy. They clap and praise the lifeguard for his quick rescue.



B. Testing your general understanding.

The following statements are either true or false. Read each one and decide whether it is 'true' or 'false'.

1. People go to the seaside to have fun.
2. Lifeguards rescue people in trouble.
3. The boy tries to swim back to shore.
4. The boy is carried back to shore.
5. The boy never swims again.

C. Verb Challenge.

1. The story is written in the present tense. Reread the last paragraph and change all the verbs to the past tense. Here is the start for you:

'A lifeguard was watching the boy and saw him'



D. Ultimate challenge. Read each question and the four possible answers. Which one do you think is correct?

Q.1 Why have many people come to the seaside?

- a. They want to see the rescue.
- b. It is a hot day.
- c. They want to get a suntan.
- d. They want to meet their friends.

Q.2 When does the boy know he is in trouble?

- a. When his arms are sore.
- b. When he cannot see the people on the sand.
- c. When the waves get bigger.
- d. When his feet cannot touch the bottom.

Q.3 Why do the people clap?

- a. They have enjoyed the rescue.
- b. They are happy the boy has been saved.
- c. They need to dry their hands.
- d. They congratulate the lifeguard on saving the boy.



Q.4 What lesson has the boy learnt?

- a. Lifeguards like to rescue swimmers.
- b. It is better to swim on a cold day.
- c. It is safer to swim closer to the shore.
- d. It is safer to stay on the sand.

Exploring other ideas:

- Importance of learning to swim. The 'buddy' rule.
- The differences between the sea, lake and river for a swimmer.
- Famous shipwrecks such as the Titanic.
- Current news item on a water related incident.