

A matter of life and death

Complete the first speaker's decisions with the given words. It's possible to use more words in one gap; it's important to make the speech logical.

rope	knife	each x3	aid kit	going	take x2	kilograms
sun	have	fruit	water	matches	sunglasses	

Well, we've decided that we're going to _____ ten kilograms _____. And we're going to _____ two blankets, one kilogram of dried _____, two backpacks and the _____. Erm, we're going to _____ six....., we're going to take six _____ of _____. Erm, we're going to take the _____. We're going to take the _____. We're going to take newspapers in case of erm, _____. We're going to take the first _____. We're going to take two pairs of _____. We're _____ to take a compass and we're going to take two signal flares _____.

We asked two soldiers who are trained in survival to do the same exercise as you did. Read their solution and the reasons for it. You can use a dictionary.

I think it is going to take us about five days to get to the nearest village. If both of us are fit, the woman can carry 15 kg and the man can carry 20 kg – don't forget that the packs are going to be lighter every day as we eat and drink. We are going to travel at night in the desert (using blankets for warmth) and sleep in turns during the day (under a blanket 'tent'). In the mountains we are going to travel during the day and sleep at night. Before we begin walking on the first day we are going to eat, and have a good drink of water.

Some things we are **not** going to take are:

- tent: too heavy, and we can use the blankets for a tent
- cooking equipment: we can cook and eat food from the tins
- radio receiver: we can't transmit
- rifle: we don't want to frighten people who see us
- tin opener: there's one on the knife

Here's what we're going to take:

- 2 backpacks
- rope (to make tent, to climb in mountains)
- 4 blankets (to make tent in the desert, for warmth when it's cold)
- 5 signal flares

- 12.5 litres of water
- torch and batteries
- 9 kg of tinned food (to eat, possibly without cooking, from the tin)
- first aid kit (taking contents out of box)
- 0.2 kg of newspapers (for 'floor' of tent)
- map
- compass
- sun cream
- 1 kg of dried fruit (to eat in small portions for quick energy)
- knife
- sunglasses
- matches

Write a similar problem yourself. It can be about somebody who is in trouble in the Arctic, or on the moon, or on a small island, or somewhere else – you decide.