**1** Listen, read and check.

# TRUE STORIES

*by Mark Smith*

On the morning of 26th December, the sun was shining and a warm breeze was blowing on Ko Phi Phi Don Island in Thailand. It was a welcome change from the wet, rainy weather in London. After breakfast, we went to the beach. My parents decided to sunbathe and I ran straight into the crystal clear water. Nothing could prepare me for what was about to happen next.

Suddenly, I heard a loud roar. The water under my feet disappeared. I heard people screaming and pointing at the sea. "What's going on?" I was wondering as I turned to see a massive wave coming towards me. "Mark, run!" I heard my mum shout before the huge wave swallowed me. I was under the water. I was trying to breathe and reach the surface but the force of the water just pushed me down. Then, out of nowhere a hand grabbed me and pulled me up. I gasped for air and looked around. I was in a palm tree with a Thai man. I could see people in the distance running in panic. I felt like crying, but I was too shocked to even do that. The only thing I could do was to sit and watch, unable to move. The hours passed slowly. Suddenly, the Thai man started shouting and pointing to a helicopter. The pilot saw us and came to rescue us. Half an hour later, we were safe in the hills. There were a lot of people there. I was feeling lonely and lost when I heard my mum's voice say. "Mark, you're safe," I don't remember feeling more relieved in my life than at that moment. Two days later we left the island. We felt lucky to be alive, but we were sorry for the locals that lost their homes. It was a terrible experience.

**2** **Read the text again and complete the sentences. Use two to four words.**

1 Mark and his family went ..... .

2 On the morning of 26th December after breakfast, they ..... .

3 While Mark was swimming, he heard ..... .

4 A huge wave ..... .

5 A Thai man managed to pull ..... .

6 Hours later a helicopter ..... .

7 In the hills, Mark felt ..... .

8 Mark and his family left two ..... .

9 They felt lucky ..... .

10 They felt sorry for ..... .

LIVEWORKSHEETS

**4** **Match the adjectives to their synonyms. Then explain the words in bold.**
**Click on the words in bold in the SHOW TEXT for help.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 ☐ welcome (ℓ.4) | **a** huge |
| 2 ☐ massive (ℓ. 15) | **b** horrified |
| 3 ☐ shocked (ℓ. 27) | **c** pleasant |
| 4 ☐ safe (ℓ. 34) | **d** abandoned |
| 5 ☐ lonely (ℓ. 36) | **e** calm |
| 6 ☐ relieved (ℓ. 39) | **f** unharmed |

LIVEWORKSHEETS