

EXERCISE 3

Read the first paragraph from the text about survival techniques. Read the exam question and the four options, *A*, *B*, *C* and *D*. Then do the exercise

Dealing with survival situations in the wild

Over the last few years, there has been an increase in the number of television programmes that show experts explaining how to survive in the wild. They use their experience to create fires, build shelters, find water and decide which plants are safe to eat and which might kill you. While these programmes are no doubt highly entertaining, what is less certain is how successful they are at really educating viewers at home. Last year, over 2,300 hikers were reported lost in the wild in the USA. While most of them were eventually rescued, not all were so lucky. Some of the survivors told their rescuers that they had seen these kinds of television programmes, and had believed they had learnt some useful skills. It turned out, however, that building a fire from wet wood and finding a source of clean water was a lot harder than they had imagined.

Choose the correct letter, *A*, *B*, *C* or *D*.

1 What does the writer say about television programmes on the subject of surviving in the wild?

- A The people who make the programmes know little about survival techniques.
 - B The people who appear in the programmes are never in real danger themselves.
 - C The programmes fail to make ordinary people aware of how difficult it is to survive.
 - D The programmes should not discuss the stories of people who have not survived.
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Three students chose the wrong options to answer the question. Their teacher asked them to explain their choices. Read the teacher's comments and then match them with the students' explanations.

Teacher's comments

1. 'The people "making the programmes" in the option might mean the experts or it might mean the producers. However, the writer says that the experts have experience in creating fires, in building shelters, etc. So they *do* know about survival techniques. The writer's point is that ordinary people can't learn very much about survival just by watching TV.'
 2. 'Your comment is probably correct and is your point of view, but the writer never talks about this. You should only choose an option if the same information appears in the text.'
 3. 'The writer does say that some people who got lost in the wild did not survive. But the writer doesn't say that the survival television programmes ever talk about or show pictures of this group of people.'
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Students' explanations

First student

'I chose option A because I thought "the experts" could be the people making the TV programmes. And at the bottom of the paragraph, it says that "building a fire" and "finding clean water" is harder than they imagined.' 1/2/3

Second student

'I chose option D because the text says that some hikers got lost and they didn't survive.' 1/2/3

Third student

'I chose option B because it's true. Whenever you watch those kind of programmes, you know that there are a lot of people who can help the expert or the presenter, like a doctor or a rescue team.' 1/2/3