

Gateway 2nd Edition B1

Student name _____

Group/Class _____

Date _____ Score _____

READING

Long distance rescue

Most people have heard of the *Titanic*. It was the largest passenger ship in the world and was launched in 1912, but on its very first voyage it hit an iceberg and sank in the Atlantic Ocean. Most of the 1,517 people on the ship died in the freezing water. (1) It is a very strange tale, but luckily it had a better ending than the story of the original *Titanic*.

Alex Evans works on a lifeboat in Wales and he spends a lot of his time rescuing people from the sea. They are usually swimmers or fishermen who are stuck on rocks when the sea comes in. These rescues are usually simple and don't require aeroplanes or international search-and-rescue operations. (2)

On Monday Alex was shopping with his mother when his mobile phone rang. He was surprised to get a signal and answered it. He was even more surprised to hear the voice of his friend Mark Corbett, who was on a motorboat in the Caribbean over 4,000 miles away. (3) He told Alex that the boat was sinking and they needed help! At first, Alex thought that it was a joke. (4) Then he heard the panic in Mark's voice and realised that it was a real emergency. Mark said that there was a lot of water in the boat and they had lost power. (5) He was using the satellite phone and the only number he could remember was Alex's!

Alex stayed calm and wrote down the information about where the boat was. (6) They sent out planes and three hours later they found Mark's boat and rescued them. (7) Maybe boat owners should avoid calling their boats *Titanic* in the future!

1 Read the article about a sea rescue. Seven sentences are missing from the article. Choose from the sentences A–G the one which fits each gap.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____

- A Then he contacted an international rescue centre.
- B Mark was with some other men, taking a boat to Grenada.
- C Luckily everyone was OK because of the actions of a good friend 4,000 miles away!
- D They couldn't use the long-range radio.
- E However this week he was part of a sea rescue that was a little different!
- F Imagine someone phoning you and saying that they are on the *Titanic* and it's sinking!
- G Now another boat with the same name, *The Titanic* has been in the news because it got into trouble at sea.

Score: /7

2 Read the article about a sea rescue. Are these statements True (T) or False (F)?

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1 The article is about the original <i>Titanic</i> . | T / F |
| 2 Alex Evans doesn't rescue people very often. | T / F |
| 3 Alex didn't expect to get a phone call from Mark. | T / F |
| 4 Mark's boat was in trouble in the Caribbean. | T / F |
| 5 The writer thinks it's a good idea to call your boat <i>Titanic</i> . | T / F |

Score: /5