63 Human interest stories

A Amazing but true!

OPERATED ON AFTER 55 YEARS!

A German woman who spent 55 years with a pencil **stuck** in her brain has finally had most of it removed. She had fallen over holding the pencil when she was four. It went **directly** through her cheek and then into her brain. **Ever since**, she had had to **endure severe** pain because doctors **dared** not operate. The three-**inch** long pencil was finally removed on Friday in a very **delicate** operation, all except the **tip** of the pencil. The woman is said to be **making a speedy recovery**, and **mysteriously** the **remaining** tip seems to be causing her no problems at all.

GLOSSARY

stuck (in sth)	unable to move or be moved
directly	in a direct line or manner
ever since	continuously since the time mentioned
endure *formal*	experience or deal with sth that is painful or unpleasant, especially without complaining SYN **bear, put up with sth**
severe	very bad or serious
inch	a unit of measurement equal to 2.54 centimetres
delicate	showing or needing very skilful and careful treatment
tip (of sth)	the thin pointed end (of sth)
make a speedy/ rapid recovery	get well again quickly after an illness
mysteriously	in a way that is difficult to understand or explain **mysterious** *adj*
remaining	still existing or needing to be dealt with

SPOTLIGHT *dare*

Dare means 'be brave enough to do something'.

- ***I dare** you to ask him.* (= Are you brave enough to ask him?)

It is usually used in questions and negative forms.

- ***How dare you** say that!* (= I am very angry that you said that.)
- ***Don't you dare** come near me!* (used to give someone a strong warning)

1 Circle all the adjectives you can find in the word snake.

daresevereddirectlyremaininginchmysteriouslytipstuckrapidsincedelicate

2 Circle the correct answer(s). Both answers may be possible.

1 The ***tip / edge*** of the cat's tail is white.
2 I made a ***speedy / rapid*** recovery.
3 The pain can be quite ***severe / mysterious***.
4 She's got a ***delicate / mysterious*** virus.
5 He had to ***endure / put up with*** a lot of pain.
6 How dare you ***do / to do*** that!
7 It's about ***two inches / five centimetres*** long.
8 There were seven and I've had six, so where's the ***left / remaining*** one?
9 I bought it in 2012 and have lived there ***ever / ever since***.

3 Complete the dialogues with a suitable word or phrase.

1 Was the pain bad? ~ Yes, I didn't think I could _____ it much longer.
2 It must be so difficult operating on the brain. ~ Yes, it's a very _____ procedure.
3 You've put on weight. ~ How _____ you say that!
4 How's Tania? ~ No idea. I haven't seen her _____ her accident last year.
5 I _____ you to ask that girl out. ~ Mmm. What do you think she'll say?
6 Where has he gone? ~ They have no idea. It's a very _____ disappearance.
7 Is Tina getting better? ~ Yeah, apparently she's making a _____.
8 I'm going to tell the teacher you copied my answers. ~ Oh, don't you _____ do that!
9 Was Karen hurt? ~ No. She was on the same bus, but not _____ involved in the accident.
10 What did you say about a nail? ~ It got _____ in his foot. It was quite difficult to get out.

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS

B A survival tale



An Australian farmer has described how he spent SEVEN days sitting on the **upper** branches of a tree above a **swamp** full of **deadly** crocodiles. The 53-year-old man said he was forced to take the action after his horse **accidentally stumbled** and he fell off. The horse **panicked** and **galloped** off, leaving David **stranded**. He managed to climb a nearby tree and realized he could either **stay put** and hope to be found by a rescue team, or try to climb down, **taking a chance on** being eaten by a crocodile. After a week, and nearly **starving**, he was **spotted** by helicopters and rescued.

GLOSSARY

tale	an exciting description of an event	**gallop**	When a horse or similar animal **gallops**, it moves across the ground very fast.
upper	at or near the top of sth OPP **lower**	**be stranded**	be in a place from which you have no way of leaving
swamp	an area of ground that is very wet or covered in water and in which plants, trees, etc. are growing	**stay put** *inf*	stay where you are rather than moving away
deadly	causing or likely to cause death	**take a chance (on sth)**	decide to do sth, knowing it is a risk
accidentally	by chance; in a way that was not planned	**starve**	suffer or die because you do not have enough food to eat
stumble	hit your foot against sth while walking or running and nearly fall	**spot**	see or notice sb/sth, especially suddenly or when it is not easy to do so
panic (panicked; panicking)	suddenly feel frightened so that you cannot think clearly **panic** *n*		

4 Is the meaning similar or different? Write *S* or *D*.

1 We had to stay put for an hour.	We couldn't move for an hour.	
2 The snake was deadly.	The snakes was nearly dead.	
3 Don't look for an opportunity.	Don't take any chances.	
4 We were attacked.	We were stranded.	
5 He stumbled and fell.	He tripped and fell.	
6 I was on an upper slope of the mountain.	I was near the top of the mountain.	
7 The horse galloped towards the lake.	The horse walked towards the lake.	
8 The area was covered in water.	It was like a swamp.	

5 Complete the definitions.

1 If it's deadly, it can _____.
2 If you starve, you can _____.
3 If you spot something, you _____ it.
4 If it happens accidentally, it's by _____.
5 If you stumble, you nearly _____.
6 If you panic, you don't think _____.

6 Complete the dialogues with a suitable word or phrase.

1 Did you stay fairly calm? ~ No, I'm afraid I was in a _____.
2 Was the land very wet? ~ Yes, they found me in a _____.
3 How did they see you? ~ Fortunately, they _____ my white hat.
4 Is that a true story? ~ I don't know, but it's an interesting _____.
5 Was it safe to move around? ~ No, too risky, so I decided to _____.
6 Could you get out of the village? ~ No, we were _____.
7 Is that the upper limit of money we can spend? ~ No, the complete opposite. It's the _____.
8 You stayed where you were during the flood? ~ Yes, I didn't want to take _____.

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS