

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/rapid 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 in a direct line or manner
directly	continuously since the time mentioned
ever since	experience or deal with sth that is painful or unpleasant, especially without complaining
endure formal	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
remaining	mysterious adj 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.

dareseveredirectlyremaininginchmysteriouslytipstuckrapidsincedelicate

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 The tip / edge of the cat's tail is white. | 7 It's about two inches / five centimetres long. |
| 2 I made a speedy / rapid recovery. | 8 There were seven and I've had six, so where's the left / remaining one? |
| 3 The pain can be quite severe / mysterious . | 9 I bought it in 2012 and have lived there ever / ever since . |
| 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! | |

- 3 Complete the dialogues with a suitable word or phrase.

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



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 take a chance (on sth)	stay where you are rather than moving away decide to do sth, knowing it is a risk
deadly	causing or likely to cause death	starve	suffer or die because you do not have enough food to eat
accidentally	by chance; in a way that was not planned	spot	see or notice sb/sth, especially suddenly or when it is not easy to do so
stumble	hit your foot against sth while walking or running and nearly fall		
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