Third Conditional

A. Read the true story about Bill and Simone Butler. What made their sailing vacation such a disaster?

Every year, Bill and Simone Butler took a sailing vacation. But one year, they had a terrible experience in the Pacific Ocean and they decided never to sail again. Their boat sank and they spent the next 66 days at sea on a small lifeboat. Bill and Simone were very lucky and they were able to survive this experience. What happened? Well, it all started one night on the yacht when Bill and Simone realized that there were whales all around them—dozens, perhaps even hundreds, of whales. For a moment, it seemed like an amazing experience, but then they heard a terrible noise: a huge whale had hit their boat. Unfortunately, it was not possible for Bill and Simone to repair the yacht fast enough and it began to sink. They quickly threw what they could find into a lifeboat and jumped in. By the light of the moon, they watched their yacht disappear into the sea. Bill and Simone spent the next two months in
their small lifeboat. During this time, they saw dozens of ships in the distance. They waved and shouted, but nobody saw them. Bill and Simone had enough food to last four weeks; after that, they survived on fish. Luckily, they had a machine that made saltwater into drinking water. This saved their lives. In the end, the ocean carried their lifeboat close to the coast of Central America. Bill and Simone were rescued 13 miles off Costa Rica. They were so tired they could not climb out of the lifeboat without help. When asked about their experience, Bill said, "The Pacific Ocean can be very unfriendly."

B Make sentences with the third conditional about the story.

1 Bill and Simone / continue / going on sailing vacations / if they / not have / such a terrible experience

2 If / Bill and Simone / not be / so lucky, they / not survive

3 If / a whale / not hit / their yacht, it / not sink

4 Bill and Simone / be able to / stay on the yacht / if / they / manage / to repair it faster

5 If / a ship / see / them sooner, they / not spend / so many days out at sea

6 Bill and Simone / not survive / so long / if / they / not have / a machine that turned saltwater into drinking water.

LIVEWORKSHEETS