

The nightmare holiday

A dream holiday turned into a nightmare for an American brother and sister, Dan and Kate Suski. During a fishing trip in the Caribbean, their boat sank.

The weather wasn't brilliant that day, but Dan had caught a huge fish! He was trying to pull it onto the boat when the captain realised water was coming into the cabin. The boat was sinking fast. The captain used his radio to send a message for help. Then he shouted, "Jump out!" 1 _____ They were about 15 km from land.

The captain said that help was coming. The weather was now awful, but they were wearing life jackets. After an hour, the captain and the Suskis lost each other, and there was no sign of rescue. 2 _____ They were both thinking the same terrifying thought: sharks!

A helicopter appeared, but nobody saw Dan and Kate in the water. Day turned to night and the Suskis swam for fourteen hours. Finally, they saw some cliffs; they were near land! 3 _____ There were dangerous sharp rocks. By now, they were exhausted. Eventually, they reached a sandy beach. 4 _____

Then they found a town and picked some green bananas. Finally, they met a young farm worker. 5 _____ He also gave them some tragic news: the captain was lost at sea.

After a few days in hospital Dan and Kate were fine. Their story had another happy ending: a rescue boat found the captain after 23 hours in the water!

Task 1

Match sentences A–G with gaps 1–5 in the text. There are two extra sentences.

A. So Dan and Kate started to swim as fast as they could towards land.



1

B The captain helped them as they climbed onto dry land.



2

C He gave them water and food, and stayed with them until the police arrived.



3

D So they did, and a few minutes later, the boat disappeared under the waves.



4

E Out of the water at last, they lay down and rested.



5

F But the sharks swam away after a few minutes.



G But they couldn't get out of the water here.



Task 2

Read the text again. Are the sentences true or false? Write T or F.

1. When Dan and Kate were fishing, the weather was brilliant.

T

F

2. Dan was the first person to see that there was a problem with the boat.

T

F

3. The boat sank before Dan and Kate could jump into the water.

T

F

4. A helicopter saw Dan and Kate in the sea, but it couldn't rescue them.

T

F

5. When Dan and Kate reached land, they couldn't get out of the water at first.

T

F

6. There was nobody on the beach when Dan and Kate got out of the sea.

T

F

7. The captain swam to the beach a few hours after Dan and Kate.

T

F

Task 3

Match the extreme adjectives highlighted in the text with the simpler adjectives below.

1. very bad: _____

4. very sad: _____

2. very good: _____

5. very frightening: _____

3. very big: _____

6. very tired: _____

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