

Reading Test

If you had very little money to buy food for your family, what would you do to get it? Would you dive more than 40 metres underwater to catch fish? Would you risk your life every day?

This is what some poor fishermen in the Philippines do to earn money. A recent TV documentary filmed a group of fishermen and showed the dangers they face.



There are fewer fish in the sea these days because of overfishing, so some poor fishermen practise a fishing technique called paaling fishing. A group of men dive together from a boat and they attach a big net to the bottom of the sea with rocks. Then they wait for fish. They chase the fish into the huge net, close the net and bring it back up to the surface. The men have to stay underwater for a long time. They breathe air through special tubes which are connected to an engine on the boat.

The film shows a day's fishing and we see that the boat's engine is old, noisy and unreliable, and yet it is the lifeline for all these men. Twenty or more men have tubes that are connected to the same machine. As the men swim about underwater the tubes get mixed up and twist about until they look like spaghetti. One cause of death is when a tube breaks and the fisherman can't breathe. Another serious danger is when the men stay underwater for a long time. If they come up too quickly, they get air bubbles in their blood which can cause serious health problems. One old fisherman told the film-makers about a relative who came up too quickly. The man is now paralysed - he cannot move. And he will never get better.

It is clearly a very dangerous way of earning money. However, these fishermen have no choice. They say it is the only way to catch fish now. And they are too poor to buy safer equipment. There are many dangerous jobs in the world - but this must be one of the worst. Would you try it?

Read the article about a dangerous job. Choose the correct answer.

Example

Paaling fishermen dive _____ forty metres down.

- A. ☐ nearly
B. ☒ over

1. There aren't as many fish these days because of _____.
A. ☐ sea pollution
B. ☐ overfishing
2. Paaling fishing is done _____.
A. ☐ by one person
B. ☐ in groups
3. Fishermen dive from _____ and put a net at the bottom of the sea.
A. ☐ a boat
B. ☐ a rock
4. The men have _____ to breathe underwater.
A. ☐ bottles of air
B. ☐ special tubes
5. Sometimes fishermen die when a tube _____.
A. ☐ breaks
B. ☐ gets mixed up
6. One old fisherman was paralysed because he _____.
A. ☐ came to the surface too quickly
B. ☐ stayed underwater too long
7. This old fisherman _____.
A. ☐ won't walk for a long time
B. ☐ will never walk again
8. Fishermen in the Philippines go paaling fishing because _____.
A. ☐ they have no other choice
B. ☐ it's an easy way to become rich

Read the article about a dangerous job. Correct the mistakes in the sentences.

Example

Paaling fishermen dive thirty metres down.

Paaling fishermen dive over forty metres down.

1. Men go paaling fishing because they want to become rich.

2. There aren't many fish these days because of pollution.

3. Paaling fishing is practised individually.

4. Fishermen dive from a rock and tie a net to the bottom of the sea.

5. Fishermen use bottles of air to breathe underwater.

6. Fishermen die when tubes get mixed up.

7. One old fisherman was paralysed because he dived too deep.

8. The old fisherman won't walk again for a long time.
