Reading (Skimming and scanning practice)



1. **Write N if the questions ask a number, and F if it asks for a feeling.**
   1. How many hours was he there?____
   2. how old is he?___
   3. how did he react?_____
   4. what floor was he in?_____
   5. how did he begin to feel?_____
   6. After few hours, how did he react?____

1. **Skim the article. What is the topic of the text? Where can you see this type of reading: In the newspaper/famous people magazine/business magazine/in a letter?**
2. **Scan the following article and find all the numbers and feelings. You have 7 seconds.**
3. **Read the following article and answer the questions in the grammar focus.**

Nightmare stories on video

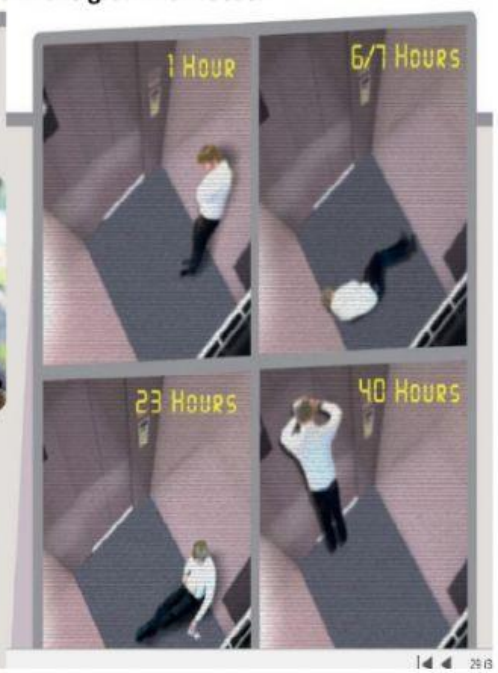
Our nightmare story this week is about Nicholas White, who was stuck in a lift for 41 hours. See the video here.



34-year-old Nicholas White was a manager for a business magazine in New York. One Friday night he was working late at the office when he decided to go outside for a quick cigarette. It was the longest cigarette break of his life.

While White was returning to his office on the 43rd floor, the lift suddenly stopped between floors. He calmly pushed the alarm button and waited for an answer. Nothing. He began to get anxious.

He rang it a few more times. Then he pulled the button out, so that the alarm rang and rang continuously. Still no answer. It was 11 p.m. and nobody was working – the building was empty. Now he was frightened. He wasn't wearing a watch.



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He had no phone, no food and no water.

White walked round and round the lift like an insect stuck in a box. Sometimes he lay on the floor, with his face down because the light was very bright. He tried to stay calm by thinking about other things. At one point he took out his wallet and read the back of a football match ticket. After some time, he felt angry – very angry. Why wasn't the lift working?! Why was nobody answering?! He hit the walls several times and shouted at the video camera. The noise of the alarm was driving him crazy, but he didn't want to turn it off.

As time passed he thought that he was going to die without water. Friday turned to Saturday, and Saturday to Sunday. White was now exhausted. Then, suddenly, at 4 p.m., a voice on the intercom asked, 'Is someone in there?'

Read the Grammar focus box and match the highlighted sentences in the article to uses 1–4.

GRAMMAR FOCUS past simple and past continuous

1 We use the past continuous to talk about actions which were unfinished at a past time.
At 10.45, he was smoking a cigarette.

2 We use the past simple for finished actions and things that happened one after another.
He sat down, turned on his computer and started to work.

3 We often use the past simple and past continuous together. We use the past continuous for the longer action. We use the past simple for a shorter action that happened while the longer action was happening.
While he was returning to his office, the lift suddenly stopped between floors.

4 We use the past simple for repeated past actions.
He hit the walls several times.

4. Now write true(t) or false(f).

a) He was in the lift for more than 40 hours. _____

b) He was reading a magazine. ____

c) He likes smoking. ____

d) He was pushing and pushing the button when the lift stopped. ___

e) He felt calm all the time. _____

f) There was an insect in the lift. _____

g) He became violent. _____

h) He thought he could die. _____

Complete the rest of the story about Nicholas White's lift experience. Use the past simple or past continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

When the voice came over the lift's intercom at 4 p.m. on Sunday, White [1]_____ (lie) on the floor, half asleep. He was extremely cold as he [2]_____(not wear) a jacket. When he heard the voice he [3]_____ (jump) to his feet. Finally he was free! Almost. First the guard [4]_____ (ask) him lots of security questions, 'Where do you work? Which is your office?' The 'interview' lasted a very long time. Then, slowly, the door [5]_____ (open). So, what [6]_____ he _____ (do) first? He took the lift up to the 43rd floor to get his jacket from his office. On his desk an angry note from a work colleague [7]_____ (wait) for him. It said, 'Why [8]_____ you _____ (go) home? We had so much work to do!' Of course, she [9]_____ (feel) very guilty when she found out the truth!



LIVEWORKSHEETS

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