2.3 Stories in the news

Grammar Past Simple and Past Continuous

Can do describe an important event from your life

Speaking and listening

1 **a** Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

1 Do you believe everything you read in the news? Why/Why not?

2 Read the opinions below. Do you agree with them?

Different newspapers report the same story in different ways.

Newspapers sometimes try to make news stories sound worse than they are.

Newspapers have to make stories sound exciting in order to sell.

b 1.16 Listen to Eben and Rachel discussing question 1 in exercise 1a. Look at the opinions in exercise 1a and note down who agrees with them – *Eben*, *Rachel* or *both*.

2 **a** Complete the newspaper headlines (1–6) with the words in the box.

delivers escapes inherits saves survives takes

1 Traffic police officer in Bangkok _____ baby in car

2 Lost driver _____ a wrong turn for 5,000 miles

3 Circus monkey _____ and destroys a restaurant

4 Top chef _____ giant lobster from cooking pot

5 Sailor _____ four months at sea

6 Cat _____ £350,000 house and £100,000 from owner

b Match the headlines (1–6) in exercise 2a with the pictures (A–F). Then work in pairs and describe what you think happened in each situation.

Reading

3 **a** Read the news stories (A–F) quickly. Match the headlines (1–6) from exercise 2a with the stories.

b Write the letter(s) of the news story/stories next to the topics (1–7) below.

1 restaurants: *B, D*

2 travel

3 animals

4 people getting lost

5 food or drink

6 babies or pets

7 survival

c Work in pairs and compare your answers.

A

A

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A nervous driver who went on a day-trip to Calais ended up in Gibraltar after a five-day mystery tour. Mrs Bright, a recent divorcee, was planning to go to France to buy some wine for a party to celebrate her divorce. However, as she was driving around Calais looking for the supermarket, she took a wrong turn and lost her way. Without a map, and unable to speak French, she was too embarrassed to ask for directions and eventually she found herself in Gibraltar.

B

B

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A giant lobster, saved from the cooking pot by a top chef, has been returned to the sea. Chef Anton Gretzky said he was planning to serve the lobster at his expensive restaurant, but decided he couldn't boil such a fine creature. An employee from the Aquarium Restaurant in Victoria, Australia, took the lobster, named Billy, to the coast to free him. Gretzky said: 'He has been on this Earth much longer than I have.'

C

C

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Pooker, a grey and white cat, has become Britain's most famous pet. The eight-year-old cat inherited a £350,000 house and £100,000 after its owner, Mrs Rafaella Barese, died. Mrs Barese's neighbours will use the £100,000 to buy food for the lucky cat. The rich and famous always seem to make new friends easily. After just one day, two local cats were trying to move in with Pooker.

D

D

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A monkey, who escaped from a local circus, caused €10,000 of damage to a pizzeria after the owner of the restaurant tried to feed it bread and salad. The monkey, named Lala, was sitting in the restaurant bathroom when the owner found her. The escapee dropped a vase, then started throwing paper towels around, and finally turned on the water taps and flooded the restaurant in Lehre, Germany.

E

E

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'He was eating a seagull when we found him,' said a member of the South African navy team that rescued Vietnamese refugee, Parn Hung Kuk from the Atlantic Ocean. Kuk took a day-trip from Cape Town in his boat. After getting lost in a storm, he was rescued four months later. 'He was living on seagulls, a turtle and rain water. It's a miracle he's still alive,' said the rescue ship's captain.

F

F

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Bangkok traffic police helped to deliver another baby yesterday. Sergeant Sakchai Kodayan is one of 130 members of the city traffic police whose special skills include giving first aid to motorists and helping mothers as they give birth. 'I was drinking a coffee and having a cigarette in a café by the road when a taxi driver shouted for help,' said Sakchai. 'His passenger was having a baby. It was a boy. The woman said she would call it Sakchai as a way to say thank you.' Sakchai has so far assisted with the birth of twenty-eight babies in his career.

LIVEWORKSHEETS