

ACCIDENTS

Look at the picture. What is unusual about the woman you see?



The woman in the photo is Bethany Hamilton. Read the text about her. What is the most surprising fact about it?

Tunnels Beach, Kauai Island, Hawaii

It was a beautiful morning. Bethany Hamilton was surfing with her best friend, Alana. The girls got on well together and frequently took part in surf competitions. Bethany hoped to become a professional surfer.

'I had no warning at all. The water was clear and calm. It was more like a swimming pool than the Pacific Ocean. I had my right hand on the board and my left hand in the cool water. We were waiting for the next big wave. I was thinking "I hope the surf gets better soon" when suddenly I saw the shark.'

The attack happened so fast. The huge jaws of the 4½-metre shark covered the top of the board and my left arm. Then I watched in shock while the water around me turned bright red. I didn't scream. It's strange, but there was no pain at the time. But I knew I had to get back to the beach quickly. I started to paddle with one arm. I wasn't thinking about the shark, or trying to get away from it. Only one thought was repeating itself again and again in my head: "Get to the beach."

While Bethany was recovering in hospital, she asked everyone the same question: 'When can I surf again?'

Answer the following questions about the text.

1. What did Bethany and Alana often do?

2. What were Bethany's plans for the future?

3. What was she thinking when the shark attacked?

4. What happened to the sea around her after the shark bit her?

5. What was she repeating to herself after the attack?

6. What question did she ask everyone in the hospital?

7. What do you think about the way Bethany responded to the accident?

There's a film called Soul Surfer about Bethany's story. Let's watch the trailer and comment on it.

Complete the text with the past continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

SHARK ATTACK

The shark attacked Bethany when she and her best friend Alana (1) _____ (surf) together. The two girls (2) _____ (hope) for a big wave. They certainly (3) _____ (not think) about a shark attack. Bethany (4) _____ (wait) on her board with her left hand in the water when the shark attacked. After the attack, she saw that she (5) _____ (lose) a lot of blood. Alana, her brother and her father helped Bethany to the beach. It took 15 minutes and all the time Bethany (6) _____ (say) to herself 'Get to the beach'. She (7) _____ (not try) to escape from the shark – she just wanted to get to the beach. Alana's father talked to her all the way to the beach. 'I (8) _____ (answer) all his questions', Bethany said afterwards, 'but I can't remember now what I said.'



Time to write!

Think of an accident that happened to you or any person you know, or probably a famous accident in history. Can you think what was happening when the accident happened? What were the following events? How did the story end? How are the people involved nowadays?

Take into account:

- Use the texts as examples for your own text.
- Set the atmosphere.
- Explain what people were doing when the main event happened.
- What's the end of the story?