



Name _____

54

DAYS AT SEA

A man was rescued from his boat yesterday after spending 54 days lost at sea. Twenty-two-year-old James Gladstone has always spent a lot of time sailing and is comfortable being alone at sea. ¹..... He then set off for a ten-day trip, not expecting any problems.

²..... However, just as he was thinking about returning home, James suddenly found himself in the middle of a **storm**. When a sudden strong wind hit the boat, James fell and hurt his hand badly. The wind also broke parts of the boat and damaged its electrical **equipment**, so James had no radio and no way of controlling the boat.

Because he was injured, James couldn't **repair** the boat, so he knew he just had to wait for someone to come and rescue him. ³..... He knew he only had a small amount left, and it might be several weeks before he was rescued. He therefore used buckets and pots to collect rain, and tried to drink only a small amount each day.

James had only brought enough food for ten days, and he knew he would soon run out. Of course, the sea around him was full of fish, but he couldn't think how to catch them, as he didn't have a **net**. ⁴..... He was washing his clothes in the sea at the back of the boat when he noticed a fish stuck in his shirt. So, using this, he managed to catch enough food to **survive**.

When rescuers arrived at the boat, they were amazed at how well James was. ⁵..... But apart from that, he was healthy and cheerful. His parents had **contacted** the emergency services when he didn't return home as expected, and a rescue helicopter went to find him. James admits his adventure was scary at times, but he definitely won't stop sailing!

4 e Read the story again. Five sentences have been removed from the text. Choose the correct sentence (A–H) to fill each gap. There are three extra sentences which you do not need to use.

- A** Everything went well for the first few days.
- B** Then, quite by chance, he found a solution.
- C** He was very glad to see the rescue helicopter.
- D** He was still in pain from the injury to his hand.
- E** On 24 July he packed food and other things onto his boat.
- F** The storm continued for several days.
- G** James was worried the boat might sink.
- H** The first thing he thought about was fresh water.