

Name: _____ Surname: _____

SECTION A: Reading Comprehension

How to eat an elephant

THE LESSONS OF THE SURVIVORS CLUB.

At least 80% of us react in the same way to a life or death crisis or emergency: we're simply overwhelmed - the challenge seems too great, the problem insolvable. In Air Force survival school, they try to teach you how to overcome this feeling. One of the things they ask new cadets, is 'How would you eat an elephant?', and they make them memorize the right answer, which is: 'You eat an elephant one bite at a time.' Survival means dealing with a huge life-or-death problem, one which you may not be able to solve quickly or all at once. The key to survival is to slow down and divide the challenges into small, manageable tasks, one goal at a time, one decision at a time. When an avalanche buried the survivors of a plane crash in the Andes, the survivors whispered to each other 'Breathe. Breathe again. With every breath you are alive.' In a hopeless situation without oxygen or light this approach kept them going until they found a way out.

This and much more is what survival expert Ben Sherwood tells us in his best-selling book *The Survivors Club*, which brings together stories of real life survivors from all kinds of disasters. He begins by explaining the 10-80-10 principle. When faced with an emergency 80% of people freeze. They are stunned and 'turn into statues' or are so bewildered by what is happening around them that they can't react. Ten per cent lose control. These people scream and cry, and often make the situation worse. But 10% keep calm and behave in a rational way. They don't panic and they assess the situation clearly and take decisions. These people have the best chance of survival in a crisis, and Sherwood explains how you can try to become more like them.

He also reminds us that, apart from staying calm and not despairing, knowing the right thing to do in a crisis is also vital, and that in most emergencies many more people survive than don't. For example, most people think that you can't survive a plane crash, but American research has shown that the survival rate in all air crashes is historically 95.7%. Sherwood not only tries to show us how to behave rationally and calmly, he also gives us the information we need to join 'The Survivors Club'.

● **Read the article and answer the questions.**

1. What is the key to surviving in a life or death crisis?

2. What is the 10-80-10 principle?

3. What would you do in a life or death situation?

SECTION B: Use of English

1. Choose the correct form if you want to survive!

- a) My husband doesn't mind *doing* / *to do* / *do* housework.
- b) I must *listening* / *to listen* / *listen* to some of their songs before I go to the concert.
- c) Our teacher makes us *checking* / *to check* / *check* our homework.
- d) Tom's doctor suggested *seeing* / *to see* / *see* a specialist about his back.
- e) Mark learned *playing* / *to play* / *play* the guitar when he was a teenager.
- f) My girlfriend's very possessive. She doesn't let me *going out* / *to go out* / *go out* with my friends any more.
- g) The man denied *stealing* / *to steal* / *steal* the laptop from my bag.

2. How do you finish an exam? One exercise at a time! Now complete the sentences with the past simple or past perfect form of a verb from the box.

not be	can	not eat	get up	live	offer	not spend	not work	wear
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- a) I miss my parents. I wish they _____ nearer.
- b) I'm going to be late. I wish I _____ earlier.
- c) I hardly ever see my boyfriend, I wish he _____ at weekends.
- d) I'm really disappointed. I wish they _____ give me the job.
- e) I'd love to live in Paris. I wish I _____ speak French.
- f) I'm broke. I wish I _____ all my money.
- g) The weekend has flown by. I wish it _____ Monday tomorrow.
- h) I feel sick. I wish I _____ that seafood last night.
- i) I'm cold. I wish I _____ a jumper.

3. Don't panic! keep calm and complete using a second or third conditional.

- a) Luke missed the train. He was late for the interview.
If Luke _____ the train, he _____ late for the interview.
- b) You don't do any exercise. You don't feel healthy.
You _____ a lot healthier if you _____ some exercise.
- c) It started snowing. We didn't reach the top.
If it _____ snowing, we _____ the top.
- d) Rebecca drinks so much coffee. She sleeps badly.
If Rebecca _____ so much coffee, she _____ badly.
- e) I don't drive to work. There's so much traffic.
I _____ to work if _____ so much traffic.
- f) Matt doesn't treat Sue well. She won't stay with him.
If Matt _____ his girlfriend better, she _____ with him.
- g) Millie didn't buy the top. She didn't have any money.
Millie _____ the top if she _____ some money.

4. If you want to join the survivors club then rewrite the sentences using a form of *used to*, *get used to*, or *be used to* and a verb.

- a) Stephan wasn't so assertive in the past.
Stephan _____ so assertive.
- b) Has working at night become less of a problem now?
Have you _____ at night?
- c) I don't normally have breakfast so early.
I'm _____ breakfast so early.
- d) Chloe wore her sister's clothes when she was a child.
Chloe _____ her sister's clothes when she was a child.
- e) We have adapted to living in the country very quickly.
We have _____ in the country very quickly.
- f) She often looks after people, so she will make an excellent nurse.
She is _____ people, so she will make an excellent nurse.
- g) They still don't know how to use the new system - they keep making mistakes.
They haven't _____ the new system yet.

5. BREATHE! Remember you are alive! Better? ok, now you can rewrite the bold sentences using *must* / *might (not)* / *can't* + have + verb.

- a) Holly 's crying. **Perhaps she's had an argument with her boyfriend.**

- b) **I'm sure Ben has read my email.** I sent it first thing this morning.

- c) **I'm sure Sam and Ginny haven't got lost. They have satnav in their car,**

- d) **You saw Ellie yesterday? That 's impossible.** She was in bed with the flu.

- e) **Perhaps John didn't see you.** That's why he didn't say hello.

- f) They didn't come to our wedding. **Maybe they didn't receive the invitation.**

- g) **It definitely wasn't my phone that rang in the cinema.** Mine was on silent.

SECTION C: Listening 3.36

- Listen to an interview with Dagmara Walkowicz, who worked as an interpreter on Steven Spielberg's film '*Shindler's list*'. Mark the statements T(true) or F(false).

- 1. When the film company came to Krakow, Dagmara was working as a teacher. ☐
- 2. She got a job as a production assistant. ☐

3. There was a party at the hotel to celebrate Spielberg's birthday. ☐
4. When she arrived she was asked to interpret Spielberg's speech, because the interpreter was late. ☐
5. Spielberg was very pleased with the way she had done her job. ☐

SECTION D: Writing

• **Choose ONE option and write about 250 words.**

- 1) Imagine you have some French friends in France and you stayed with them for a week last month. Write an email to say thank you.
- 2) Write a letter of complaint to a shop you went to buy a gift for your mother two days ago.
- 3) Write a film review about a film you would recommend people to watch.

• **Write a story about the worst experience you have ever had on vacation. Write about 250 words.**
