

Men lost at sea for 29 days say it was a nice break

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Many of us spend hours dreaming of getting away from it all - of getting far from the madding crowd. Two men from the Solomon Islands inadvertently did just that and spent 29 days escaping the rat race. They got lost at sea for

over four weeks. Livae Nanjikana and Junior Qoloni set off from Mono Island on September the 3rd in a small motorboat to travel 200km to New Georgia Island. It was a trip they had embarked on several times before. Soon after they set out, they were hit by a storm which played havoc with their navigation system. They lost their ability to detect their location or find their bearings at sea. The storm blew them off course and they ended up off the coast of Papua New Guinea.

The two men were upbeat about their unplanned adventure. Rather than be distressed about their once-precarious plight, they enjoyed the potentially life-threatening escapade at sea. Mr Nanjikana said: "We didn't know where we were but did not expect to be in another country." They survived by eating oranges they had bought for their journey and coconuts they scooped out of the sea. A Papua New Guinean fisherman spotted their boat and authorities rescued them. Nanjikana said: "I look forward to going back home, but I guess it was a nice break from everything." However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, they will not be able to travel from Papua New Guinea to the Solomon Islands for a little while yet.

Sources: nypost.com / thehill.com / theguardian.com

Writing

We all need to get away from it all a few times a year. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

dreaming / getting away / the rat race / motorboat / storm / travel / navigation / sea / adventure / escapade / survive / journey / oranges / coconuts / fishermen / home

True / False

- 1) Two men spent many hours dreaming of leaving the Solomon Islands. T / F
- 2) The men were lost at sea on their yacht. T / F
- 3) The two men were on their first trip at sea. T / F
- 4) A storm blew the two men's boat off course. T / F
- 5) The two men seemed positive about their unplanned adventure. T / F
- 6) The men ate coconuts they bought for the trip and oranges from the sea. T / F
- 7) An Australian fisherman rescued the two men. T / F
- 8) The two men's return home will be delayed because of COVID-19. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. getting away | a. chaos |
| 2. inadvertently | b. took |
| 3. embarked | c. curbs |
| 4. havoc | d. sense of direction |
| 5. bearings | e. accidentally |
| 6. upbeat | f. saw |
| 7. escapade | g. undertaken |
| 8. scooped | h. positive |
| 9. spotted | i. escaping |
| 10. restrictions | j. adventure |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you know about Papua New Guinea?
- c) How often do you think about getting away from it all?
- d) Have you ever had an unplanned adventure?
- e) How would you have dealt with being lost at sea?
- f) When was the last time you had a nice break?
- g) What would you say about the character of the two men?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the two men?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Many of us spend hours dreaming | a. on several times before |
| 2. escaping the rat | b. rescued them |
| 3. a trip they had embarked | c. off course |
| 4. find their | d. upbeat |
| 5. The storm blew them | e. out of the sea |
| 6. The two men were | f. bearings at sea |
| 7. They survived | g. restrictions |
| 8. coconuts they scooped | h. of getting away |
| 9. authorities | i. by eating oranges |
| 10. due to COVID-19 | j. race |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about the Solomon Islands?
- How often do you get away from it all?
- Where do you go to get away from it all?
- What is the 'all' in 'get away from it all'?
- What do you think of the rat race?
- Have you ever been really lost?
- How would you feel if you were lost at sea?
- What advice do you have for the two men?

Spelling

- far from the dimdnag crowd
- itaerndetnvlvly did just that
- a trip they had braeemdk on several times
- a storm which played hcvao
- They lost their ability to tcdtee their location
- they ended up off the oatcs of Papua New Guinea
- The two men were tpeaub
- their once-eupcorrsai plight
- the potentially life-threatening sdpecaae
- coconuts they sodcepo out of the sea
- ttuiseahiro rescued them
- due to COVID-19 rtsreccionsti

Answers – Synonym Match

1. i	2. e	3. g	4. a	5. d
6. h	7. j	8. b	9. f	10. c

Role Play

Role A – The Beach

You think the beach is the best place for a break. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the mountains, a health spa or staying at home.

Role B – The Mountains

You think the mountains is the best place for a break. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the beach, a health spa or staying at home.

Role C – A Health Spa

You think a health spa is the best place for a break. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the mountains, the beach or staying at home.

Role D – Staying at Home

You think staying at home is the best place for a break. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the mountains, a health spa or the beach.

Speaking – A Nice Break

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to do for a nice break at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| • Go cycling | • Go to the beach |
| • Do voluntary work | • Go to museums |
| • Go fishing | • Go hiking |
| • Go to a health spa | • Stay at home |

Answers – True False

1 F	2 F	3 F	4 T	5 T	6 F	7 F	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.