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Level 6 – 27th December, 2021

Madagascar minister swims for 12 hours after helicopter crash

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211227-survival-swim.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211227-survival-swim.html>

A minister in Madagascar's government has beaten the odds to survive a helicopter crash and a marathon swim. Serge Gelle, the country's secretary of state for police, swam to the mainland on Tuesday after the helicopter he was a passenger in crashed into the Indian Ocean off the island's north-east coast. Mr Gelle was one of two passengers known to have survived the crash. They both swam for 12 hours to reach the shore. Gelle told reporters that he used one of the helicopter's seats as a flotation device. News agencies are reporting that at least 39 people perished in the disaster. A police spokesperson said rescue workers had retrieved 18 bodies. He lamented that the death toll could increase over the next few days.

Mr Gelle, 57, was in high spirits after his rescue, despite looking totally exhausted. He managed to muster up the energy to recount his ordeal to reporters. He spoke to journalists while slumped in a deck chair and still wearing his camouflage uniform. He said he ejected himself from the aircraft when he knew it was in trouble. He became police chief earlier this year after serving in the police force for three decades. His colleague offered a reason as to why he survived the crash. He said: "Gelle has always had great stamina in sport, and he's kept up this rhythm as minister, just like a 30-year-old. He has nerves of steel." Mr Gelle said: "My time to die hasn't come yet." The cause of the crash is currently under investigation.

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/dec/22/madagascar-minister-swims-12-hours-to-safety-after-helicopter-crash>
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/serge-gelle-official-swims-12-hours-shore-helicopter-crash-madagascar/>
<https://www.dw.com/en/madagascar-minister-swims-12-hours-to-shore-after-helicopter-crash/a-60219728>

WARM-UPS

1. HELICOPTER: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about helicopters. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

Madagascar / beat the odds / helicopter / marathon / coast / device / police / rescue
high spirits / exhausted / energy / camouflage / uniform / trouble / stamina / nerves

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. SURVIVAL SKILLS: Students A **strongly** believe we should all learn survival skills at school; Students B **strongly** believe we shouldn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. SURVIVAL: What do you need to do to survive in these situations? Would you survive? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

| | What to Do | Would You Survive? |
|------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Lost at sea | | |
| Taken hostage | | |
| Earthquake | | |
| Bears all around | | |
| Fire | | |
| No water | | |

5. POLICE: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "police". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. SKILLS: Rank these with your partner. Put the best survival skills at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Making fires
- Hunting
- Telling jokes
- Map reading
- Finding shelter
- Swimming
- Fighting
- Thinking straight

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1. odds | a. A traveller on a ship, train, bus, space rocket, other than the driver, pilot, or crew. |
| 2. mainland | b. Got or brought something back from somewhere. |
| 3. passenger | c. The chances or likelihood of something happening or being the case. |
| 4. shore | d. A large continuous extent of land that includes the greater part of a country (but not its islands or other territories). |
| 5. device | e. The land along the edge of a sea, lake, or other large body of water. |
| 6. retrieved | f. A thing made or adapted for a particular purpose, especially a piece of mechanical or electronic equipment. |
| 7. toll | g. The number of deaths or casualties arising from a natural disaster, conflict, accident. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 8. in high spirits | h. A disguising to make something blend in with its surroundings. |
| 9. exhausted | i. Very happy. |
| 10. muster up | j. A very unpleasant and prolonged experience. |
| 11. ordeal | k. A person with whom one works in a profession or business. |
| 12. camouflage | l. Really, really tired and lacking energy. |
| 13. colleague | m. The ability to keep up prolonged physical or mental effort. |
| 14. stamina | n. Bring up a feeling, attitude, or response. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211227-survival-swim.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. A Madagascan minister defied odds of 10-1 to survive a helicopter crash. **T / F**
2. The minister was the head of Madagascar's police force. **T / F**
3. The minister used a helicopter wheel as a float. **T / F**
4. A police spokesman said more people could be found dead. **T / F**
5. The minister looked exhausted and in low spirits. **T / F**
6. The minister was still wearing his uniform when being interviewed. **T / F**
7. The minister's colleague said he was an elite sportsman. **T / F**
8. Investigators are now trying to find the cause of the crash. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. odds | a. tell |
| 2. survived | b. died |
| 3. reach | c. cheerful |
| 4. perished | d. count |
| 5. toll | e. examination |
| 6. in high spirits | f. get to |
| 7. recount | g. source |
| 8. stamina | h. probability |
| 9. cause | i. endurance |
| 10. investigation | j. pulled through |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. beaten the odds | a. uniform |
| 2. the country's secretary of | b. toll could increase |
| 3. one | c. under investigation |
| 4. at least 39 people | d. of two passengers |
| 5. the death | e. state for police |
| 6. Mr Gelle, 57, was in | f. up the energy |
| 7. He managed to muster | g. high spirits |
| 8. still wearing his camouflage | h. stamina in sport |
| 9. Gelle has always had great | i. to survive |
| 10. The cause of the crash is currently | j. perished |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211227-survival-swim.html>

A minister in Madagascar's government has beaten the (1) _____ to survive a helicopter crash and a marathon swim. Serge Gelle, the country's secretary of (2) _____ for police, swam to the mainland on Tuesday after the helicopter he was a passenger in crashed into the Indian Ocean off the island's north-east (3) _____. Mr Gelle was one of two passengers known to have survived the crash. They both swam for 12 hours to (4) _____ the shore. Gelle told reporters that he used one of the helicopter's seats as a flotation (5) _____. News agencies are reporting that at least 39 people (6) _____ in the disaster. A police spokesperson said (7) _____ workers had retrieved 18 bodies. He lamented that the death (8) _____ could increase over the next few days.

coast
odds
perished
toll
state
device
rescue
reach

Mr Gelle, 57, was in high (9) _____ after his rescue, despite looking totally exhausted. He managed to (10) _____ up the energy to recount his (11) _____ to reporters. He spoke to journalists while slumped in a deck chair and still wearing his camouflage (12) _____. He said he (13) _____ himself from the aircraft when he knew it was in trouble. He became police chief earlier this year after serving in the police force for three decades. His (14) _____ offered a reason as to why he survived the crash. He said: "Gelle has always had great stamina in sport, and he's kept up this rhythm as minister, just like a 30-year-old. He has nerves of (15) _____." Mr Gelle said: "My time to die hasn't come yet." The cause of the crash is currently (16) _____ investigation.

ordeal
ejected
spirits
colleague
uniform
muster
under
steel

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211227-survival-swim.html>

- 1) A minister in Madagascar's government has beaten the _____
 - a. oddities to survive
 - b. oddness to survive
 - c. odds to survive
 - d. odours to survive
- 2) he was a passenger in crashed into the Indian Ocean off the island's _____
 - a. north-east coasts
 - b. north-east cost
 - c. north-east coast
 - d. north-east caste
- 3) They both swam for 12 hours to _____
 - a. reach the sure
 - b. reach the shore
 - c. reach the shorn
 - d. reach the swore
- 4) Gelle told reporters that he used one of the helicopter's seats as _____
 - a. a float tea-shun device
 - b. a flow traction device
 - c. a flotation device
 - d. a flotilla device
- 5) He lamented that the death _____
 - a. tail could increase
 - b. toll could increase
 - c. doll could increase
 - d. teal could increase
- 6) Mr Gelle, 57, was in high spirits after his rescue, despite _____
 - a. looking totally exhausted
 - b. looking totally exhaust it
 - c. looking totally exhaustive
 - d. looking totally exertive
- 7) He managed to muster up the energy to recount his _____
 - a. audio to reporters
 - b. order to reporters
 - c. ordeal to reporters
 - d. awed eel to reporters
- 8) while slumped in a deck chair and still wearing _____
 - a. his cam more flask uniform
 - b. his clamour flask uniform
 - c. his camouflage uniform
 - d. his camel forage uniform
- 9) He became police chief earlier this year after serving in the police force _____
 - a. forty-three decades
 - b. fourteen decades
 - c. four three decades
 - d. for three decades
- 10) he's kept up this rhythm as minister, just like a 30-year-old. He has _____
 - a. nerves off steel
 - b. nerves of steel
 - c. nerve soft steel
 - d. knaves of steel

Level 6

Madagascar minister swims for 12 hours after helicopter crash – 27th

December, 2021

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LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211227-survival-swim.html>

A minister in Madagascar's government has (1) _____ to survive a helicopter crash and a marathon swim. Serge Gelle, the country's (2) _____ for police, swam to the mainland on Tuesday after the helicopter he was a passenger in crashed into the Indian Ocean off the island's north-east coast. Mr Gelle was one of two passengers known (3) _____ the crash. They both swam for 12 hours to reach the shore. Gelle told reporters that he used one of the helicopter's seats as (4) _____. News agencies are reporting that at least 39 people (5) _____ disaster. A police spokesperson said rescue workers had retrieved 18 bodies. He lamented that the (6) _____ increase over the next few days.

Mr Gelle, 57, was (7) _____ after his rescue, despite looking totally exhausted. He managed (8) _____ the energy to recount his ordeal to reporters. He spoke to journalists while slumped in a deck chair and still wearing (9) _____. He said he ejected himself from the aircraft when he knew it was in trouble. He became police chief earlier this year after serving in the police force for three decades. His colleague offered a reason (10) _____ he survived the crash. He said: "Gelle has always had (11) _____ sport, and he's kept up this rhythm as minister, just like a 30-year-old. He has (12) _____." Mr Gelle said: "My time to die hasn't come yet." The cause of the crash is currently under investigation.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211227-survival-swim.html>

1. What did the minister beat to survive?
2. Where did the helicopter crash?
3. How many other passengers are known to have survived?
4. What did the minister use as a flotation device?
5. When could the death count rise?
6. What kind of mood was the minister in?
7. What was he wearing?
8. For how long has the minister served in the police force?
9. What kinds of nerves did a colleague say the minister had?
10. What is currently under investigation?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211227-survival-swim.html>

- 1) What did the minister beat to survive?
 - a) his chest
 - b) a drum
 - c) odds
 - d) a carpet
- 2) Where did the helicopter crash?
 - a) in the Indian Ocean
 - b) in the Pacific Ocean
 - c) in the Atlantic Ocean
 - d) in the Red Sea
- 3) How many other passengers are known to have survived?
 - a) none
 - b) one
 - c) two
 - d) three
- 4) What did the minister use as a flotation device?
 - a) polystyrene
 - b) a tyre
 - c) driftwood
 - d) a seat
- 5) When could the death count rise?
 - a) imminently
 - b) soon
 - c) in the next few days
 - d) it is not yet known
- 6) What kind of mood was the minister in?
 - a) he was down
 - b) in high spirits
 - c) a blue mood
 - d) a terrible mood
- 7) What was he wearing?
 - a) a hat
 - b) swimming pants
 - c) a broad smile
 - d) his camouflage uniform
- 8) For how long has the minister served in the police force?
 - a) 25 years
 - b) three decades
 - c) a few years
 - d) just a week
- 9) What kinds of nerves did a colleague say the minister had?
 - a) frayed nerves
 - b) nerves of steel
 - c) first-night nerves
 - d) tense nerves
- 10) What is currently under investigation?
 - a) the cause of the crash
 - b) the police
 - c) an investigation
 - d) the minister's office

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211227-survival-swim.html>

Role A – Thinking Straight

You think thinking straight is the most useful survival skill. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their skills. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): making fires, fighting or hunting.

Role B – Making Fires

You think making fires is the most useful survival skill. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their skills. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): thinking straight, fighting or hunting.

Role C – Fighting

You think fighting is the most useful survival skill. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their skills. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): making fires, thinking straight or hunting.

Role D – Hunting

You think hunting is the most useful survival skill. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their skills. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): making fires, fighting or thinking straight.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211227-survival-swim.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'swim' and 'survive'.

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| swim | survive |
|-------------|----------------|

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

| | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• minister• Tuesday• coast• 12• device• few | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• totally• ordeal• himself• reason• steel• under |
|--|---|

SURVIVAL SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211227-survival-swim.html>

Write five GOOD questions about survival in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

| | STUDENT 1 _____ | STUDENT 2 _____ | STUDENT 3 _____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Q.1. | | | |
| Q.2. | | | |
| Q.3. | | | |
| Q.4. | | | |
| Q.5. | | | |

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

SURVIVAL DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'survive'?
3. What do you know about Madagascar?
4. Would you like to travel in a helicopter?
5. What would you do if you were stranded in the ocean?
6. What are your survival skills like?
7. How good are you at swimming?
8. Should we all learn survival skills?
9. What three adjectives best describe this story, and why?
10. What advice do you have for Mr Gelle?

Madagascar minister swims for 12 hours after helicopter crash – 27th December, 2021
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SURVIVAL DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'swim'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think of helicopters?
15. When was the last time you were in high spirits?
16. How much stamina do you have?
17. Do you have nerves of steel?
18. Have you ever been in a very dangerous situation?
19. What day-to-day things in life are like survival?
20. What questions would you like to ask Mr Gelle?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211227-survival-swim.html>

A minister in Madagascar's government has beaten the (1) _____ to survive a helicopter crash and a marathon swim. Serge Gelle, the country's secretary of state for police, swam to the mainland on Tuesday after the helicopter he was a passenger (2) _____ crashed into the Indian Ocean off the island's north-east coast. Mr Gelle was one of two passengers known to (3) _____ survived the crash. They both swam for 12 hours to reach the shore. Gelle told reporters that he used one of the helicopter's seats (4) _____ a flotation device. News agencies are reporting that at least 39 people perished (5) _____ the disaster. A police spokesperson said rescue workers had retrieved 18 bodies. He lamented that the death (6) _____ could increase over the next few days.

Mr Gelle, 57, was in (7) _____ spirits after his rescue, despite looking totally exhausted. He managed to muster (8) _____ the energy to recount his ordeal to reporters. He spoke to journalists while (9) _____ in a deck chair and still wearing his camouflage uniform. He said he ejected himself from the aircraft when he knew it was in trouble. He became police chief earlier this year after (10) _____ in the police force for three decades. His colleague offered a reason (11) _____ to why he survived the crash. He said: "Gelle has always had great stamina in sport, and he's kept up this rhythm as minister, just like a 30-year-old. He has nerves of steel." Mr Gelle said: "My time to die hasn't come yet." The cause of the crash is currently (12) _____ investigation.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) odd | (b) odds | (c) oddness | (d) oddities |
| 2. | (a) at | (b) in | (c) by | (d) flew |
| 3. | (a) done | (b) get | (c) be | (d) have |
| 4. | (a) was | (b) as | (c) has | (d) is |
| 5. | (a) at | (b) in | (c) of | (d) as |
| 6. | (a) atoll | (b) toil | (c) toll | (d) till |
| 7. | (a) upper | (b) height | (c) high | (d) increase |
| 8. | (a) down | (b) in | (c) up | (d) on |
| 9. | (a) stumped | (b) slurred | (c) slurped | (d) slumped |
| 10. | (a) serving | (b) serve | (c) served | (d) server |
| 11. | (a) as | (b) at | (c) an | (d) ad |
| 12. | (a) over | (b) up | (c) under | (d) down |

Level 6

Madagascar minister swims for 12 hours after helicopter crash – 27th

December, 2021

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16

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211227-survival-swim.html>

Paragraph 1

1. swam to the nimlanad
2. reach the ohsre
3. a loafitton device
4. 39 people rpsiehed
5. rescue workers had tireerevd 18 bodies
6. He amentled that the death toll could increase

Paragraph 2

7. Mr Gelle, 57, was in high prisits
8. mfoualacge uniform
9. His ellcagoue offered a reason as to why
10. Gelle has always had great asimtna
11. He has evrnes of steel
12. currently under tsiinteogaivn

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211227-survival-swim.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- (**1**) A minister in Madagascar's government has beaten the odds to survive a helicopter crash and a marathon
- () this year after serving in the police force for three decades. His colleague offered a reason as to
- () why he survived the crash. He said: "Gelle has always had great stamina in sport, and he's kept up this
- () shore. Gelle told reporters that he used one of the helicopter's seats as a flotation
- () swim. Serge Gelle, the country's secretary of state for police, swam to the mainland on Tuesday after the helicopter he was
- () rhythm as minister, just like a 30-year-old. He has nerves of steel." Mr Gelle said: "My time to
- () up the energy to recount his ordeal to reporters. He spoke to journalists while slumped in a deck chair and still wearing his camouflage
- () device. News agencies are reporting that at least 39 people perished in the disaster. A police spokesperson said rescue
- () die hasn't come yet." The cause of the crash is currently under investigation.
- () passengers known to have survived the crash. They both swam for 12 hours to reach the
- () Mr Gelle, 57, was in high spirits after his rescue, despite looking totally exhausted. He managed to muster
- () workers had retrieved 18 bodies. He lamented that the death toll could increase over the next few days.
- () a passenger in crashed into the Indian Ocean off the island's north-east coast. Mr Gelle was one of two
- () uniform. He said he ejected himself from the aircraft when he knew it was in trouble. He became police chief earlier

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211227-survival-swim.html>

1. the survive crash . to Beaten helicopter a odds
2. in he a crashed . The helicopter was passenger
3. survived crash . known have Two passengers the to
4. used He the one helicopter's seats . of
5. He that lamented death the increase . could toll
6. rescue . was after high spirits in his Gelle
7. muster up managed to the He energy .
8. himself said from he aircraft . the He ejected
9. Offered as survived . he a to why reason
10. crash The cause under investigation . is of the

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211227-survival-swim.html>

A minister in Madagascar's government has *battened / beaten* the odds to survive a helicopter crash and a marathon swim. Serge Gelle, the country's secretary of *state / stated* for police, swam to the mainland on Tuesday after the helicopter he was a passenger *at / in* crashed into the Indian Ocean *off / on* the island's north-east coast. Mr Gelle was one of two passengers *knowing / known* to have survived the crash. They both swam for 12 hours to reach the *shore / store*. Gelle told reporters that he used one of the helicopter's seats as a flotation *devil / device*. News agencies are reporting that at least 39 people *perished / pushed* in the disaster. A police spokesperson said rescue workers had *relieved / retrieved* 18 bodies. He lamented that the death *toll / atoll* could increase over the next few days.

Mr Gelle, 57, was in *high / height* spirits after his rescue, despite looking totally exhausted. He managed to muster *down / up* the energy to recount his *order / ordeal* to reporters. He spoke to journalists while *stumped / slumped* in a deck chair and still wearing his camouflage uniform. He said he *ejected / rejected* himself from the aircraft when he knew it was *in / on* trouble. He became police chief earlier this year after serving in the police force for three *decadence / decades*. His colleague offered a reason as to why he survived the crash. He said: "Gelle has always had great *stammering / stamina* in sport, and he's kept up this rhythm *as / was* minister, just like a 30-year-old. He has nerves of steel." Mr Gelle said: "My time to die hasn't come yet." The cause of the crash is currently *over / under* investigation.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211227-survival-swim.html>

Madagascar's government has banned the use of survival helicopters and mountain swim. Sergio Gill, the country's secretary of state for police, swim to the mainland on Tuesday after the helicopter was passing in crashed and the land on the island's north-east coast. Mr Gill was one of two swimmers known to have survived the crash. They both swam for 12 hours to reach the shore. Gill told reporters that he was one of the helicopter's seats as it fell to the ground. News agencies are reporting that at least 39 people perished in the disaster. Police spokespersons said rescue workers had retrieved 18 bodies. He lamented that the death toll could increase over the next few days.

Mr Gill, 57, was an high sports after his rescue, despite looking totally exhausted. He managed to master the energy to recount his ordeal to reporters. He spoke to journalists while slumped on a deck chair and still wearing his camouflage uniform. He said he jumped from the aircraft when he knew it was unstable. He became police chief after this year after serving in the police force for three decades. He called for reasons as to why he survived the crash. He said: "Gill has always had great stamina in sport, and he's kept up this rhythm as mountain swimmer, just like a 30-year-old. He has nerves of steel." Mr Gill said: "My team told me I shouldn't come out." The cause of the crash is currently under investigation.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211227-survival-swim.html>

a minister in madagascars government has beaten the odds to survive a helicopter crash and a marathon swim serge gelle the countrys secretary of state for police swam to the mainland on tuesday after the helicopter he was a passenger in crashed into the indian ocean off the islands northeast coast mr gelle was one of two passengers known to have survived the crash they both swam for 12 hours to reach the shore gelle told reporters that he used one of the helicopters seats as a flotation device news agencies are reporting that at least 39 people perished in the disaster a police spokesperson said rescue workers had retrieved 18 bodies he lamented that the death toll could increase over the next few days

mr gelle 57 was in high spirits after his rescue despite looking totally exhausted he managed to muster up the energy to recount his ordeal to reporters he spoke to journalists while slumped in a deck chair and still wearing his camouflage uniform he said he ejected himself from the aircraft when he knew it was in trouble he became police chief earlier this year after serving in the police force for three decades his colleague offered a reason as to why he survived the crash he said gelle has always had great stamina in sport and hes kept up this rhythm as minister just like a 30yearold he has nerves of steel mr gelle said my time to die hasnt come yet the cause of the crash is currently under investigation

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211227-survival-swim.html>

A minister in Madagascar's government has beaten the odds to survive a helicopter crash and a marathon swim. Serge Gelle, the country's secretary of state for police, swam to the mainland on Tuesday after the helicopter he was a passenger in crashed into the Indian Ocean off the island's north-east coast. Mr Gelle was one of two passengers known to have survived the crash. They both swam for 12 hours to reach the shore. Gelle told reporters that he used one of the helicopter's seats as a flotation device. New agencies are reporting that at least 39 people perished in the disaster. A police spokesman said rescue workers had retrieved 18 bodies. He lamented that the death toll could increase over the next few days. Mr Gelle, 57, was in high spirits after his rescue, despite looking totally exhausted. He managed to muster up the energy to recount his ordeal to reporters. He spoke to journalists while slumped in a deck chair and still wearing his camouflage uniform. He said he ejected himself from the aircraft when he knew it was in trouble. He became police chief earlier this year after serving in the police force for three decades. His colleague offered a reason as to why he survived the crash. He said: "Gelle has always had great stamina in sport, and he's kept up this rhythm as minister, just like a 30-year-old. He has nerves of steel." Mr Gelle said: "My time to die hasn't come yet." The cause of the crash is currently under investigation.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. SURVIVAL: Make a poster about survival. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. SURVIVAL SKILLS: Write a magazine article about governments teaching everyone survival skills. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on survival. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c 2. d 3. a 4. e 5. f 6. b 7. g
8. i 9. l 10. n 11. j 12. h 13. k 14. m

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F 2 T 3 F 4 T 5 F 6 T 7 F 8 T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Odds
2. In the Indian Ocean
3. One
4. A seat
5. In the next few days
6. In high spirits
7. His camouflage uniform
8. Three decades
9. Nerves of steel
10. The cause of the crash

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Beaten the odds to survive a helicopter crash.
2. The helicopter he was a passenger in crashed.
3. Two passengers known to have survived the crash.
4. He used one of the helicopter's seats.
5. He lamented that the death toll could increase.
6. Gelle was in high spirits after his rescue.
7. He managed to muster up the energy.
8. He said he ejected himself from the aircraft.
9. Offered a reason as to why he survived.
10. The cause of the crash is under investigation.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c 2. a 3. b 4. d 5. c 6. b 7. d 8. b 9. b 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)