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Level 5 – 27th December, 2021

Madagascar minister swims for 12 hours after helicopter crash

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211227-survival-swim-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211227-survival-swim-5.html>

Madagascar's secretary of state for police has beaten the odds to survive a helicopter crash and a marathon swim. Serge Gelle, 57, swam to the mainland on Tuesday after his helicopter crashed into the Indian Ocean off the island's northeast coast. Mr Gelle was one of two passengers who survived the crash. They both swam for 12 hours to reach the shore. Gelle used one of the helicopter's seats as a flotation device. At least 39 people died in the disaster. A police spokesperson said rescue workers have found 18 bodies. He said the death toll could increase over the next few days.

Mr Gelle was in high spirits after his rescue, but looked totally exhausted. He mustered up the energy to talk about his ordeal, while slumped in a deck chair and still wearing his uniform. He said he ejected from the aircraft after he knew it was in trouble. A colleague spoke about Mr Gelle. He said: "Gelle has always had great stamina...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." He has served in the police force for 30 years. 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>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211227-survival-swim-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. beaten the | a. northeast coast |
| 2. a marathon | b. odds |
| 3. swam | c. reach the shore |
| 4. off the island's | d. toll could increase |
| 5. swam for 12 hours to | e. swim |
| 6. a flotation | f. workers |
| 7. rescue | g. to the mainland |
| 8. the death | h. device |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Mr Gelle was in high | a. investigation |
| 2. looked totally | b. from the aircraft |
| 3. He mustered | c. of the crash |
| 4. he ejected | d. of steel |
| 5. He has nerves | e. up the energy |
| 6. He has served | f. spirits |
| 7. The cause | g. exhausted |
| 8. currently under | h. in the police force |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211227-survival-swim-5.html>

Madagascar's (1) _____ for police has beaten the odds to survive a helicopter crash and (2) _____.

Serge Gelle, 57, swam to the mainland on Tuesday after his helicopter crashed into the Indian Ocean off (3) _____ coast. Mr Gelle was one of two passengers who survived the crash. They both swam for 12 hours to reach the shore. Gelle used one of the helicopter's seats as (4) _____. At least 39 people died in the disaster. A police spokesperson said (5) _____ found 18 bodies. He said the death toll could increase (6) _____ few days.

Mr Gelle was in (7) _____ his rescue, but looked totally exhausted. He (8) _____ energy to talk about his ordeal, while slumped in a deck chair and still wearing his uniform. He said he (9) _____ aircraft after he knew it was in trouble. A colleague spoke about Mr Gelle. He said: "Gelle has always (10) _____...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 (11) _____."

He has served in the police force for 30 years. The (12) _____ crash is currently under investigation.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211227-survival-swim-5.html>

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SURVIVAL SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211227-survival-swim-4.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.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211227-survival-swim-5.html>

Write about **survival** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner’s paper.
