

# What a story!

## 2.1 I'll never forget that day

GOALS ■ Talk about past experiences ■ Use narrative forms

### Vocabulary & Reading describing past experiences

- 1 Look at the photo and the headline of the article and discuss the questions.
  - 1 What do you consider to be a bad day at work?
  - 2 How could a hippo be related to a bad day at work?
- 2 Read the magazine article. Were your ideas close to what actually happened?
- 3 Read the article again and choose the correct verbs.



### A bad day at work

I'll never <sup>1</sup>*forget / remind* that day. It started out as just an ordinary day at work. I never <sup>2</sup>*expected / wondered* that within a few hours I would be in great danger!

I was 27 and had been a river guide for several years, taking people down the Zambezi River. The sun was setting and we were reaching the end of the tour one evening, when something knocked into the boat.

Thinking it was the other boat, I turned round to push it away, when suddenly everything went dark. I was stuck inside something. I managed to free one hand and felt around – my hand touched a hippo's nose. It was only then that I <sup>3</sup>*believed / realized* I was underwater, my upper body actually in the hippo's mouth! I tried to move as much as I could, and when he opened his mouth, I managed to swim away. But seconds later, he struck again, pulling me under the water. I <sup>4</sup>*remember / remind* looking up at the surface of the water, and <sup>5</sup>*recognizing / wondering* which of

us could hold his breath the longest.

Suddenly the hippo released me. By chance, a medical team was nearby, and they helped me to reach a hospital. Meanwhile, the hippo had quietly <sup>6</sup>*appeared / disappeared*.



I <sup>7</sup>*believe / expect*, though, that I met him one more time.

Two years later I was travelling down the Zambezi again. Being there obviously <sup>8</sup>*recognized / reminded* me of what had happened. Then, just as we were going past the same place in the river, a huge hippo suddenly <sup>9</sup>*appeared / realized*.

I <sup>10</sup>*screamed / whispered* so loudly that those with me said they'd never heard anything like it. He went back under the water and was never seen again. I'm sure I <sup>11</sup>*recognized / realized* the same hippo, still just as angry.



4a Complete the questions with the verbs in the box.

believe expect realize recognize remember  
remind wonder

- When did the writer \_\_\_\_\_ that his head was inside a hippo? How do you think he felt?
- Why do you think the writer \_\_\_\_\_ so clearly what he was seeing and \_\_\_\_\_ about while he was underwater?
- Do you \_\_\_\_\_ the writer really \_\_\_\_\_ the same hippo two years later, or did it just \_\_\_\_\_ him of the hippo that attacked him?
- Did you \_\_\_\_\_ the writer to return to being a river guide after what happened? Would you?

b Discuss your answers with a partner.

**Grammar & Speaking** narrative forms

5 Work with a partner. Match verbs 1–5 to descriptions a–c.

- I was 27 and **1 had been** a river guide for several years.
- The sun **2 was setting** and we **3 were reaching** the end of the tour one evening, when something knocked into the boat.
- ... something **4 knocked** into the boat. Thinking it was the other boat, I **5 turned round** to push it away ...

- Setting the background to the story: \_\_\_\_\_
- The main events in a story: \_\_\_\_\_
- An event that happened before the main events in the story: \_\_\_\_\_

6a Read the Grammar focus box to check your ideas.

b Add **one** more example of each form from the article on page 16 to the box.

**GRAMMAR FOCUS** narrative forms

- In narratives, we use the past simple for the main events in a story.  
*Something **knocked** into the boat.*  
1 \_\_\_\_\_
- We use the past continuous for background events, or longer actions interrupted by a shorter event.  
*The sun **was setting** ...*  
*We **were reaching** the end of the tour one evening, when something knocked into the boat.*  
2 \_\_\_\_\_
- We use the past perfect for events that happened before the main past time we are talking about.  
*I was 27 and **had been** a river guide for several years.*  
3 \_\_\_\_\_

→ Grammar Reference page 138

7a Complete the story with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

**A lucky escape**

That reminds me of another story I heard about a man who had a lucky escape. He <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (be) at a barbecue restaurant on top of a mountain, and after the meal he <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (decide) not to take the cable car down with his friends, but to walk down instead. While he <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (look) for the path, he <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (fall) into a stream and <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (break) his leg. Unable to move, he <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (try) to phone for help, but his mobile <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (work) because he <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (drop) it in the stream. Knowing he was missing, teams of people <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (look) for him, but it was twenty-four days before they <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (find) him. Luckily he <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (bring) a bottle of barbecue sauce with him to the barbecue, and he <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (survive) by drinking water mixed with the barbecue sauce.



b 2.1 ))) Listen and check your answers.

c Work with a partner. What could the man have said about his lucky escape a few years later?

**PRONUNCIATION** auxiliary verbs: *had + was/were*

8a Look at these two sentences from the story. What is the difference between the two underlined verbs? How will their pronunciation be different?

- That reminds me of another story I heard about a man who had a lucky escape.
- He'd been at a barbecue restaurant.

b How are *was* and *were* pronounced in these sentences? Why?

- While he was looking for the path ...
- Knowing he was missing, teams of people were looking for him ...

c 2.2 ))) Listen, check and repeat.

9 **TASK** Work with a partner. Student A, turn to page 126. Student B, turn to page 132.

**VOX POPS VIDEO 2**