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**Level 6 – 9th February 2026**

**Hero boy swims for four hours to save his family**

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260209-hero-swimmer.html>

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

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260209-hero-swimmer.html>

A 13-year-old Australian boy has been hailed a hero after an epic swim that saved his family. The boy, Austin Appelbee, and his family were on a beach holiday in Western Australia. They were kayaking and paddleboarding in shallow water when strong winds pushed them farther offshore. They ended up over four kilometres away from land, and the daylight was fading. Austin decided to kayak to shore to get help. However, the waves had damaged his kayak, which had taken in water and flipped over. He said he then lost an oar and knew he was in trouble. He decided he had no alternative but to swim back to land. He swam through shark-frequented waters to raise the alarm.

Austin made it to the beach and phoned for help. This sparked a huge rescue operation, which resulted in coastguards finding the teenager's mother and two younger sisters. The boy said: "I hit the bottom of the beach and I just collapsed, and then, after that, I had to sprint two kilometres to get to the phone." Rescuers called his efforts "superhuman". One rescuer said Austin's actions could not "be praised highly enough". He added that the teenager's "determination and courage ultimately saved the lives of his mother and siblings". Austin's mother Joanne, 47, told reporters: "The wind picked up. We lost oars, and we drifted out further. It was an absolute nightmare."

Sources: <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/teen-13-makes-harrowing-swim-through-shark-frequented-waters-to-save-family-swept-out-to-sea/YS5HBJ2Y2BFP3G44WGQ7Z67BPM/>  
<https://www.nbcnews.com/world/australia/australia-perth-family-stranded-sea-teenager-swims-rcna257203>  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cly3ezj3rg3o>

# WARM-UPS

**1. HEROES:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about heroes. 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?

13-year-old / hero / epic swims / beaches / kayaking / waves / in trouble / sharks / phoning for help / rescue / coastguards / superhuman / determination / nightmares

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

**3. HEROISM:** Students A **strongly** believe we are all capable of great heroism; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. EVERYDAY HEROES:** To what degree are these people heroes? What heroic deeds do they do? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	<b>Degree</b>	<b>Deeds</b>
Nurses		
English teachers		
Police officers		
Chefs		
Street cleaners		
Presidents		

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

**6. ABSOLUTE NIGHTMARES:** Rank these with your partner. Put the worst nightmares at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Being lost at sea
- Losing your smartphone
- Very noisy neighbours
- Going to prison
- A chocolate allergy
- Year-long hiccups
- Losing your friends
- Chronic insomnia

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

1. hailed	a. A very, very long, difficult and tiring task or activity.
2. epic	b. Gradually grow fainter and disappearing.
3. shallow	c. Praised someone or something enthusiastically.
4. fading	d. Turned over with a sudden quick movement.
5. shore	e. The land along the edge of a sea, lake, or other large body of water.
6. flipped	f. Of one or more things available as another possibility or choice.
7. alternative	g. Having very little depth.

## Paragraph 2

8. sparked	h. Total
9. coastguard	i. Of a person making a decision and strongly deciding not to change it.
10. collapsed	j. The ability to do something that frightens one; bravery.
11. determination	k. Provided the thing that starts another event or process.
12. courage	l. An organization that keeps watch on coastal waters and helps people or ships in danger.
13. ultimately	m. Finally; in the end.
14. absolute	n. Of a person having fallen down and become unconscious.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260209-hero-swimmer.html>

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

1. The article says the 13-year-old boy was failed as a hero. **T / F**
2. The boy and his family were kayaking in deep water. **T / F**
3. The boy's kayak overturned. **T / F**
4. There could have been sharks in the water the boy swam in. **T / F**
5. When the boy reached the beach, he screamed for help. **T / F**
6. After the boy got to the beach, he collapsed. **T / F**
7. A rescuer said the boy should be highly prized. **T / F**
8. The boy's mother likened the experience to a very bad dream. **T / F**

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

<b>1. hailed</b>	a. difficulty
<b>2. epic</b>	b. overturned
<b>3. flipped over</b>	c. bravery
<b>4. trouble</b>	d. passed out
<b>5. alternative</b>	e. heroic
<b>6. sparked</b>	f. commended
<b>7. collapsed</b>	g. option
<b>8. praised</b>	h. ordeal
<b>9. courage</b>	i. saluted
<b>10. nightmare</b>	j. set off

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

1. hailed	a. alarm
2. an epic	b. a huge rescue operation
3. kayaking and paddleboarding	c. "superhuman"
4. Austin decided to kayak to	d. a hero
5. raise the	e. and courage
6. This sparked	f. shore to get help
7. Rescuers called his efforts	g. swim
8. Austin's actions could not be	h. nightmare
9. the teenager's determination	i. in shallow water
10. It was an absolute	j. praised highly enough

## GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260209-hero-swimmer.html>

A 13-year-old Australian boy has been (1) \_\_\_\_\_ a hero after an epic swim that saved his family. The boy, Austin Appelbee, and his family were on a beach holiday in Western Australia. They were kayaking and paddleboarding in (2) \_\_\_\_\_ water when strong winds pushed them farther (3) \_\_\_\_\_. They ended up over four kilometres away from land, and the daylight was (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Austin decided to kayak to shore to get help. However, the waves had damaged his kayak, which had taken in water and (5) \_\_\_\_\_. He said he then lost an (6) \_\_\_\_\_ and knew he was in trouble. He decided he had no (7) \_\_\_\_\_ but to swim back to land. He swam through shark-frequented waters to raise the (8) \_\_\_\_\_.

Austin made it to the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ and phoned for help. This sparked a huge rescue operation, which resulted in (10) \_\_\_\_\_ finding the teenager's mother and two younger sisters. The boy said: "I hit the bottom of the beach and I just (11) \_\_\_\_\_, and then, after that, I had to (12) \_\_\_\_\_ two kilometres to get to the phone." Rescuers called his efforts "superhuman". One rescuer said Austin's actions could not "be (13) \_\_\_\_\_ highly enough". He added that the teenager's "determination and courage (14) \_\_\_\_\_ saved the lives of his mother and (15) \_\_\_\_\_. " Austin's mother Joanne, 47, told reporters: "The wind picked up. We lost oars, and we drifted out further. It was an absolute (16) \_\_\_\_\_."

*fading  
shallow  
oar  
hailed  
alarm  
flipped  
offshore  
alternative*

*praised  
coastguards  
nightmare  
beach  
sprint  
siblings  
collapsed  
ultimately*

## **LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.**

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260209-hero-swimmer.html>

- 1) A 13-year-old Australian boy has been hailed a hero after \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. an epic swim
  - b. an epic swam
  - c. an e-pick swim
  - d. an epoch swim
- 2) They were kayaking and paddleboarding \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. in swallow water
  - b. in shallow watered
  - c. in shallow water
  - d. insular water
- 3) the waves had damaged his kayak, which had taken in water \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. and tripped overly
  - b. and flip over
  - c. and flipped over
  - d. and flipped overly
- 4) He decided he had no alternative but to swim \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. back to lands
  - b. back too land
  - c. back to land
  - d. back through land
- 5) He swam through shark-frequented waters to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. rise the alarm
  - b. arise the alarm
  - c. raze the alarm
  - d. raise the alarm
- 6) Austin made it to the beach and phoned for help. This sparked a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. huge rescue operation
  - b. hugely rescue operation
  - c. huge rescued operation
  - d. huge rescue operations
- 7) The boy said: "I hit the bottom of the beach and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. I gest collapsed
  - b. I just collapsed
  - c. adjust collapsed
  - d. I juiced collapsed
- 8) One rescuer said Austin's actions could not be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. praised high enough
  - b. praised highs enough
  - c. praised highest enough
  - d. praised highly enough
- 9) determination and courage ultimately saved the lives of his \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. mother and sibling
  - b. mothers and siblings
  - c. mother and siblings
  - d. mother and saplings
- 10) We lost oars, and we drifted out further. It was \_\_\_\_\_."
  - a. an absolutely nightmare
  - b. an absolute nightmare
  - c. in absolute nightmare
  - d. an absolute knight mare

# **LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps**

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260209-hero-swimmer.html>

A 13-year-old Australian boy has been (1) \_\_\_\_\_ after an epic swim that saved his family. The boy, Austin Appelbee, and his family were on a beach holiday in Western Australia. They (2) \_\_\_\_\_ paddleboarding in shallow water when strong winds pushed (3) \_\_\_\_\_. They ended up over four kilometres away from land, and the daylight was fading. Austin decided to kayak to shore to get help. However, the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ his kayak, which had taken in water (5) \_\_\_\_\_. He said he then lost an oar and knew he was in trouble. He decided he had no alternative but to swim back to land. He swam through shark-frequented waters to (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Austin made it to the beach and phoned for help. This (7) \_\_\_\_\_ rescue operation, which resulted in coastguards finding the teenager's mother and two younger sisters. The boy said: "I hit the bottom of the beach and (8) \_\_\_\_\_, and then, after that, I had to sprint two kilometres to get to the phone." Rescuers called (9) \_\_\_\_\_. One rescuer said Austin's actions could not "be praised highly enough". He added that the teenager's "determination and (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the lives of his (11) \_\_\_\_\_. " Austin's mother Joanne, 47, told reporters: "The wind picked up. We lost oars, and we drifted out further. It was (12) \_\_\_\_\_. "

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260209-hero-swimmer.html>

1. What adjective did the writer use to describe Austin's swim?
2. What was happening to the daylight?
3. What had Austin's kayak taken in?
4. What was Austin's only choice?
5. What did Austin raise when he got to the beach?
6. What sparked the rescue operation to find Austin's family?
7. What did Austin hit just before he collapsed?
8. How far did Austin have to run to get his mother's phone?
9. Who said Austin could not be praised highly enough?
10. What did Austin's mother describe the whole ordeal as being?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260209-hero-swimmer.html>

- 1) What adjective did the writer use to describe Austin's swim?
  - a) epochal
  - b) epic
  - c) epicurean
  - d) episodic
- 2) What was happening to the daylight?
  - a) It was getting brighter.
  - b) It was saving time.
  - c) It was getting scary.
  - d) It was fading.
- 3) What had Austin's kayak taken in?
  - a) water
  - b) fish
  - c) seaweed
  - d) light
- 4) What was Austin's only choice?
  - a) to say goodbye to his family
  - b) backstroke
  - c) to swim to shore
  - d) to hit the bottom of the beach
- 5) What did Austin raise when he got to the beach?
  - a) all hell
  - b) the alarm
  - c) hopes
  - d) a red flag
- 6) What sparked the rescue operation to find Austin's family?
  - a) a phone call
  - b) video footage from a drone
  - c) a scream
  - d) a TV news report
- 7) What did Austin hit just before he collapsed?
  - a) his head
  - b) a tree
  - c) the bottom of the beach
  - d) the absolute edge of his limits
- 8) How far did Austin have to run to get his mother's phone?
  - a) 2 km
  - b) 3 km
  - c) 4 km
  - d) 5 km
- 9) Who said Austin could not be praised highly enough?
  - a) a rescuer
  - b) Austin's mother
  - c) the Australia Prime Minister
  - d) a lifeguard at the beach
- 10) What did Austin's mother describe the whole ordeal as being?
  - a) like a jet coaster ride
  - b) like a horror movie
  - c) like a scene from the movie Jaws
  - d) a nightmare

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260209-hero-swimmer.html>

## **Role A – Being Lost at Sea**

You think being lost at sea is the worst nightmare. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their nightmares. Also, tell the others which is the least bad of these (and why): losing your smartphone, year-long hiccups or very noisy neighbours.

## **Role B – Losing Your Smartphone**

You think losing your smartphone is the worst nightmare. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their nightmares. Also, tell the others which is the least bad of these (and why): being lost at sea, year-long hiccups or very noisy neighbours.

## **Role C – Year-long Hiccups**

You think year-long hiccups is the worst nightmare. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their nightmares. Also, tell the others which is the least bad of these (and why): losing your smartphone, being lost at sea or very noisy neighbours.

## **Role D – Very Noisy Neighbours**

You think very noisy neighbours is the worst nightmare. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their nightmares. Also, tell the others which is the least bad of these (and why): losing your smartphone, year-long hiccups or being lost at sea.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260209-hero-swimmer.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for... the words 'hero' and 'swim'.

hero	swim

- 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"><li>• hailed</li><li>• holiday</li><li>• when</li><li>• decided</li><li>• waves</li><li>• raise</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• huge</li><li>• hit</li><li>• two</li><li>• highly</li><li>• lives</li><li>• lost</li></ul>
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# HEROES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260209-hero-swimmer.html>

Write five GOOD questions about heroes 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.

# HEROES 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 'hero'?
3. What heroic deeds have you done?
4. In what ways are all of us heroes?
5. What do you think of the boy's actions?
6. What were you like as a 13-year-old?
7. What beach activities do you like?
8. What would you have done in a similar situation?
9. What do you think was going through the boy's head?
10. What would you think if you knew you were in shark-frequented water?

*Hero boy swims for four hours to save his family – 9th February 2026*  
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# HEROES 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. Have you ever phoned for help?
15. What do you think of coastguards?
16. Have you ever done anything that could be described as 'superhuman'?
17. How much determination do you have?
18. How much courage do you have?
19. What was the last 'absolute nightmare' you experienced?
20. What questions would you like to ask the boy and his mother?

## **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/2602/260209-hero-swimmer.html>

A 13-year-old Australian boy has been (1) \_\_\_\_ a hero after an epic swim that saved his family. The boy, Austin Appelbee, and his family were on a beach holiday in Western Australia. They were kayaking and paddleboarding in (2) \_\_\_\_ water when strong winds pushed them farther offshore. They ended (3) \_\_\_\_ over four kilometres away from land, and the daylight was (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Austin decided to kayak to shore to get help. However, the waves had damaged his kayak, which had taken in water and (5) \_\_\_\_ over. He said he then lost an oar and knew he was in trouble. He decided he had no alternative but to swim back to land. He swam through shark-(6) \_\_\_\_ waters to raise the alarm.

Austin (7) \_\_\_\_ it to the beach and phoned for help. This sparked a huge rescue operation, which resulted (8) \_\_\_\_ coastguards finding the teenager's mother and two younger sisters. The boy said: "I hit the bottom of the beach and I just (9) \_\_\_\_\_, and then, after that, I had to sprint two kilometres to get to the phone." Rescuers called his efforts "superhuman". One rescuer said Austin's actions could not "be praised (10) \_\_\_\_ enough". He added that the teenager's "determination and courage ultimately saved the lives of his mother and (11) \_\_\_\_\_. " Austin's mother Joanne, 47, told reporters: "The wind picked up. We lost oars, and we drifted out further. It was an (12) \_\_\_\_ nightmare."

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

1.	(a) heeled	(b) foiled	(c) hailed	(d) hailed
2.	(a) fallow	(b) sorrow	(c) swallow	(d) shallow
3.	(a) down	(b) up	(c) in	(d) out
4.	(a) zoning	(b) lighting	(c) fading	(d) outing
5.	(a) flipped	(b) dipped	(c) shipped	(d) clipped
6.	(a) frequented	(b) regular	(c) often	(d) swim
7.	(a) took	(b) did	(c) had	(d) made
8.	(a) in	(b) at	(c) of	(d) on
9.	(a) relapsed	(b) collapsed	(c) surpassed	(d) clasped
10.	(a) height	(b) heightened	(c) highly	(d) highs
11.	(a) sibling	(b) saplings	(c) siblings	(d) sapling
12.	(a) absolutely	(b) absolute	(c) absolutism	(d) absoluteness

# **SPELLING**

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260209-hero-swimmer.html>

## **Paragraph 1**

1. adehil a hero
2. paddleboarding in ahllosw water
3. strong winds pushed them farther effhoors
4. defilpp over
5. He decided he had no aaeeilnrttv
6. He swam through shark-deefnqrtu waters

## **Paragraph 2**

7. This sparked a huge ceersu operation
8. aacdgorssstu finding the teenager's mother
9. I just acdellops
10. the teenager's determination and acegour
11. is mother and bgiilnss
12. It was an abelostu nightmare

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260209-hero-swimmer.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

( 1 ) A 13-year-old Australian boy has been hailed a hero after an epic swim that saved his

( ) Austin made it to the beach and phoned for help. This sparked a huge rescue

( ) back to land. He swam through shark-frequented waters to raise the alarm.

( ) bottom of the beach and I just collapsed, and then, after that, I had to sprint two kilometres to

( ) family. The boy, Austin Appelbee, and his family were on a beach holiday in Western Australia. They were

( ) get to the phone." Rescuers called his efforts "superhuman". One rescuer said Austin's actions could not "be praised

( ) highly enough". He added that the teenager's "determination and courage ultimately saved the lives of his mother and

( ) kayaking and paddleboarding in shallow water when strong winds pushed them farther offshore. They ended

( ) oars, and we drifted out further. It was an absolute nightmare."

( ) operation, which resulted in coastguards finding the teenager's mother and two younger sisters. The boy said: "I hit the

( ) over. He said he then lost an oar and knew he was in trouble. He decided he had no alternative but to swim

( ) shore to get help. However, the waves had damaged his kayak, which had taken in water and flipped

( ) siblings". Austin's mother Joanne, 47, told reporters: "The wind picked up. We lost

( ) up over four kilometres away from land, and the daylight was fading. Austin decided to kayak to

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260209-hero-swimmer.html>

1. 13-year-old a A boy been hailed has hero .
2. away . four ended kilometres over They up
3. damaged had his However, kayak . the waves
4. an he He lost oar . said then
5. alternative back . but had He no swim to
6. Coastguards younger found sisters . teenager's the two
7. get kilometres phone . Sprint to to the two
8. actions Austin's be could enough . highly not praised
9. courage his His life mother . of saved the
10. absolute an His it mother nightmare . said was

## CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260209-hero-swimmer.html>

A 13-year-old Australian boy has been *hailed* / *failed* a hero after an epic swim that saved *his* / *this* family. The boy, Austin Appelbee, and his family were on a beach holiday in Western Australia. They were kayaking and paddleboarding in *swallow* / *shallow* water when strong winds pushed them farther *onshore* / *offshore*. They ended *down* / *up* over four kilometres away from land, and the daylight was *fading* / *faded*. Austin decided to kayak to shore to get help. However, the waves had damaged his kayak, which had taken *in* / *up* water and flipped over. He said he then lost *a Noah* / *an oar* and knew he was in trouble. He decided he had *no* / *not* alternative but to swim back to land. He swam through shark-frequented waters to raise the *alarming* / *alarm*.

Austin *made* / *did* it to the beach and phoned *to* / *for* help. This sparked a huge rescue operation, which resulted *in* / *on* coastguards finding the teenager's mother and two younger sisters. The boy said: "I hit the bottom of the beach and I just *relapsed* / *collapsed*, and then, after that, I had to *sprint* / *sprint* two kilometres to get to the phone." Rescuers called his efforts "superhuman". One rescuer said Austin's actions could not "be *reprised* / *praised* highly enough". He added that the teenager's "determination and *courage* / *courageous* *ultimately* / *untimely* saved the lives of his mother and *sibling* / *siblings*". Austin's mother Joanne, 47, told reporters: "The wind picked up. We lost oars, and we drifted out further. It was an *absolute* / *absolutely* nightmare."

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.**

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

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260209-hero-swimmer.html>

\_ 13-y\_\_r-\_ld \_\_str\_l\_\_n b\_y h\_s b\_\_n h\_\_l\_d \_ h\_r\_ \_ft\_r \_n \_p\_c sw\_m th\_t s\_v\_d h\_s f\_m\_ly. Th\_ b\_y, \_\_st\_n \_\_pp\_lb\_\_, \_nd h\_s f\_m\_ly w\_r\_ \_n \_ b\_\_ch h\_l\_d\_y \_n W\_st\_rn \_\_str\_l\_\_. Th\_y w\_r\_ k\_y\_k\_ng \_nd p\_ddl\_b\_\_rd\_ng \_n sh\_ll\_w w\_t\_r wh\_n str\_ng w\_nds p\_sh\_d th\_m f\_rth\_r \_ffsh\_r\_. Th\_y \_nd\_d \_p \_v\_r f\_\_r k\_l\_m\_tr\_s \_w\_y fr\_m l\_nd, \_nd th\_ d\_yl\_ght w\_s f\_d\_ng. \_\_st\_n d\_c\_d\_d t\_ k\_y\_k t\_ sh\_r\_ t\_ g\_t h\_lp. H\_w\_v\_r, th\_ w\_v\_s h\_d d\_m\_g\_d h\_s k\_y\_k, wh\_ch h\_d t\_k\_n \_n w\_t\_r \_nd fl\_pp\_d \_v\_r. H\_ s\_\_d h\_ th\_n l\_st \_n \_\_r \_nd kn\_w h\_ w\_s \_n tr\_\_bl\_. H\_ d\_c\_d\_d h\_ h\_d n\_ \_lt\_rn\_t\_v\_ b\_t t\_ sw\_m b\_ck t\_ l\_nd. H\_ sw\_m thr\_\_gh sh\_rk-fr\_q\_\_nt\_d w\_t\_rs t\_ r\_\_s\_ th\_ \_l\_rm.

\_\_st\_n m\_d\_ \_t t\_ th\_ b\_\_ch \_nd ph\_n\_d f\_r h\_lp. Th\_s sp\_rk\_d \_ h\_g\_ r\_sc\_\_ \_p\_r\_t\_\_n, wh\_ch r\_s\_ltd \_n c\_\_stg\_\_rds f\_nd\_ng th\_ t\_\_n\_g\_r's m\_th\_r \_nd tw\_y\_\_ng\_r s\_st\_rs. Th\_ b\_y s\_\_d: "\_ h\_t th\_ b\_tt\_m \_f th\_ b\_\_ch \_nd \_ j\_st c\_ll\_ps\_d, \_nd th\_n, \_ft\_r th\_t, \_ h\_d t\_ spr\_nt tw\_ k\_l\_m\_tr\_s t\_ g\_t t\_ th\_ ph\_n\_." R\_sc\_\_rs c\_ll\_d h\_s \_ff\_rts "s\_p\_rh\_m\_n". \_n\_ r\_sc\_\_r s\_\_d \_\_st\_n's \_ct\_\_ns c\_\_ld n\_t "b\_ pr\_\_s\_d h\_ghly n\_\_gh". H\_ \_dd\_d th\_t th\_ t\_\_n\_g\_r's "d\_t\_rm\_n\_t\_\_n \_nd c\_\_r\_g\_ \_lt\_m\_t\_ly s\_v\_d th\_ l\_v\_s \_f h\_s m\_th\_r \_nd s\_bli\_ngs." \_\_st\_n's m\_th\_r J\_\_nn\_, 47, t\_id r\_p\_rt\_rs: "Th\_ w\_nd p\_ck\_d \_p. W\_ l\_st \_\_rs, \_nd w\_dr\_ft\_d \_\_t f\_rth\_r. \_t w\_s \_n \_bs\_l\_t\_ n\_ghtm\_r\_."

## PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260209-hero-swimmer.html>

a 13yearold australian boy has been hailed a hero after an epic swim that saved his family the boy austin appelbee and his family were on a beach holiday in western australia they were kayaking and paddleboarding in shallow water when strong winds pushed them farther offshore they ended up over four kilometres away from land and the daylight was fading austin decided to kayak to shore to get help however the waves had damaged his kayak which had taken in water and flipped over he said he then lost an oar and knew he was in trouble he decided he had no alternative but to swim back to land he swam through sharkfrequented waters to raise the alarm austin made it to the beach and phoned for help this sparked a huge rescue operation which resulted in coastguards finding the teenagers mother and two younger sisters the boy said i hit the bottom of the beach and i just collapsed and then after that i had to sprint two kilometres to get to the phone rescuers called his efforts superhuman one rescuer said austins actions could not be praised highly enough he added that the teenagers determination and courage ultimately saved the lives of his mother and siblings austins mother joanne 47 told reporters the wind picked up we lost oars and we drifted out further it was an absolute nightmare

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260209-hero-swimmer.html>

A 13-year-old Australian boy has been hailed a hero after an epic swim that saved his family. The boy, Austin Appelbee, and his family were on a beach holiday in Western Australia. They were kayaking and paddleboarding in shallow water when strong winds pushed them farther offshore. They ended up over four kilometres away from land, and the daylight was fading. Austin decided to kayak to shore to get help. However, the waves had damaged his kayak, which had taken in water and flipped over. He said he then lost a oar and knew he was in trouble. He decided he had no alternative but to swim back to land. He swam through shark-frequented water to raise the alarm. Austin made it to the beach and phoned for help. This sparked a huge rescue operation, which resulted in coastguards finding the teenager's mother and two younger sisters. The boy said: "I hit the bottom of the beach and I just collapsed, and then, after that, I had to sprint two kilometres to get to the phone." Rescuers called his efforts "superhuman". One rescuer said Austin's actions could not "be praised highly enough". He added that the teenager's "determination and courage ultimately saved the lives of his mother and siblings". Austin's mother Joanne, 47, told reporters: "The wind picked up. We lost oars, and we drifted out further. It was an absolute nightmare."

# FREE WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260209-hero-swimmer.html>

Write about **heroes** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

## ACADEMIC WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260209-hero-swimmer.html>

Meeting one's hero might be a disappointing experience. Discuss.

# 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. HEROES:** Make a poster about heroes. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. WE ARE ALL HEROES:** Write a magazine article about why we are all heroes. Include imaginary interviews with people who agree and disagree with 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 heroes. Ask him/her three questions about his/her hero. Tell him/her three of your heroes. 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. a	3. g	4. b	5. e	6. d	7. f
8. k	9. l	10. n	11. i	12. j	13. m	14. h

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

1 F	2 F	3 T	4 T	5 F	6 T	7 F	8 T
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## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Epic
2. It was fading.
3. Water
4. To swim to shore
5. The alarm
6. Austin's phone call
7. The bottom of the beach
8. Two kilometres
9. A rescuer
10. A nightmare

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. A 13-year-old boy has been hailed a hero.
2. They ended up over four kilometres away.
3. However, the waves had damaged his kayak.
4. He said he then lost an oar.
5. He had no alternative but to swim back.
6. Coastguards found the teenager's two younger sisters.
7. Sprint two kilometres to get to the phone.
8. Austin's actions could not be praised highly enough.
9. His courage saved the life of his mother.
10. His mother said it was an absolute nightmare.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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