

# Juliane Koepcke

## A. Reading

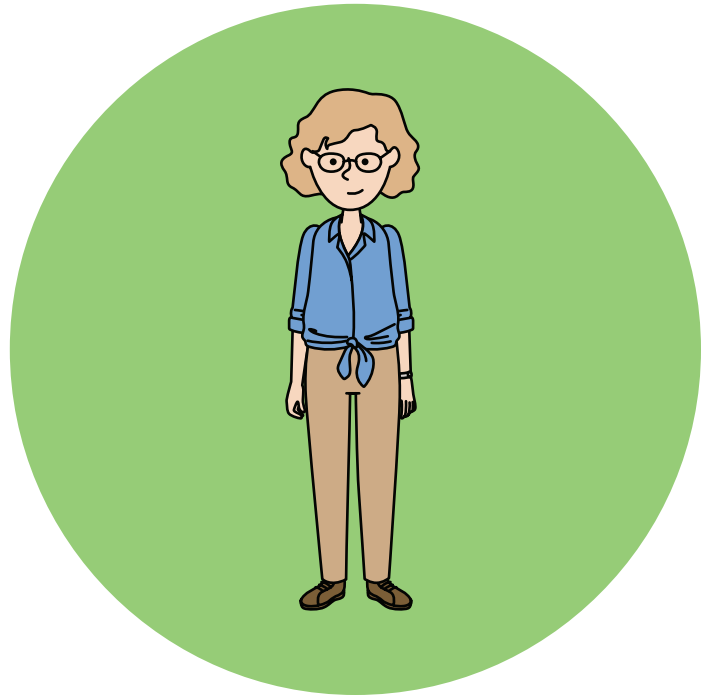
On Christmas Eve, 1971, Juliane Koepcke was 17 years old. She was on an aeroplane over the **jungle** in Peru. There was a storm during the flight. **Lightning** struck the plane, and it crashed.

Koepcke fell two miles (3.2 kilometres) out of the sky and landed on thick jungle trees. She broke her collar bone, cut her leg, and lost her **glasses**. She was the only survivor of the crash.

For 11 days, Koepcke wandered the rainforest alone. She found aeroplane parts, dead bodies, and some sweets. The sweets were all she had to eat.

Koepcke's parents were scientists. They taught her to look for water if she ever got lost. She found a small river and followed it. It led to a fishermen's **hut**. The fishermen rescued her.

Koepcke is now a biologist at her father's research station in the jungle. She studies **bats**.



# Juliane Koepcke cont.

## B. Questions

1. What happened to Juliane Koepcke on Christmas Eve, 1971?

---

2. What were her injuries?

---

3. How far did Koepcke fall?

---

4. What did she find in the jungle?

---

5. How long was she alone in the jungle?

---

6. What did Koepcke's parents teach her?

---

7. Where does Koepcke work now?

---

8. What does she study?

---

# José Salvador Alvarenga

## A. Reading

On November 17, 2012, José Salvador Alvarenga, a Salvadorian fisherman, set sail from southern Mexico in a small fishing boat. He had a young companion, Ezequiel Córdoba.

Several hours into their trip, a storm began. It lasted five days. The storm destroyed the boat's **radio** and **motor**.

By the time the storm ended, Alvarenga and Córdoba were lost in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. They were lost for many months. They survived by eating raw fish, birds, and **turtles**. Eventually, Córdoba became sick and died.

Alvarenga drifted alone at sea for another nine months. Finally, he spotted an **island**. He swam to shore. He learned he was 6,700 miles (10,800 kilometres) away from where he started.

Now, Alvarenga is the author of a book about his 438-day experience. He sees a **therapist** because he is afraid of water. He lives in El Salvador.



# José Salvador Alvarenga cont.

## B. Questions

1. What did José Salvador Alvarenga do on November 17, 2012?

---

2. How long did the storm last?

---

3. What did the storm destroy?

---

4. What did Alvarenga and Córdoba eat while they were lost in the Pacific Ocean?

---

5. How long was Alvarenga alone in the boat after Córdoba died?

---

6. How did Alvarenga eventually find his way to safety?

---

7. What is Alvarenga afraid of now?

---

8. How long was Alvarenga lost at sea before reaching land?

---

# Aron Ralston

## A. Reading

Aron Ralston is an American mountain climber. In 2003, he went climbing alone in Utah. A **boulder** fell on him and pinned his arm against the side of a **canyon**.

For almost five days, Ralston couldn't move. He was able to survive on water and **snacks**, but he worried no one would find him.

Ralston had an idea. He had a small **pocketknife** with him. He realised he could use it to cut himself free.

Ralston made the difficult decision to cut off his own arm. Bloody but alive, he began the seven-mile (11-kilometre) hike back to his **truck**. He met a family on the way. They called the police.

Ralston now works as a motivational speaker and continues to climb mountains with only one arm. Film director Danny Boyle turned his story into a movie called *127 Hours*.



# Aron Ralston cont.

## B. Questions

1. Who is Aron Ralston?

---

2. Where did the story take place?

---

3. How long was Ralston unable to move?

---

4. What did he worry about?

---

5. How did Ralston free himself?

---

6. What did he do after he freed himself?

---

7. What does Ralston do now?

---

8. What is *127 Hours*?

---

## Answer Key

### LESSON DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson, students read three true stories about survivors that use the simple past and simple present in context. They also answer comprehension questions. More tasks are available in the digital version, including vocabulary practice using the bold words and grammar review exercises.

**LEVEL:** Low Int

**TIME:** 1–2 hours

**TAGS:** verbs, verb tenses, simple past, past, simple present, present, survivors, Juliane Koepcke, José Salvador Alvarenga, Aron Ralston

### Juliane Koepcke

1. Juliane Koepcke was in a plane crash.
2. She broke her collar bone and cut her leg.
3. Koepcke fell two miles (3.2 kilometres).
4. She found aeroplane parts, dead bodies, and some sweets.
5. She was alone in the jungle for 11 days.
6. They taught her to look for water if she ever got lost.
7. Koepcke works at her father's research station in the jungle.
8. She studies bats.

### Aron Ralston

1. Aron Ralston is an American mountain climber.
2. The story took place in Utah.
3. Ralston was unable to move for five days.
4. He worried no one would find him.
5. Ralston freed himself by cutting off his own arm.
6. He began the seven-mile (11-kilometre) hike to his truck.
7. Ralston is a motivational speaker, and he continues to climb mountains with one arm.
8. *127 Hours* is the title of a movie about Ralston's story.

### José Salvador Alvarenga

1. Alvarenga set sail from southern Mexico in a small fishing boat with a companion.
2. The storm lasted five days.
3. The storm destroyed the boat's radio and motor.
4. They ate raw fish, birds, and turtles.
5. Alvarenga was alone in the boat for nine months after Córdoba died.
6. Alvarenga spotted an island and swam to shore.
7. Alvarenga is afraid of water.
8. He was lost at sea for 438 days.