

## B1 TEENS

# Survival Challenge

Stranded on a desert island: prioritising, strategising and using modals

B1 Intermediate | Grammar | Reading | 40 min

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## Lesson Objectives

- [ok] Read a text about real survival stories and strategies
- [ok] Learn vocabulary related to survival, nature and emergencies
- [ok] Use modals: must, have to, should, need to, don't have to, mustn't
- [ok] Distinguish between must/have to, mustn't/don't have to
- [ok] Discuss priorities and make group decisions
- [ok] Write a survival plan using modals

## 1 Before You Read

- > If you were stranded on a desert island, what three items would you want?
- > What is the most important thing for survival: water, fire, or shelter?
- > Have you ever watched a survival show? What did you learn?

## 2 Reading: Against All Odds

### Against All Odds

In January 2022, a fishing boat sank near Indonesia. Three teenagers -- Aldi, Reza and Feri -- were left on a small wooden platform. They had no food, no fresh water, and no way to call for help. They drifted for 49 days before being rescued by a cargo ship.

How did they survive? Expert Maria Santos explains the three most important rules. "First, you must find clean water. Humans can survive weeks without food, but only about three days without water. The boys collected rainwater using their shirts -- simple but effective."

"Second, you have to protect yourself from the elements. The sun, wind and cold can kill you faster than hunger. They used parts of the platform to create shade. You don't have to build a perfect shelter -- you just need to stay out of direct sunlight."

"Third, you should stay calm and think clearly. Panic is the real enemy. You mustn't waste energy on fear. Instead, you need to focus on what you can control." Santos adds that you should signal for help whenever possible.

When asked about common mistakes, Santos says: "People think they have to do everything at once. They don't. You need to prioritise. Water first, shelter second, food third. You mustn't eat unknown plants or drink seawater. And you should never give up hope."

Aldi, Reza and Feri are proof that ordinary people can survive extraordinary situations -- if they stay calm and focus on what matters most.

### 3 Vocabulary

Word	Definition	Example
<b>stranded</b>	left somewhere with no way to leave	"Passengers were stranded at the airport."
<b>desert island</b>	remote island with no people	"Imagine being alone on a desert island."
<b>survival</b>	continuing to live in difficult conditions	"Survival requires knowledge and patience."
<b>shelter</b>	place that protects from weather	"They built a shelter from branches."
<b>rescue</b>	to save from a dangerous situation	"A helicopter came to rescue them."
<b>drift</b>	to move slowly without control	"The boat drifted for weeks."
<b>the elements</b>	weather conditions (sun, rain, cold)	"Protect yourself from the elements."
<b>shade</b>	area where sunlight is blocked	"They sat in the shade to stay cool."
<b>panic</b>	sudden strong fear	"Don't panic -- stay calm."
<b>signal</b>	to send a message asking for help	"They used a mirror to signal planes."
<b>prioritise</b>	to decide what's most important first	"Prioritise water over food."
<b>cargo ship</b>	large ship carrying goods	"A cargo ship spotted them."
<b>effective</b>	working well	"A simple but effective solution."
<b>extraordinary</b>	very unusual or remarkable	"Their survival story is extraordinary."

Word	Definition	Example
waste (v)	to use carelessly	"Don't waste energy on fear."
give up	to stop trying	"They never gave up hope."

Useful Collocations: survival skills • build a shelter • collect rainwater • signal for help • stay calm • give up hope • waste energy • against all odds

## 4 Grammar: Modals of Obligation and Advice

### In the Text, You Saw...

must (strong obligation): "You must find clean water."

have to (external obligation): "You have to protect yourself from the elements."

should (advice): "You should stay calm and think clearly."

mustn't (prohibition): "You mustn't waste energy on fear."

don't have to (not necessary): "You don't have to build a perfect shelter."

Modal	Meaning	Example
must	strong personal obligation	You must drink water every day.
have to	external obligation / rule	You have to wear a seatbelt.
should	advice / recommendation	You should learn first aid.
need to	something is necessary	We need to find food soon.
mustn't	prohibition / dangerous	You mustn't drink seawater.
don't have to	not necessary (optional)	You don't have to eat insects.

### Must vs Have to / Mustn't vs Don't have to

must = I believe it's important: "You must try this!" (personal)

have to = someone else decided: "We have to wear uniforms." (school rule)

mustn't = DON'T DO IT: "You mustn't touch that wire!" (danger!)

don't have to = YOUR CHOICE: "You don't have to come." (optional)

**Common Mistakes**

~~You mustn't come to the party.~~ (= forbidden) --> **You don't have to come.** (= not necessary)

~~You don't have to drink seawater.~~ (= optional) --> **You mustn't drink seawater.** (= dangerous!)

~~I must to find water.~~ --> **I must find water.** (no "to" after must)

## 5 Match the Halves

#	Beginning	Ending
1	You must find clean water	or you won't survive more than three days.
2	You should build a shelter	to protect yourself from rain and sun.
3	You mustn't eat unknown berries	because they could be poisonous.
4	You don't have to catch fish	if you have other food available.
5	You have to stay near the coast	so rescue teams can see you.
6	You need to make a fire	to cook food and keep warm at night.
7	You should signal for help	whenever you see a plane or ship.
8	You mustn't panic	because panic leads to bad decisions.
9	You don't have to be an expert	to survive -- common sense helps a lot.
10	You must keep your body hydrated	especially in hot weather.

## 6 Comprehension Quiz

- 1. How long did the three teenagers drift?**  
Answer: 49 days
- 2. What is the FIRST survival priority?**  
Answer: Clean water
- 3. How did the boys collect water?**  
Answer: Collected rainwater using their shirts
- 4. Santos says the 'real enemy' is...**  
Answer: Panic
- 5. "You mustn't drink seawater" means...**  
Answer: It's dangerous -- don't do it!

**6. "You don't have to build a perfect shelter" means...**

Answer: It's not necessary -- a simple one is fine

**7. Which uses "should" correctly?**

Answer: You should always carry a first aid kit.

**8. Which is WRONG?**

Answer: You must to make a fire.

**7 Fill in the Blanks**

Word Bank: must | have to | should | need to | mustn't | don't have to

1. You \_\_\_\_\_ drink water every day or you will die.
2. You \_\_\_\_\_ learn some basic first aid -- it could save your life.
3. You \_\_\_\_\_ eat wild mushrooms -- they could be poisonous.
4. In the UK, you \_\_\_\_\_ drive on the left side of the road.
5. You \_\_\_\_\_ be a professional to go hiking -- anyone can do it.
6. We \_\_\_\_\_ find shelter before it gets dark.
7. You \_\_\_\_\_ swim alone in the ocean -- it's too dangerous.
8. You \_\_\_\_\_ always tell someone where you're going before a hike.

Answers: 1. must | 2. should | 3. mustn't | 4. have to | 5. don't have to | 6. need to | 7. mustn't | 8. should

**8 Speaking & Writing****Discussion Questions**

You are stranded on an island with your class. Who should be the leader?

You can only bring 5 items: knife, rope, matches, mirror, blanket, water bottle, fishing line, first aid kit, torch, plastic sheet. Which 5?

What is harder: surviving alone or with a group? Why?

Should survival skills be taught in schools?

What's the bravest thing you've ever done?

### Example Dialogue

A: OK, we need to prioritise. What should we do first?

B: We must find water. We can't survive without it.

A: Agreed. And we should build a shelter too -- it might rain tonight.

B: We don't have to make it perfect. We just need something to keep us dry.

A: What about food? We need to find something to eat.

B: We should look for coconuts or fish. But we mustn't eat berries we don't recognise.

### Writing Task

Write 80-120 words about ONE of these topics. Use at least 4 different modals (must, have to, should, need to, mustn't, don't have to):

Option A: Write a survival guide for someone stranded on a desert island.

Option B: You survived 7 days on a desert island. Write a diary entry about what you had to do and what you learned.

## 9 Island Survival -- The Game

This interactive game is available in the online version. Face 10 desert island survival scenarios and make the best decision in each one. Score 7/10 or higher to survive!

#	Scenario	Best Decision
1	Just washed ashore. Thirsty, hungry, scared.	Find a source of clean water first
2	Found a stream but unsure if safe.	Boil it first if you can make a fire
3	Night is coming. Need shelter.	Find a cave or build from branches
4	See colourful berries. Starving.	Don't eat them -- could be poisonous
5	Hear a plane overhead.	Make a large fire to create smoke
6	Biggest danger is dehydration.	Avoid drinking seawater
7	Found a sharp rock.	Use it to cut branches for tools

#	Scenario	Best Decision
8	Storm is coming.	Move to higher ground, strengthen shelter
9	Rescued! Friend wants a selfie first.	Get on the boat -- safety first
10	Journalist asks for the lesson learned.	Stay calm, prioritise water, never give up

**10**

## Review Checklist

- [ok] I can understand a text about survival situations and strategies
- [ok] I can use vocabulary related to survival, nature and emergencies
- [ok] I can use must, have to, should, need to correctly
- [ok] I know the difference between mustn't and don't have to
- [ok] I can discuss priorities and give advice using modals
- [ok] I can write a survival plan using modals of obligation and advice

## Congratulations!

You have completed this lesson: Survival Challenge