

He saved his own life – and got a bill for £35.000

1. The telegram brought distressing news for John Miles. His favourite nephew was dangerously ill. Telling his wife Velma that he must visit the boy, despite the poor weather conditions, he set off from his home in Sheridan, Wyoming, on the long journey to Seattle, Washington.
2. Half way along the 1000-mile route, after an overnight stop, he headed for the Montana border. But, because the road was unfamiliar, he was confused by a detour sign and unknowingly took the wrong turning.
3. After several hours driving with snow still falling and in the gathering darkness, John was bogged down in a huge snowdrift. It was impossible to go any further.
4. He decided to take shelter in some vacant holiday log cabins he had spotted in his headlights a few yards back. Finding one of the cabins unlocked, he gathered some wood, lit a fire and spent the night curled up in a blanket on the floor.
5. But the next morning he was in trouble. A diabetic who had been retired from the American navy, 56-year-old John, needed an insulin shot. But that shot could not be taken unless he had maintained a minimum food level... and the only food in the cabin was two potatoes, two carrots, half a pound of margarine and a few spoonfuls of maple syrup.
6. Without food he could not take the insulin and if he went without insulin too long he would die. To make matters worse, John had no idea of where he was. He had shouted. But nobody answered.
7. In fact, he was deep in the remote Coeur D'Alene Forest. With the car still bogged down, how far could he walk in the deep snow before his strength gave out? In any case, which way would he walk to find shelter? He stayed in the cabin.
8. Two days dragged by without any sign of help. His wife, worried because John had not arrived at his nephew's home, had raised the alarm. But the hunt was concentrated on the route John hadn't taken. Nobody could guess that he had wandered 200 miles off course.
9. On the fourth day John decided to put his last ditch plan into operation. With a can of paraffin he had found in the cabin he doused the walls of one of the other cabins and set fire to it with his lighter.
10. As the flames died down he returned to the cabin and waited. He was still waiting next morning. It seemed that nobody had seen the flames. That evening he set fire to another cabin, knowing it was his only chance. For he was now feeling so ill and weak that he knew that once he lay down he would never be able to get up again.
11. Early next morning, as John lay almost unconscious on the cabin floor, he heard the sound of approaching snow ploughs. This time the flames had been spotted and forest rangers sent out to investigate.
12. John, recovering in hospital, has now had some bad news. The American Forest Service want him to pay for the two cabins that he burned down to save his life... he has received a bill for £ 35.000.

David Markham, The Sunday Express, 8th March 1981

COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS)

{BASE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT}

A- Find these words or phrases in the text and circle the correct meaning. (4 pts)

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|--|----------------------------|
| 1. <i>distressing news</i> (para 1) | a- news which pleased him |
| | b- news which saddened him |
| 2. he <i>headed for</i> the border (para 2) | a- went towards |
| | b- went away to |
| 3. John was <i>bogged down</i> (para 3) | a- stuck |
| | b- hidden |
| 4. An insulin <i>shot</i> (para 5) | a- bullet |
| | b- injection |

B- Say which of the following statements are true and which are false. Justify. (4 pts)

1. John received a phone call from his nephew.
2. The snow prevented John from continuing his journey.
3. John could only take insulin after eating.
4. John set the cabin on fire to get warm.

C- Answer the following questions. (4 pts)

1. Why did John take the wrong turning?
.....
2. How did people know that something had happened to John?
.....
3. How did John manage to attract people's attention?
.....
4. Why must John pay £ 35.000 to the American Forest Service?
.....

D- Find in the text words or expressions that mean the same as: (3 pts)

1. noticed (para 4)
2. passed slowly (para 8)
3. the search (para 8)

A- Put the verbs in brackets in the correct form. Use *the Present Simple or the Present Continuous*; (3pts)

1.you(like) this necklace? I(give) it to my daughter for her birthday tomorrow.
2. I can't answer the phone now because I(paper) the sitting room walls.
3. I won't go out now as it(rain) and I(not have) an umbrella.
4. I think it's a pity you don't take more exercise. You(get) fat.

B- Put the verbs in brackets in the correct form. Use *the Present Perfect Simple or the Present Perfect Continuous*. (3pts)

1. He lost his job and since then he(be) out of work..
2. We(argue) about this for two hours now. Perhaps we should stop.
3. I(polish) this table all morning and Mrs Pitt isn't satisfied with it yet.

C- Complete the sentences with the correct form of the phrasal verbs from the box. (3 pts)

call in – work out – get away – pull down – sort out

1. They have repeatedly broken the law andwith it.
2. If youyour finances well, it can make everything seem a lot easier.
3. When asked what a £ 40.35 meal for five people would cost each diner, they were unable to it

D- Read the paragraph. For questions 1-6, choose the appropriate word from the box. (3pts)

essential - brand - turning off - conventional - mortgage - redecorated

A New House

A friend of mine who moved to a new neighbourhood six months ago invited me to see her house last week. She got a (1)from the bank to buy it. The house looks (2) from the outside but it is very unusual from inside. All the furniture and electrical items are (3) new and the rooms have been (4) in a very modern style. A computer is responsible for (5)electrical items and the water heater when they are not in use. According to my friend, it is (6)to use modern technology in a house in order to save money. It's a wonderful house and I'm going to ask her to help me improve mine.

E- Use the words in capitals at the end of each sentence to make words which fit in the spaces. (3 pts)

1. A factory is not suitable for a district. (*RESIDENT*)
2. New York is considered a city due to its rich culture of art, music and theatre. (*SOPHISTICATE*)
3. Many of the figures are supposed to be portraits. (*TRADITIONAL*)

