

# Summarising = 1

Summarising is giving the main ideas and facts without using many words. We need to link the important ideas and decide which are the main points.

Read the report.

## Trapped miners free after 14 days!



1. On 25 April 2006, a minor earthquake triggered a rockfall at the Beaconsfield Gold Mine in Tasmania, Australia. Seventeen men were working in the mine that day and 14 walked out alive. Serious concerns were held for three missing miners—Larry Knight, Todd Russell and Brant Webb.
2. At the time of the collapse, Todd and Brant were working a kilometre underground in the metal cage of a machine known as a teleloader. Thousands of small rocks fell, trapping the men inside the cage. Todd's legs were covered in rocks and Brant was knocked unconscious for a short time. When he woke, the pair systematically moved the individual rocks off them. Thankfully, groundwater was dripping from some of the overhead rocks, so the men used their helmets to collect it.
3. For two days rescuers used remote-controlled earth movers to search for the three missing men, and on 27 April, the body of Larry Knight was found. Many believed it would be a miracle if Todd and Brant were found alive.
4. The rescuers decided the original tunnel was unsafe so they blasted a new tunnel. Six large explosives were detonated, dislodging rocks surrounding the cage the two miners were in. They tried to clear the rocks as new ones fell in their place. After some time, Todd and Brant believed the explosions being detonated to rescue them would actually kill them, so they wrote goodbye letters to their families on their clothing.
5. On 30 April, five days after the rockfall at the Beaconsfield Gold Mine, Todd Russell and Brant Webb were miraculously found to be alive! The families of the two men rejoiced and the residents of Beaconsfield celebrated in the streets. Special thermal imaging cameras which detect heat were used to find the men in the rubble. A hole was drilled into the cage and fresh food and water, batteries for their headlamps, dry clothes and blankets, newspapers, and letters from the miner's families were passed through. The men asked for

iPods®, the local football results and, humorously, a newspaper to 'look for another job'.

Although Todd and Brant could be seen and spoken to, it was believed that trying to rescue them through the new tunnel would cause another rockfall. The rescuers stopped using explosives and worked around the clock, carefully drilling, knowing the slightest mistake could cause a catastrophe. It was a slow process as they could only drill at a rate of about 40 cm per hour. Hundreds of people and journalists with their news teams waited in anticipation at the mine site, hoping to catch a glimpse of the freed miners. They waited another nine days!

On 9 May, rescuers who had been painstakingly drilling upwards with hand tools, retrieved Brant Webb and Todd Russell from the cage and escorted them to the surface. Friends, family, the media and all of Australia watched as the two men (incredibly) walked out of the mine with fists punching the air in triumph. That same day, Todd Russell attended the funeral of his colleague, Larry Knight.

After they were free, the men were offered million-dollar deals to tell their story, which they did on news shows in Australia and America. A worldwide book deal was agreed and a documentary and a film of the men's survival story may follow.



Learn how you can work out the main points and summarise text.

- Make sure you understand the question and underline keywords.
- Look for information in the text, decide what is important and how it is connected.
- Omit any unnecessary or unconnected information.
- Always check all the possible answers before making a decision.

1. Which sentence could you leave out of a summary about the rescue of the two miners?

- (a) The Beaconsfield Mine is in Tasmania, Australia.
- (b) The rock fall occurred on 25 April 2006.
- (c) Todd and Brant spent 14 nights underground before they were freed.
- (d) The residents of Beaconsfield celebrated in the streets.

### Choosing the best answer

- (a) Where the rescue took place is an important fact which needs to be in the summary. This is not a good answer.
- (b) The date of the rockfall is an important fact and should be in the summary. Not the best answer.
- (c) Readers will want to know how long the men were trapped in the mine, so this must be in the summary. Not a good answer.
- (d) This sentence is interesting but not essential for the summary. This is probably the best answer.

2. How could the men's condition after they were discovered alive by the rescuers on 30 April be best summarised?

- (a) The men were thirsty and hungry.
- (b) The men were unconscious.
- (c) The men were in good spirits.
- (d) The men were very cross with the mining company.

### Choosing the best answer

- (a) The text mentions that the men could drink water dripping from the roof, so they weren't thirsty, although they would have been hungry. This is not the best answer.
- (b) Brant had been unconscious for a short time, but not when they were discovered alive. This is not a good answer.
- (c) As the men requested newspapers to 'look for another job' in a joking manner, they were most likely in good spirits. This is probably the best answer, but you need to check all answers.
- (d) Perhaps the men were cross with the mining company, but this is not mentioned in the text, so this is not the best answer.

# Summarising

## Practice page



Use similar strategies to those on page 59 to practise summarising.  
(Clues are given to help you.)

1. Which sentence best summarises why the men were able to survive underground for the first five days?

- (a) They had each other for company.
- (b) They only had minor injuries.
- (c) They could see with their headlamps.
- (d) They could move the rocks.

The best answer is

2. Which sentence best summarises why the rescuers stopped using explosives and started drilling to free the miners?

- (a) Explosives were too expensive.
- (b) The explosives were too noisy.
- (c) Drilling was safer.
- (d) Drilling was more accurate.

The best answer is

3. Use short phrases to make a summary of what happened between 27 April and 30 April.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

4. (a) Write a sentence that summarises the efforts of the men who rescued the trapped miners.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(b) Write a sentence that summarises your opinion of the rescuers.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Think!

Read paragraph 2 to help you choose an answer.

### Think!

Look carefully at the information in paragraph 6 to help you decide on an answer.

### Hint!

You will find the main points for your summary in paragraphs 3 and 4.

### Hint!

Think about what the rescuers had to do to get to the trapped miners.



## On your own

Think about the strategies you have been using and work out these answers.

1. Which sentence could you leave out of a summary explaining how the men were rescued?

- (a) The rescuers used large explosives to create a new tunnel.
- (b) Cameras that detect heat found the two men in the rubble.
- (c) Rescuers drilled at a rate of 40 centimetres an hour.
- (d) Hundreds of journalists waited to film the men once they reached the surface.

The best answer is .

2. Which sentence best summarises why Todd and Brant wrote goodbye letters to their families on their clothes?

- (a) They missed their family.
- (b) They had no paper to write on.
- (c) They believed they may never see their family again.
- (d) They wanted to tell their family about the accident.

The best answer is .

3. Which two words do you think best summarises the people who rescued Brant and Todd from the mine?

- (a) Friendly and determined.
- (b) Determined and brave.
- (c) Cautious and stubborn.
- (d) Stubborn and friendly.

The best answer is .

4. Summarise the events that took place on each of these dates.

- 25 April \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 27 April \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 30 April \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 9 May \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- After 9 May \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_