

READING

New Words

area	earthquake	rescue team	survivor
collapse	huge	ruins	trap (v)
disaster	lose hope	situation	
discover	miracle	survive	

Glossary, page 202

A The news reports on pages 40-41 are about survivors. Read **at least one** report and answer the questions that follow.

1

DAILY NEWS

13/3/2006

TORNADO CARRIES TEEN 400 METERS!

High school student blown 400 meters by a tornado
... and still alive!

Matt Suter, from Missouri, U.S.A., had always thought tornadoes were fascinating¹. But Matt never thought he would experience such an amazing situation. A tornado picked him up and carried him 400 meters from his home! Matt was lucky – he survived.

On March 12, Matt was in his grandmother's trailer when a huge tornado hit. Matt heard a big noise and the trailer started moving. Later, Matt told reporters, "I looked at my grandma in the kitchen, and the walls were moving, the roof was moving, the floor was moving just like Jell-O²." He could feel the whole trailer turning over.

The wind was blowing at 250 kph and it carried Matt into the night. Matt flew over a fence and found himself lying in an open field. His head was hurt but he was OK.

10 Matt didn't understand what had happened. He stood up and looked back to where the trailer had been. He couldn't find it. Then he looked around the area and discovered that the whole trailer had collapsed. Everything was in ruins. Matt's grandmother and uncle were trapped under the ruins of the trailer, but a rescue team came and got them out. They both survived.

This is the farthest that anyone has been carried by a 15 tornado and survived. People who heard Matt's story said that it's a miracle the boy is alive.

"I've always told my girlfriend I wanted to see a tornado," Matt said. "But I sure didn't want to be in one."

¹fascinating מראות / فاتحة

²Jell-O ג'ילו



Let's Get the Facts

- What happened to the trailer when the tornado hit?
- What happened to Matt?
- What did Matt discover?
- What happened to Matt's grandmother and uncle?
- Why is Matt's story a miracle?

2

The Times

22/8/1999

AMAZING RESCUE

ISRAELI GIRL RESCUED AFTER FOUR DAYS UNDER BUILDING

Shiran Franco from Israel was rescued after spending four days under the ruins of a building.

The Franco family was staying in Cinarcik, a small town in Turkey, when a huge earthquake hit the area. It was a terrible disaster – most of the buildings in the town collapsed. Shiran's father, brother and grandparents were killed. Shiran's mother, Iris, got out from under the ruins of the building right after the earthquake hit.

Shiran was trapped under the ruins. She survived for 98 hours without eating, drinking or moving. People trapped in such situations can usually survive only 72 hours because of dehydration¹.

While members of an Israeli rescue team were looking for survivors from the earthquake, they heard someone calling "Help me" in Hebrew. That was when the miracle began.

The team tried to find where the sounds were coming from. They found the place, and they began digging. Israeli Major Eran Magen started to drill² a hole so that he could get to Shiran. Suddenly he saw a hand. He shouted down and heard Shiran answer him.

When Shiran was pulled out, the first thing she asked her rescuers was, "Do you have a cola with ... ?" But she couldn't finish the end of the sentence.

¹dehydration התיבשות / جفاف

²drill לקדח / ينقب

"With lemon?" one of the rescuers asked.

"No," she answered weakly. "With a can and a straw or maybe a bottle."

As Shiran's mother, Iris, stood by her daughter, Shiran whispered, "What took them so long?"

"Everyone was trying their hardest," said 40 her mother.

Later, Iris told the reporters, "I had already lost hope. I thought to myself – no one, but no one, will ever come out of these ruins."



Let's Get the Facts

- What happened to Shiran's family?
- How long was Shiran trapped under the ruins?
- How long do people usually survive in these situations?
- How did the rescue team discover that Shiran was alive?
- What did Shiran want when she was rescued?
- Did Shiran's mother believe that anyone would be saved? How do you know?