



LUCKY TO BE ALIVE!

How a short hike in the jungle nearly cost an Australian man his life.

Hayden Adcock was a healthy 40-year-old man and an experienced hiker and traveller. At the end of July, he was in Laos, near Thailand, and he decided to take a short hike to a well-known waterfall. He was wearing a T-shirt, shorts, and walking shoes and carrying only a bottle of water when he started his walk through the national park. As he was visiting a second waterfall, heavy rainfall washed away all the paths. The jungle began to look the same everywhere and Adcock finally realised he was lost.

Adcock was looking for a way out through some trees when suddenly, big lizards appeared and ran towards

him. Shocked and afraid, Adcock ran through the forest. As he was running, he cut himself and then fell into a river. Hurt and confused, he decided to stay near the waterfall so that helicopters could easily spot him. Night after night insects and animals scratched and bit him. Their poison slowly made its way into his blood. He spent the last three days on his back not able to move his hands or feet.

On 10th August, and after 11 days, a search party found Adcock and took him to a hospital in Bangkok, Thailand. Adcock told reporters that the one thing that kept him alive was the thought of seeing his family and friends again. It will take him some time to recover, but he feels lucky to be alive.

Reading

a) Read the introduction, look at the pictures and listen to the sounds. What do you think happened to Hayden Adcock?

b) Listen, read and check if your guesses were correct.

2 Read the text and choose the correct answer A, B or C. Compare with your partner.

- 1 Adcock wanted to
 - A travel through Laos.
 - B see a popular sight.
 - C explore the jungle.
- 2 He wore the right clothes for
 - A an overnight stay in the woods.
 - B difficult weather conditions.
 - C a short walk in the woods.
- 3 When he saw the lizards, he
 - A ran towards them.
 - B fell into a river.
 - C ran away.
- 4 He managed to stay alive by
 - A eating insects.
 - B moving his hands and feet.
 - C thinking of his loved ones.

Check these words

- keep alive
- search party
- experienced
- wash away
- confused
- poison
- blood
- recover
- path
- lizard
- spot