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Level 5 – 17th February 2025

Man briefly "swallowed" by humpback whale

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2502/250217-humpback-whale-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2502/250217-humpback-whale-5.html>

A kayaker had a lucky escape this week after ending up in the jaws of a whale. Adrian Simancas, 23, was paddling through the icy waters near Chile, when a huge humpback whale emerged from the deep. It engulfed Mr Simancas in its mouth. Luckily, the esophagus of a humpback can only stretch to a diameter of 40 cm. No sooner had the humpback gulped up Simancas than it spat him back out into the ocean. Simancas' father captured the horrifying incident on video. He said: "Suddenly, I saw Adrian emerge from the waves, along with what looked like a gigantic animal."

Mr Simancas recounted his ordeal to journalists back on dry land. He said: "Something hit me from behind. All this happened in a second. Something dark...enveloped me, and a slimy texture brushed my face." He continued: "I started to sink... I was surrounded by water. I realized that I was in something's mouth, and I had been eaten." The Guardian newspaper reported: "For a few fleeting moments, Adrian's fate was in the jaws of the 40-ton [mammal]." Adrian said his close encounter with the whale would not stop him from future rafting trips.

Sources: <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/14/world/americas/whale-swallowed-man-chile.html>
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/feb/14/whale-chile-survivor-adrian-simancas>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2025/02/13/americas/chile-humpback-whale-kayaker-intl-latam/index.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2502/250217-humpback-whale-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. A kayaker had a lucky | a. the icy waters |
| 2. ending up in the | b. diameter of 40 cm |
| 3. paddling through | c. escape |
| 4. a huge humpback whale | d. in its mouth |
| 5. It engulfed Mr Simancas | e. of a humpback |
| 6. the esophagus | f. jaws of a whale |
| 7. stretch to a | g. incident on video |
| 8. captured the horrifying | h. emerged |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. I saw Adrian emerge | a. encounter |
| 2. what looked like a | b. was in the jaws |
| 3. Simancas recounted his ordeal | c. rafting trips |
| 4. back on | d. texture |
| 5. a slimy | e. gigantic animal |
| 6. Adrian's fate | f. from the waves |
| 7. his close | g. dry land |
| 8. future | h. to journalists |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2502/250217-humpback-whale-5.html>

A kayaker had a (1) _____ week after ending up in the jaws of a whale. Adrian Simancas, 23, was paddling through the (2) _____ Chile, when a huge humpback whale emerged from the deep. It engulfed Mr Simancas in its mouth. Luckily, (3) _____ a humpback can only stretch (4) _____ of 40 cm. No sooner had the humpback gulped up Simancas than it spat him back out into the ocean. Simancas' father (5) _____ incident on video. He said: "Suddenly, I saw Adrian emerge from the waves, along with what looked like (6) _____."

Mr Simancas (7) _____ to journalists back on dry land. He said: "Something hit me from behind. All this happened in a second. Something (8) _____, and a slimy (9) _____ face." He continued: "I started to sink... I was surrounded by water. I (10) _____ was in something's mouth, and I had been eaten." The Guardian newspaper reported: "For a (11) _____, Adrian's fate was in the jaws of the 40-ton [mammal]." Adrian said his close encounter with the whale would not stop him from (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2502/250217-humpback-whale-5.html>

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WHALES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2502/250217-humpback-whale-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about whales in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2502/250217-humpback-whale-5.html>

Write about **whales** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.
