



Learn English Through Stories

C Series

C43

**Adopted and modified by
Kulwant Singh Sandhu**

<https://learn-by-reading.co.uk>

Content

- 1. Tsunami**
- 2. Summary**
- 3. Questions and Answers**
- 4. Picture Dictionary Page**

1. The Tsunami

A tsunami is a very large and powerful wave caused by earthquakes under the sea. On 26 December 2004, a tsunami hit Thailand and parts of India such as the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and the Tamil Nadu coast. Here are some stories of courage and survival.

Did animals sense that a tsunami was coming? Some stories suggest that they did.

These stories are all from the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago. Ignacious was the manager of a cooperative society in Katchall. His wife woke him up at 6 a.m. because she felt an earthquake. Ignacious carefully took his television set off its table and put it down on the ground so that it would not fall and break. Then the family rushed out of the house.

When the tremors stopped, they saw the sea rising. In the chaos and confusion, two of his children caught hold of the hands of their mother's father and mother's brother, and rushed in the opposite direction. He never saw them again. His wife was also swept away. Only the three other children who came with him were saved.

Sanjeev was a policeman, serving in the Katchall island of the Nicobar group of islands. He somehow managed to save himself, his wife and his baby daughter from the waves. But then he heard cries for help from the wife of John, the guesthouse cook. Sanjeev jumped into the water to rescue her, but they were both swept away.

Thirteen year-old Meghna was swept away along with her parents and seventy-seven other people. She spent two days floating in the sea, holding on to a wooden door. Eleven times she saw relief helicopters overhead, but they did not see her. She was brought to the shore by a wave, and was found walking on the seashore in a daze.

Almas Javed was ten years old. She was a student of Carmel Convent in Port Blair where her father had a petrol pump. Her mother Rahila's home was in Nancowry island. The family had gone there to celebrate Christmas.

When the tremors came early in the morning, the family was sleeping. Almas's father saw the sea water recede. He understood that the water would come rushing back with great force. He woke everyone up and tried to rush them to a safer place.

As they ran, her grandfather was hit on the head by something and he fell down. Her father rushed to help him. Then came the first giant wave that swept both of them away.

Almas's mother and aunts stood clinging to the leaves of a coconut tree, calling out to her. A wave uprooted the tree, and they too were washed away.

Almas saw a log of wood floating. She climbed on to it. Then she fainted. When she woke up, she was in a hospital in Kamorta. From there she was brought to Port Blair.

The little girl does not want to talk about the incident with anyone. She is still traumatised.

Now here is a story from Thailand.

The Smith family from South-East England were celebrating Christmas at a beach resort in southern Thailand. Tilly Smith was a ten-year-old schoolgirl; her sister was seven years old. Their parents were Penny and Colin Smith.

It was 26 December 2004. Deadly tsunami waves were already on their way. They had been triggered by a massive earthquake off northern Sumatra earlier that morning.

"The water was swelling and kept coming in," Penny Smith remembered. "The beach was getting smaller and smaller. I didn't know what was happening."

But Tilly Smith sensed that something was wrong. Her mind kept going back to a geography lesson she had taken in England just two weeks before she flew out to Thailand with her family.

Tilly saw the sea slowly rise, and start to foam, bubble and form whirlpools. She remembered that she had seen this in class in a video of a tsunami that had hit the Hawaiian islands in 1946. Her geography teacher had shown her class the video, and told them that tsunamis can be caused by earthquakes, volcanoes and landslides.

Tilly started to scream at her family to get off the beach. "She talked about an earthquake under the sea. She got more and more hysterical," said her mother Penny. "I didn't know what a tsunami was. But seeing my daughter so frightened, I thought something serious must be going on."

Tilly's parents took her and her sister away from the beach, to the swimming pool at the hotel. A number of other tourists also left the beach with them. "Then it was as if the entire sea had come out after them. I was screaming, 'Run!'"

The family took refuge in the third floor of the hotel. The building withstood the surge of three tsunami waves. If they had stayed on the beach, they would not have been alive.

The Smiths later met other tourists who had lost entire families. Thanks to Tilly and her geography lesson, they had been forewarned. Tilly went back to her school in England and told her classmates her terrifying tale.

Before the giant waves slammed into the coast in India and Sri Lanka, wild and domestic animals seemed to know what was about to happen. They fled to safety. According to eyewitness accounts, elephants screamed and ran for higher ground; dogs refused to go outdoors; flamingoes abandoned their low-lying breeding areas; and zoo animals rushed into their shelters and could not be enticed to come back out.

Many people believe that animals possess a sixth sense and know when the earth is going to shake. Some experts believe that animals' more acute hearing helps them to hear or feel the earth's vibration. They can sense an approaching disaster long before humans realise what's going on.

We cannot be sure whether animals have a sixth sense or not. But the fact is that the giant waves that rolled through the Indian Ocean killed more than 150,000 people in a dozen countries; but not many animals have been reported dead.

Along India's Cuddalore coast, where thousands of people perished, buffaloes, goats and dogs were found unharmed. The Yala National Park in Sri Lanka is home to a variety of animals including elephants, leopards, and 130 species of birds. Sixty visitors were washed away from the Patanangala beach inside the park; but no animal carcasses were found, except for two water buffaloes. About an hour before the tsunami hit, people at Yala National Park had observed three elephants running away from the Patanangala beach.

A Sri Lankan gentleman who lives on the coast near Galle said his two dogs would not go for their daily run on the beach. "They are usually excited to go on this outing," he said. But on that day they refused to go, and most probably saved his life.

2. Summary

This chapter deals with a natural disaster, the Tsunami, which occurred on 26th December 2004 hitting Thailand, India Islands, and Tamil Nadu Coast. There are some stories of courage and survival.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands of India

Ignesious was the manager of the cooperative society in Katchall. His wife woke him at 6 a.m. saying that she could feel the tremors of earthquake. He put the television on the floor and ran outside. There he could see huge waves rising. Two of his children caught their grandfather's and uncle's hands and rushed in the opposite direction but were never found again. His wife was also swept away. Only he and three other of his children were saved.

Sanjeev, a policeman in Katchall, managed to save himself, but in an attempt to save the wife of John, he was swept away. Thirteen-year-old Meghna was also swept away with seventy-seven other people. She floated for two days but she survived.

Little girl Alma's family was also swept away, she was the only survivor. She lives in Port Blair. She does not like to talk about this incident. She is still traumatized.

Thailand

The Smith family from Southeast England was celebrating Christmas at a beach resort in Southern Thailand. Tilly Smith was a ten-year-old girl, she had one seven-year-old sister and parents. She saw the huge waves coming and the beach seemed to be getting smaller and smaller. She could not understand what was happening. She remembered her geography lessons. She had read about Tsunami. She took her parents and others and took shelter on the third floor of the hotel. They all were saved. Later she thanked her geography teacher and narrated the incident to her friends.

It is believed that animals have a sixth sense and they can sense the calamity. That is why most of the animals at the time of Tsunami had fled to safer places. Some experts believe that animals' power of hearing helps to feel the earth's vibration. That is why when thousands of men perished, very few animals were harmed and even many saved the lives of humans.

3. Questions and Answers

Read the sentence given below. Rewrite the incorrect ones after correcting the mistakes.

Question 1: Katchall is an island.

Answer: The given statement is correct.

Question 2: It is a part of the Andaman group of islands.

Answer: The given statement is incorrect.

It is a part of the Nicobar group of islands.

Question 3: Nancowry is an island in the Nicobar group.

Answer: The given statement is correct.

Question 4: Katchall and Nancowry are more than a hundred miles apart.

Answer: Katchall and Nancowry are less than a hundred miles apart. The actual distance between these is 21.1 km or 13.1 miles.

Question 5: The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are to the West of India.

Answer: The given statement is incorrect.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are to the southeast of the Indian mainland.

Question 6: The Nicobar Islands are to the north of the Andaman Islands.

Answer: The given statement is incorrect.

The Nicobar Islands are to the south of the Andaman Islands

Question 7: Say whether the following are true or false.

a. Ignacious lost his wife, two children, his father-in-law, and his brother-in-law in the tsunami.

b. Sanjeev made it to safety after the tsunami.

c. Meghna was saved by a relief helicopter.

d. Almas's father realised that a tsunami was going to hit the island.

e. Her mother and aunts were washed away with the tree that they were holding on to.

Answer: a. True; b. False; c. False; d. True; e. True

Question 8: Why did Tilly's family come to Thailand?

Answer: Tilly Smith came with her family from South-East England to celebrate Christmas at a beach resort in southern Thailand.

Question 9: What were the warning signs that both Tilly and her mother saw?

Answer: Tilly and her family had already experienced a massive earthquake off northern Sumatra earlier the morning of 26 December 2004. Her mother saw that the water was swelling and coming closer and the beach was getting smaller and smaller. Meanwhile, Tilly also noticed that the sea slowly started to rise, foam and bubble and form whirlpools in it.

Question 10: Do you think Tilly's mother was alarmed by them?

Answer: Tilly's mother initially didn't understand what was happening but when she saw her frightened daughter hysterically screaming that it was a tsunami, she understood the seriousness of the condition.

Question 11: Where had Tilly seen the sea behaving in the same strange fashion?

Answer: Tilly saw the sea behaving in the same strange fashion during her geography lesson when her geography teacher had shown her class the video and told them that tsunamis can be caused by earthquakes, volcanoes and landslides.

Question 12: Where did the Smith family and the others on the beach go to escape from the tsunami?

Answer: The Smith family and the others on the beach ran back and took refuge in the third floor of the hotel to escape from the tsunami. The building withstood the surge of three tsunami waves.

Question 13: How do you think her geography teacher felt when she heard about what Tilly had done in Phuket?

Answer: Tilly's geography teacher must have felt very proud of her when she heard about what Tilly had done in Phuket. She was happy that because of her lesson and video, the young girl was able to save her family and lives of many others by warning them of the tsunami waves.

Question 14: In the tsunami 150,000 people died. How many animals died?

Answer: Although the giant waves that rolled through the Indian Ocean killed more than 150,000 people in a dozen countries; but not many animals have been reported dead. The exact count of dead animals is not known compared to human casualties.

Question 15: How many people and animals died in Yala National Park?

Answer: Sixty visitors were swept off the Patanangala beach inside the Yala National Park, no animal carcasses were found, except for two water buffaloes.

Question 16: What do people say about the elephants of Yala National Park?

Answer: The people present at the Yala National Park observed three elephants running away from the Patanangala beach about an hour before the tsunami hit that place.

Question 17: What did the dogs in Galle do?

Answer: The dogs in Galle refused to go for their daily run on the beach on the day the tsunami hit the coast.

Question 18: When he felt the earthquake, do you think Ignesium immediately worried about a tsunami? Give reasons for your answer. Which sentence in the text tells you that the Ignesium family did not have any time to discuss and plan their course of action after the tsunami struck?

Answer: No, Ignesium did not realise a tsunami had struck when he felt the earthquake initially. He got up and carefully took his television set off its table and put it down on the ground so that it would not fall and break. Then the family rushed out of the house.

Ignesium family did not have any time to discuss and plan their course of action after the tsunami struck due to chaos and confusion. When the tremors stopped, they saw the sea rising. In the chaos and confusion, two of his children caught hold of the hands of their mother's father and mother's brother, and rushed in the opposite direction.

Question 19: What are the two different ideas about why so few animals were killed in the tsunami? Which idea do you find more believable?

Answer: Not many animals were killed by the tsunami because most of them have a sixth sense working in them. As a matter of fact, animals know when

the earth is going to shake. Some experts also believe that animals have an acute sense of hearing that helps them to hear or feel the earth's vibration. They have the ability to sense an approaching disaster long before humans realise what's going on and they are able to move to safer places.

Animals have a better sense of hearing and gut feeling and this is scientifically proven that they can sense disturbances and hear low frequency sounds which is not within the capacity of humans. Although this is an incredible fact, yet it's true!

4. Picture Dictionary Page

fall

falls falling fell fallen verb
to drop from a higher place to a lower place.



She was thrown from the horse and fell into the water.
fall noun

fall

falls noun
another name for autumn.

false

false adjective
not real or true.
He wore a false beard.



familiar

familiar adjective
well-known to you.
I saw a familiar face in the crowd.
■ opposite **unfamiliar**

family

families noun
1 a group of people who are closely related to each other.
I come from a large family of five brothers and sisters.
2 a group of animals or plants that are related to each other.



These butterflies belong to the same family.

famine

famines noun
a time when there is not enough to eat, usually because of a drought or a war.

famous

famous adjective
well-known to many people.



A famous movie star.

fan

fans noun
1 a device that moves air around to make you feel cooler.



2 a person who is very interested and enthusiastic about something.



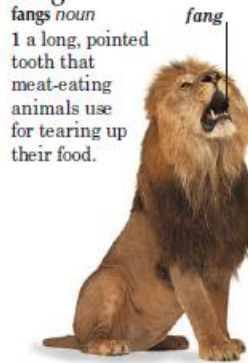
They played to their fans.

fanatic

fanatics noun
someone who believes in something so strongly that it controls their life.
A football fanatic.

fang

fangs noun
1 a long, pointed tooth that meat-eating animals use for tearing up their food.



2 a snake's long, sharp tooth that has poison in it.

fantastic

fantastic adjective
1 difficult to believe.
A fantastic tale about giants.
2 very pleasing or wonderful.
We had a fantastic vacation.

fantasy

fantasies noun
something that is imaginary and not real.

far

far adverb
1 to or from a long way away.
Have you come far?
2 how distant something is.



She walked along a path far from the city.

■ comparisons **farther farthest**
■ opposite **near**

fare

fares noun
the money that you must pay to travel on a bus, train, or airplane.
What is the fare to Glasgow?

farm

farms noun
a place where crops are grown or animals are reared for food.



sheep farm
farm verb

fascinate

fascinates fascinating fascinated verb
to interest someone so much that they think of nothing else.
Dinosaurs fascinate me.
■ say fas-uh-nate
fascination noun

fashion

fashions noun
a way of dressing that people like and want to copy at a particular time.

Long, straight dresses were the fashion in the 1920s.
fashionable adjective



fast

fast adjective
at great speed.
■ comparisons **faster fastest**
■ opposite **slow**
fast adverb

fast

fast adverb
firmly held.



Stuck fast in the mud.