

Name: _____ Class: _____ ()

Tuesday English News Report:

Broadcast Date: 28th Mar, 2017

Heroic Hong Kong fireman dies in clifftop rescue drama

Yau Siu-ming slipped and fell while helping to save trapped hikers, then died 15 minutes after colleagues battled for 10 hours to get him to hospital

Yau Siu-ming, 50, lost his footing and slipped during an all-night search and rescue operation (last Tuesday) when an off duty policeman and his girlfriend became trapped after getting into difficulty in a **treacherous** part of Ma On Shan Country Park. The principal fireman was carried down in a **coma** but it took 10 hours for rescuers to reach Prince of Wales Hospital in Sha Tin. Lau died of head injuries.

Assistant Director of Fire Services Yau Wai-keung said the hikers had **strayed off** their original path and entered woods and streams.

Thick fog prevented a helicopter from approaching. Firefighters had to walk 4km to reach the scene, then **hack** their way through the trail while tackling slopes at an angle of more than 60 degrees.

**with little success or benefit*

Resuscitation was performed on Yau, who was married and had a six-year-old son, as he was stretchered down, but to **no avail*. Yau, a fireman since 1987, had helped to put out the huge **blaze** that killed two colleagues in an industrial building in Ngau Tau Kok last year.

“I am profoundly **grieved** at the loss of this dedicated and **gallant** principal fireman,” said Director of Fire Services Li Kin-yat, sending **condolences** to the family of the “devoted comrade”.

Some 250 firefighters and 19 fire engines had been sent to the scene after rescue services had been alerted of the **plight** of the two lost hikers and after a five-hour search found the pair trapped on a slope about 10 metres below a hiking trail.

Yau fell and was knocked out at around 6am. A helicopter was eventually able to pick him up and he was taken to a fire station in Sha Tin, then to hospital.

Veteran hiker Chow Kwok-keung, chairman of the Hong Kong Hiking Association, said Tiu Shau Ngam was **notorious** for its steepness and slippery rocks.

The hikers were discharged from hospital on the Wednesday.

Questions to think about:

- What have you learnt from this article? /What do hikers need to be aware of? Why must we as citizens be careful of the way we use our rescue services?
- Think of jobs or volunteer positions in which you help serve the community. What characteristics would you need to be able to do such a job or role? Which of these jobs or volunteer positions would you choose to do if given a choice? Why?
- How do you think you would respond or react if were caught in a dangerous situation or a disaster?



I: Vocabulary and understanding meaning: Match the meaning and/or synonym (words with a similar or the same meaning) to the words which have been highlighted in bold in the article.

Column A: Word from text	Letter	Column B: Meaning or synonym
1. treacherous (adj)		A. walk or roam away from the usual/beaten path
2. coma (n)		B. very dangerous/hidden or unpredictable dangers
3. stray off (phrasal verb)		C. brave or heroic
4. hack (v)		D. famous or well-known for doing something bad or being dangerous
5. blaze (n)		E. a dangerous difficult or unfortunate situation
6. grieve(d) (v)		F. a prolonged state of deep unconsciousness, caused especially by severe injury or illness.
7. gallant (adj)		G. an expression of sympathy especially on the occasion of a death of a person's relative or close friend
8. condolence(s) (n)		H. to cut your way through something
9. plight (n)		I. a very large or fiercely burning fire
10. notorious (adj)		J. feel intense sorrow often after a death

II: Usage of vocabulary: Choose the most appropriate word from the table above to fill in the missing words of the sentences below making sure your answers are grammatically correct.

1. Due to bad weather, the hikers (a) _____ their route and got lost. They ended up on a (b) _____ part of the mountain and had to try and (c) _____ their way through dense forest and bush using only sticks and their bare hands. Their (d) _____, the bad situation they were in, was made worse by the pouring rain.
2. The (a) _____ firefighter, known for his courage, fell while trying to rescue people in a huge (b) _____ in a building which was set alight by a burst gas valve. The firefighter hit his head in the fall and as a result went into a deep (c) _____ from which he never woke up. His family, close friends and colleagues (d) _____ his loss. (e) _____ have been coming in from many different parts of the community.
3. The _____ criminal on the most wanted list was finally caught.

Easter challenge: Celebrate Easter early! Easter treats for you!

ENGLISH CORNER CAFÉ IS ALWAYS OPEN ON A TUESDAY FOR DRINKS, SNACKS, CONVERSATION & GAMES

