

Miracle Woman



1. Read the story

Look at the pictures on these pages.
What is the story about? Now read it.

BAM, IRAN ¹For **over** a week, Shahr-Banu Mazandarani, 97, lay all alone under rubble* after an **earthquake** destroyed her home and her beautiful old town. ²The nights were long and cold, and the days were full of **fear**. ³Death was all around, but this **brave** woman, almost a **century** old, did not **give up**.

⁴Eight days after the earthquake, **rescuers** did not **expect** to find anyone still alive under the rubble. ⁵Then search dogs discovered Shahr-Banu. Rescuers heard a small voice, and they dug for three hours to **reach** her. ⁶Imagine their

excitement when they pulled her out. The small woman was not only alive, she was unhurt! ⁷"Can I have some tea?" she asked soon **afterward**. ⁸People under earthquake rubble can usually live for only three days. But Shahr-Banu was lucky. When the earthquake hit, she was in bed, with many blankets **covering** her. "No one expected her to be alive," said an official. "It's a miracle**."

* rubble: broken stones from a damaged building

** miracle: a wonderful and surprising thing that you cannot explain

NEW WORDS

over prep
earthquake n
fear n

brave adj
century n
give up v

rescuer n
expect v
reach v

excitement n
afterward adv
cover v

>> See Glossary on page 93. >>

2. Rate the story

How much did you like it? Mark an X.



3. Check your comprehension

Put the sentences in the correct order. Number them 1–6.

- a. ___ She lay for a week under the rubble.
- b. ___ Rescuers began to dig to reach the woman.
- c. ___ They pulled her out.
- d. ___ Dogs discovered the woman.
- e. ___ Shahr-Banu went to bed under many blankets.
- f. ___ An earthquake destroyed her home.

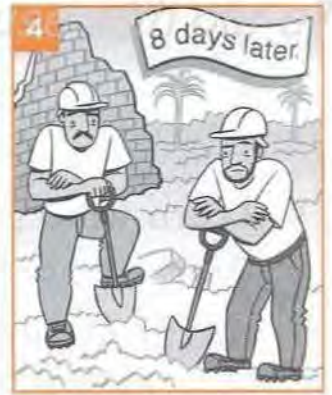
4. Check your vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the New Words.

- a. After an ear_____ hit her home, Shahr-Banu did not give ___.
- b. This b_____ woman was almost a cen_____ old.
- c. After search dogs discovered the woman, res_____s dug for three hours to re_____ her.
- d. The woman lived because blankets _____ed her as she lay in bed.

5. Listen to the story track 22

Now listen to the story two or three times. Look at the pictures below as you listen.



6. Retell the story

Cover the story and look at the pictures above. Retell the story using the New Words.

7. Answer the questions

About the story...

- How long was the old woman under the rubble?
- Why did she live so long?
- How can you explain the rescuers' excitement?
- What words do you think describe the woman?

About you...

- What do you know about earthquakes?
- Do you know anyone who is brave? Describe him or her.
- Do you think you are brave? Why or why not?
- Have you ever had a hard time but not given up? What happened?

8. Learn word partnerships

Study the partnerships below. Complete the sentences so they are true for you.

EXPECT		
expect	to do something	Rescuers did not expect to find anyone still alive. <i>I expect to finish school soon.</i> <i>I expect to visit Australia next month.</i> <i>My sister expects me to cook dinner.</i> <i>I expect you to clean up your mess.</i> <i>Our teacher expects students to be on time.</i>
	someone to do something	

- I expect _____ soon.
- _____ always expects me _____.
- I expect _____ to help me with _____.

9. Learn word groups

Complete the sentences so they are true for you. Use words from the pictures.

NATURAL DISASTERS



an earthquake



a tornado



a flood



a wildfire



an avalanche



a tidal wave

- I have seen _____.
- I have never seen _____.
- There was _____ in my country last year.

10. Take a dictation track 23

Use your own paper to write the dictation. Check your answers on page 87.

11. Complete the story

Use the words from the box to complete the story.

expected brave rescuers fear
over reached afterward

WHAT A MIRACLE!

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA A woman has escaped death after she fell (1) _____ 1,500 meters.

Tan Lee Ping went skydiving* for the first time. When she jumped from the airplane, her skydiving teacher, Azlan Ismail, never (2) _____ her to have any trouble. He has been a teacher for 20 years and none of his students has ever had an accident.

But Ping did have trouble. Neither of her two parachutes** opened as she jumped. She was already unconscious*** when she (3) _____ the ground. (4) _____ took her to the hospital.

It was a miracle that Ping walked out of the hospital the same day! (5) _____, she said that as she fell she simply opened her arms as wide as possible. Ping seems to have no (6) _____. "I realize now



that life is very short. From now on I'll just do what I can and try not to hesitate. I will jump again," the (7) _____ woman says.

* skydiving: a sport where you jump from a plane

** parachutes: things like balloons that you use when you jump out of an airplane

*** unconscious: in a kind of sleep; not knowing what is happening



Talk about the stories

Which story in this unit is the most surprising? Why? Which one did you like best? Why?