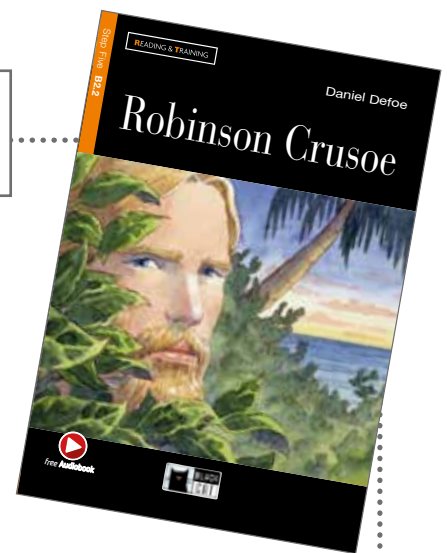


level
B2.2

READING ACTIVITY 1/6



ROBINSON CRUSOE

INTRODUCTION

Robinson Crusoe, one of the most famous adventure stories of all times, was written by the English author Daniel Defoe in 1719. The novel was immediately successful and was reprinted several times. Daniel Defoe is considered the creator of the modern English novel.

During the 17th century seafaring was a popular job for young men who loved the sea and adventure. However, life at sea was difficult and often dangerous, as the protagonist of the novel soon discovered. Robinson Crusoe's greatest desire was to go to sea. Although his parents were against it, Robinson ran off to sea and travelled to Africa and South America. He experienced several bad adventures, slavery and finally a disastrous shipwreck on a desert island! His survival would depend on his cleverness and good luck.

PREDICTION

1 What do you think?

1. Where was the desert island located?

- a. in the Pacific Ocean
- b. in the Atlantic Ocean
- c. in the Indian Ocean

2. Who or what will Robinson meet on the island?

- a. nobody
- b. natives
- c. wild animals

3. What will happen to Robinson?

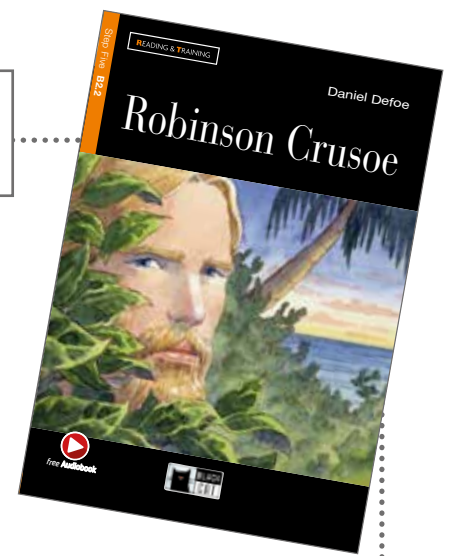
- a. He will survive on the island but he will never return to England.
- b. A ship will find him and take him back to England.
- c. He will die on the island.

Mark your answers and when you finish reading the novel, check them to see if you predicted correctly.



level
B2.2

READING ACTIVITY 2/6



READING ACTIVITY

Part 1 – Read the extract and then do the activities below.

I was sincerely affected by my father's words and decided not to think of going abroad any more. but alas! In a few days I began to dream of the sea again. I spoke to my mother. I told her that I still desired to go to sea and that nothing else would make me happy.

I said that I was eighteen years old, too old to begin another profession. I asked her to persuade my father to let me go to sea.

This made her very angry. She said it would be useless to speak to my father. If I wanted to ruin myself, she said, there was nothing she or my father could do to stop me. however, they would never agree.

A year later, I ran off to sea. This is how it happened. One day I went to the port of Hull. A friend of mine was going by sea to London in his father's ship. He asked me go to with him. Since it would cost me nothing, I decided to go, without even telling my mother and father. Thus on the first of September 1651 I went on board a ship for the first time. As soon as the ship was at sea, the wind began to blow. I felt very sick and frightened. I thought that God was punishing me for leaving my father's house. The storm grew worse although it was not as bad as many I have seen since. I was not even as bad as the storm I saw just a few days later, but it frightened me then. I thought the sea would swallow us. I swore to God that, if I lived, I would return to my father's house and never go to sea again.

(from Chapter One)

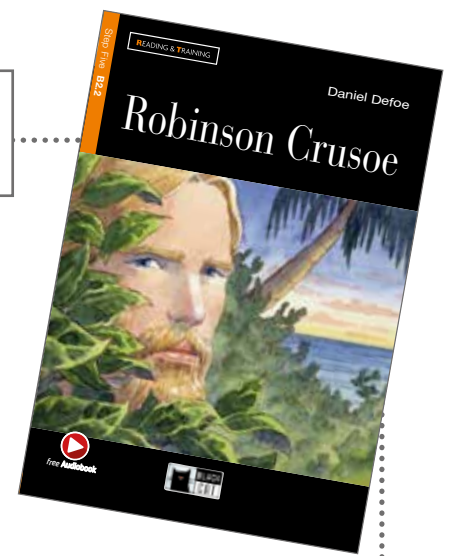
... to be continued in Part 2



level
B2.2

READING ACTIVITY

3/6



2 Are the following sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1. Robinson Crusoe's father was against his going to sea. T F
2. Robinson's mother tried to persuade his father to let him go to sea. T F
3. Robinson met a friend at the port of London. T F
4. Robinson paid his friend to go on his father's ship. T F
5. Robinson's parents didn't know that their son was at sea. T F
6. The sea storm was the worst Robinson had ever seen. T F
7. Robinson promised God that he would go back home if he lived through the storm. T F

QUICK QUIZ!

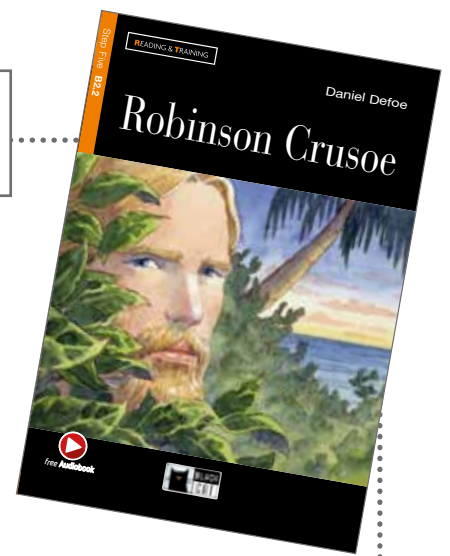
3 Circle the correct word.

1. Robinson Crusoe got *very/much* sick during the sea storm.
2. There was *much/many* wind during the sea storm.
3. Robinson's friend had seen *many/much* sea storms.
4. Robinson did not have *much/many* friends.
5. Robinson's parents were *many/very* worried about their son.



level
B2.2

READING ACTIVITY 4/6



PART 2 – Read the extract and then do the activity below.

The next day the sea grew calm and the sun shone. I no longer felt sick or frightened. My friend said, 'Well, Rob, how do you feel? Were you afraid?'

'It was a terrible storm,' said I.

'Do you call that a storm?' said he. 'That was nothing. Let's drink some rum and forget about it.'

We drank the rum, and I forgot my promise to God. A few days later, there was a really terrible storm. The waves were as high as mountains. I was very frightened. I felt sorry that I had forgotten my promise to God.

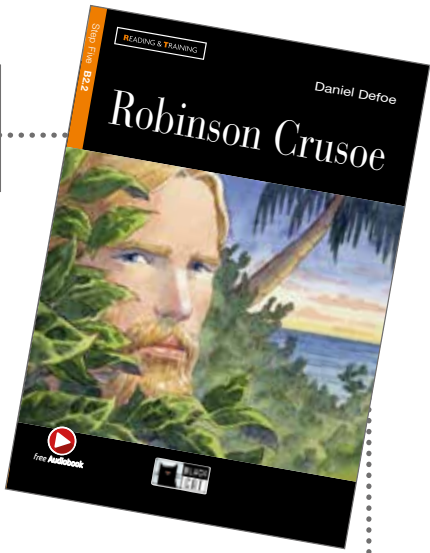
The sailors began to cry out that the ship would founder. Fortunately, I did not know what the word 'founder' meant. I saw the captain and some others praying to God. At last we were rescued by a boat from another ship. As we escaped, we saw our own ship go down. It was only then that I understood the word 'founder'.

When we reached the shore, the people were very kind to us. They gave us money to return to Hull or continue to London, as we pleased. If I had returned home, I would have been happy. My father, like the father in Christ's story of the prodigal son, would have welcomed me. But I was foolish, and I did not go home.

The captain, who was my friend's father, said to me, 'Young man, you should never go to sea again!'



READING ACTIVITY
5/6



MATCH AND ANSWER

4A Match the words (1-4) with their meanings (a-d).

- 1. founder
- 2. rescued
- 3. foolish
- 4. swore
- a. stupid, silly
- b. promised solemnly
- c. sink, go down to the sea bottom
- d. saved, got out of a dangerous situation

4B Use the words in exercise 4A to complete the sentences below.

- 1. Robinson was because he did not go home.
- 2. During the storm, a boat the men in the water.
- 3. The ship began to and the men jumped into the sea.
- 4. Robinson to God that he would go back home.

QUICK QUIZ!

5 Fill in the table with the past tense and past participle of these verbs.

VERB	PAST TENSE	PAST PARTICIPLE
1. feel
2. grow
3. drink
4. begin
5. go
6. forget

