'Spiderman' hero saves boy

Lesson code: 1Z7F-B73B-6369

British English

INTERMEDIATE

1 Warm-up

Do you know any rescue stories?

2 Key vocabulary

Match the words on the left to the definitions on the right.

1.	a citizen	a.	an area of a city that has borders for official reasons
2.	a migrant	b.	a person who is a member of a particular country and has rights there
3.	a medal	c.	a person who moves from one place or another to find work or somewhere better to live
4.	a divider	d.	a set of clothes that someone wears for a particular activity
5.	an outfit	e.	a small piece of metal given to someone who has done something brave
6.	a district	f.	official documents that show who you are
7.	papers	g.	something that separates areas to show where they start and end

3 Guess the answers

You're going to read an article about how a man rescued a boy that was hanging from an apartment balcony. Before you read, guess the answers to the questions, then scan the text on page two to find the correct answers.

1. How old is the man who rescued the boy?

   a. 22   b. 27   c. 32

2. How many floors did the man climb up on the outside of the building to reach the boy?

   a. three   b. four   c. five

3. How much could the boy's father be fined for leaving his child alone?

   a. €10,000   b. €20,000   c. €30,000

4. How many floors did the boy fall before he held onto a balcony?

   a. one   b. two   c. three

Hero who rescued boy from balcony will become French citizen

29th of May, 2018

1 A young migrant from Mali who rescued a child that was hanging from an apartment balcony in Paris will be made a French citizen.

2 Film showed 22-year-old Mamoudou Gassama climbing up four floors on the outside of the apartment building in just a few seconds as the crowd below cheered. He then pulled him up so he was safe.

3 French President Emmanuel Macron thanked him and gave him a medal for his actions. Mr. Macron also offered him a job as a firefighter. Anne Hidalgo, the mayor of Paris, called him the "Spiderman of the 18th" - the 18th is the district of Paris where the rescue happened.

4 The boy's grandmother said Gassama was "truly a hero", and that "thankfully he [Mr Gassama] knew how to climb, because there were a lot of people below but he didn't just fold his arms. He raced up to the fourth floor. That was truly incredible. He was very brave."

5 The four-year-old's father had gone shopping and then decided to play Pokemon Go on his phone. He could get sent to prison for two years and also be fined €30,000 ($35,000; £26,000) for failing to look after his child, reports say.

6 The boy lived in Réunion (a French island in the Indian Ocean) with his mother and grandmother, but moved to Paris to join his father only three weeks ago.

7 His mother told a news site that the boy's father wasn't used to looking after him, and had also left the child alone before.

8 The boy fell two floors before he managed to grab hold of the fourth-floor balcony. A man in the flat next door lent across from his balcony and held onto the child. People on the ground thought he was close enough to lift the boy over, but he told a Paris newspaper he couldn't because of the divider between the two balconies.

9 "I didn't want to take the risk of letting go of his hand, I thought it better to do things step by step," he said.

10 He also said the boy was wearing a Spiderman outfit, his toe was bleeding and his nail was torn.

11 Before the fire service even arrived, Gassama had rescued him.

12 Gassama spoke about the incident. "I felt afraid when I saved the child ... [when] we went into the living room, I started to shake, I could hardly stand up, I had to sit down," he said.

13 The 22-year-old left Mali when he was a teenager in 2013. He travelled across the Sahara Desert the same way as many migrants, and then crossed the Mediterranean in 2014, making it to Italy at the second attempt.

14 He told Mr Macron that he travelled to France because he did not know anyone in Italy, and his brother had lived in the country for a long time.

15 In Paris he did jobs on building sites and got paid in cash. He lived in a hostel in a western suburb of Paris with relatives. He was living illegally in the country, as he did not have the right papers.

Sources: BBC News, The Guardian, CNN

4 Checking understanding

Put 'T' (true) or 'F' (false) next to the statements below. Give reasons for your answers.

1. Part of the name 'Spiderman of the 18th' comes from an area of Paris.
2. The child was left on his own for the first time.
3. The man in the flat next door didn't do anything to help the child.
4. The boy didn't have any injuries after the fall.
5. Gassama tried more than once to reach Europe.

5 Find the words

Find a word or phrase in the article which means ...

1. shouted loudly to show support *(verb - ed, P.2)*: _____
2. go to jail *(phrase, P.5)*: _____
3. hold onto (something) *(phrase, P.8)*: _____
4. reached out (from somewhere) *(collocation - past form, P.8)*: _____
5. do something that could be dangerous *(phrase, P.9)*: _____
6. pulled apart *(verb - past participle form, P.10)*: _____
7. experience small, uncontrollable movements in your body because you are scared *(verb, P.12)*: _____
8. an area outside the centre of a city or town where people live *(noun, P.15)*: _____

6 Be/get used to

Look at this sentence from the text.

His mother told a news site that the boy's father **wasn't used to looking** after him.

We use the structure **be used to something** / **be used to doing something** when we say that something is normal for us, not strange or new:

I get up early every morning to go to work. It isn't something new or strange for me. I **am used to getting** up early.

In the sentence from the text, the father *isn't* used to looking after the child, so it's not normal for him.

We use the structure **get used to something** / **get used to doing** something when we say that something *becomes* normal for us.

Sandra's new boss was very demanding at first, but she **got used to** him.

Complete the sentences below with *be used to* or *get used to* in the correct tense.

1. Jemma's neighbours make a lot of noise. She can't _____ it.
2. Robert _____ the pollution in the city. He is from a clean village in the mountains.
3. Before, Adam _____ getting up early. Now, he gets up every day at 6am.
4. Carlos _____ the weather in England. It's still too cold for him.
5. Yann _____ living by himself. He doesn't want a roommate.
6. Sara and Tom _____ having a baby. They have a lot of sleepless nights..
7. Amber _____ going to bed so late. It will take her a while to _____ Spanish culture.

7 Talking point

Discuss any of the questions below in pairs or small groups.

1. Would you have done the same thing as Mamoudou Gassama in that situation? Why/why not?
2. In your country, if the same thing happened, do you think the reward for the hero or heroine would be the same?
3. Which part of the story is the most interesting for you? Why?
   For example are you more interested in the details of the rescue or the story of the young migrant?