

Kidnapped

1 Alan Johnston in Gaza

- a) Before you read: Write down all the facts that you can remember about the British reporter Alan Johnston. (Try to answer the questions: Who? What? Where? How long?)
- b) Now look again at the short text on page 29 of your book under 'B Freedom of the press' and check your facts. Add any important information that you missed to your list of facts.
- c) You are going to read about what happened to Alan Johnston who was kidnapped by a militant group in Gaza. They held him as a hostage for 114 days. There are some new words in the text. They look very like German words with the same meaning but they sound different, so read them carefully. If you are not sure of a word's exact meaning, look it up in a dictionary. (militant ['mɪlɪtənt]; to bind {bound, bound} [baɪnd, baʊnd, baʊnd]; cell [sel]).

A I had reported many times on the kidnapping of foreign people in Gaza. I was always afraid that my turn would come.

It began in the spring on the streets of Gaza City.

- 5 A big white car had suddenly driven past and had then stopped in front of my car, so I had to stop, too. A young man climbed from the passenger side and pointed a gun at me.

- 10 The man with the gun and another man made me get into their car and lie on the back seat. They pulled a hood over my head and drove off. I could just see the sun through the hood¹ and I knew we were going south and east, towards the city's more dangerous neighbourhoods.

- 15 **B** I had known that it was dangerous for foreign people in Gaza. But now there was a militant organisation that wanted to make war on the West for religious reasons. I had moved to a safer apartment, filmed less in the streets. I felt that
20 Gaza's story was important. It is at the centre of the difficulties between the East and the West. But I had only wanted to stay for another 16 days, then I was going to leave – until the men in the white
25 car stopped me.

- C** The kidnapers made me lie on the floor of an empty room. Later on in my first night as a hostage the door opened and a tall figure in
30 white stood for a moment, looking down at me.

I could not see his face. He came in and sat down. "Alan Johnston," he said in English. "We know everything. But you will not be killed." 35

"When can I leave?" I asked.

"When the time is right," he answered.

Did he mean weeks, or months, or longer? It wasn't possible to say. 40

D How far could I trust this man? Was he the leader? Could he just change his mind? Perhaps, in the end, others would decide what happened to me. I went to sleep, but was woken by two men. They bound my hands together and put the hood over my head again, then they took me slowly out into the cold night. I was frightened as I walked out into the dark that I might be going to my death – that I was being taken somewhere to be shot. 45 50

E I soon began to realise that the men were only moving me to another building. This, for a time, became my cell. In that room, on the roof of an apartment building, there was just a bed and two chairs. I walked across the cell: five steps. Then I turned and walked five steps back – miles and miles and miles. I asked for a radio and they brought one to my room. Suddenly I had a link with the outside world! But it also brought terrible news. One night I listened as the calm voice of a BBC newsreader reported that I was dead. 55 60

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¹hood [hʊd] – Kapuze

d) Looking at the text: Put in the correct letter for the part of the text that tells us:

- about his first night as a hostage.
- how the group caught him.
- about the cell where he spent most of the time.
- when they moved him.
- why he was in Gaza.

e) What was the "terrible news" that Alan Johnston heard?

 **2 What happened to Alan Johnston?**

a) Complete the sentences (use the passive).

	Verb	1-11
A gun _____ at him.	to point	
Alan Johnston _____ hostage in March 2007.	to take	
Then a hood _____ over his head.	to pull	
He _____ in a room where he lay on the floor.	to put	
He _____ to lie down in the back of the car.	to make	
Later he _____ to a different building.	to move	
His car _____ .	to stop	
He _____ , "You will not be killed".	to tell	
His hands _____ .	to bind	
A radio _____ .	to bring	
At that time foreign people _____ often _____ in Gaza.	to kidnap	

b) Put the sentences in the right order (1-11).

c) Find 2-3 more pieces of information that you think are interesting. Add them to the story and tell it to a partner. She/he should stop you when she/he hears a 'new' piece of information.

/ 3 A radio programme

a) *When they brought him a radio Alan Johnston had been alone and cut off from his friends and family for a long time. He wrote: "Suddenly I had a link with the outside world". Imagine you are cut off and alone. What do you think would be the worst thing about it? Collect ideas. Think about who or what you would miss, and how you would feel.*

 b) *In a well-known British radio programme a famous person is asked to imagine that he or she is going to be left alone on a remote island. They can take with them some music, a book and one thing that will make them feel happier or more comfortable on the island, e.g. a bar of their favourite chocolate, a poster of their favourite star, a sleeping bag, Write a dialogue for a programme like this. One of you plays the interviewer and the other plays the famous person. Start like this:*

Interviewer: Good afternoon and welcome to

Our guest on the programme today is the famous ... ,

Guest: Hello and thank you for asking me to be on the programme.

Interviewer: So, tell us first what music you would like to take with you.

Guest:

 c) *Do your interview in the class. The class then votes for the best/most interesting/funniest/... . interview.*

Lösungen

Lösungsvorschläge Seite 1

Ex. 1

a), b), c) *Individuelle Schülerlösungen*

d) C, A, E, D, B; e) That he was dead/that they had shot him!

Lösungsvorschläge Seite 2

Ex. 2

a) + b) A gun **was pointed** at him. (4); Alan Johnston **was taken** hostage in March 2007. (1); Then a hood **was pulled** over his head. (6); He **was put** in a room where he lay on the floor. (7); He **was made** to lie down in the back of the car. (5); Later he **was moved** to a different building. (9); His car **was stopped**. (3), He **was told**, "You will not be killed." (8); His hands **were bound**. (10); A radio **was brought**. (11); At that time foreign people **were** often **kidnapped** in Gaza. (2)

c) *Individuelle Schülerlösungen*

Lösungsvorschläge Seite 3:

Ex. 3

a) I would miss chilling-out with my friends. I would miss walking my dog and talking to my family. I would miss my favourite TV programmes. I would feel very lonely and unhappy. But I wouldn't miss my homework or lessons on a Monday morning.; b) + c) *Individuelle Schülerlösungen*.