

UNIT **9** *Read and Write*



En esta unidad vas a:

- leer un artículo sobre un hombre desaparecido
- aprender a escribir en inglés evitando cometer errores habituales.

Insurance fraud: the perfect solution?



When John Darwin walked into a London police station in December 2007, the police must have been very surprised to see him. After all, as far as they were concerned, he'd been dead for over five years. Yet there he was in the flesh, claiming not to remember anything about the last few years.

John was first reported missing in March 2002. A keen canoeist, he'd gone out to sea 12 hours earlier, but never returned. A rescue operation was launched but only his paddle was found. There was no further news for weeks. Eventually, his battered canoe was washed up on a beach but his body had simply disappeared. The following year, an inquest was held and a death certificate was issued. But that wasn't the end of John's story.

After marrying his wife Anne in 1973, John had worked in teaching, banking and the prison service. He and Anne also ran a bedsitting business but got into serious debt in the year 2000. John is then thought to have talked to his wife about the possibility of faking his own death and cashing in his life insurance policies. And at first, things went exactly according to plan. After John's 'death', Anne received thousands of pounds in life insurance and was also able to pay off her £130,000 mortgage using another policy. Yet John had not, in fact, perished at sea. On the contrary, Anne is reported to have said that he suddenly turned up on her doorstep almost a year after he went missing. However, she said nothing to the authorities at the time, and the police had

no knowledge of this. In the years which followed, John is believed to have lived in a bedsit in the house next door to Anne. Some newspaper reports claimed that he was living just a few feet away from her, and could get into her house through a secret hole in the wall, which was covered with a wardrobe. It's alleged that he hid behind the furniture whenever people called.

In 2004, perhaps fed up with living a lie, the Darwins decided to move abroad and Anne made repeated trips overseas to set up a new life for them. She bought a two-bedroomed apartment in Panama and also purchased some land there on the banks of a lake. It's thought that the Darwins were planning to offer customers kayaking holidays in the area.

However, despite all the secrecy and careful planning, the plan was not to be. Police officers started to reinvestigate the case in 2007, acting on information they had received from one of Anne's colleagues. Shortly afterwards, John gave himself up, allegedly because he missed his children and couldn't bear such prolonged separation. The dream of a tropical paradise in Panama was over.

1 Relaciona las preguntas (1–6) con las respuestas (a–f).



- 1 For how long did the police think that John was dead?
 - 2 What did the rescue operation find?
 - 3 How long had John and Anne been married when he disappeared?
 - 4 How many bedrooms did the flat in Panama have?
 - 5 Where was the land that Anne bought in Panama?
 - 6 Why did the police reopen the investigation?
- a On the banks of a lake.
 b Two.
 c Over five years.
 d Nearly 30 years.
 e They received some new information.
 f The paddle of the canoe.

1 c 2 ___ 3 ___ 4 ___ 5 ___ 6 ___

2 Indica si las siguientes afirmaciones son verdaderas (true) o falsas (false).



- 1 In 2007, John said that he had no memories of the last few years. _____
- 2 John had never been in a canoe before 2002. _____
- 3 John's canoe was found 12 weeks after he was reported missing. _____
- 4 John had several jobs before he started the bedsitting business. _____
- 5 It was reported that John got into Anne's house through a window. _____
- 6 Anne went to Panama to set up another bedsitting business. _____
- 7 Someone who worked with Anne gave the police some new information. _____
- 8 John didn't have any children. _____

Words to remember

3 Busca las palabras en el texto.

An organized search to find a person who's in danger (paragraph 2).
rescue operation



1 An official investigation to discover the cause of someone's death (paragraph 2).



2 A room used for both living in and sleeping in (paragraph 3).



3 Money borrowed from a bank to buy a house (paragraph 3).



4 To die in an accident (paragraph 3).



5 A big cupboard used for keeping clothes in (paragraph 3).



6 Overseas or in a foreign country (paragraph 4).



7 The land at either edge of a lake or river (paragraph 4).



Common mistakes

En inglés, hay palabras que presentan dificultades ortográficas.

business

negocio

debt

deuda

disappear

desaparecer

mortgage

hipoteca

possible

posible

receive

recibir

separate

separar

suddenly

de pronto, de repente

They got into serious debt.

Contrajeron muchas deudas.

Anne received thousands of pounds.

Anne recibió miles de libras.

What makes people suddenly decide to vanish?

¿Qué hace que de pronto alguien decida desaparecer?

En inglés, hay palabras que tienen un plural irregular. También hay sustantivos que no se utilizan en plural por ser incontables.

child > children

niño/a, hijo/a > niños, hijos

foot > feet

pie > pies

life > lives

vida > vidas

person > people

persona > personas, gente

He missed his children.

Echaba de menos a sus hijos.

He was living just a few feet away.

Vivía a tan solo unos metros de la casa.

What sort of people tend to disappear?

¿Qué clase de gente suele desaparecer?

furniture

muebles

information

información

knowledge

conocimiento

news

noticias

He hid behind the furniture.

Se escondía detrás de los muebles.

The police had no knowledge of this.

La policía no tenía conocimiento al respecto.

There was no further news.

No hubo más noticias.

1 Elige la palabra correcta.



- Mark's got his own catering **business** / **bisness**.
- My neighbour died **sudennly** / **suddenly** last night.
- Did you hear the **new** / **news** about the earthquake?
- Mike and Linda are going to **seperate** / **separate**.
- She's very selfish. She never thinks about other **people** / **persons**.
- Please could you let me know as soon as **possible** / **posible**?
- She's lying down because her **foots** / **feet** are hurting.
- The tour guide didn't have any **information** / **informations** about the opera.

2 Corrige los errores en el resumen.

Anne Darwin and her husband John were running a bedsitting **business business** together when they got into det **1** _____. John then dissapeared **2** _____ in March 2002 after going out to sea in his canoe. He was reported missing but his body wasn't found. A year later, Anne recieved **3** _____ a large sum of money from life insurance policies and paid off the morgage **4** _____ on her house.

Some newspapers reported that John then returned to live in a bedsit in the house next door to Anne, although the police had no knowledges **5** _____ of this. He was thought to have visited her regularly, hiding behind the furnitures **6** _____ whenever anyone called.

Eventually, the couple decided to start new lifes **7** _____ overseas and Anne bought an apartment and some land in Panama. However, John decided to give himself up, perhaps because he was missing his child's **8** _____, and he contacted the police in December 2007.