

**31** | *Health and safety*



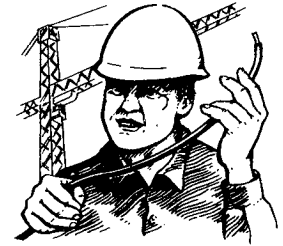
**VANESSA SAGE**

I first began to feel pains in my hands when I was working in a travel agent's. Every day I had to work on the computer, booking holidays for customers. I was typing about five or six hours a day. One day I was typing a customer's details when I felt a sharp pain. Over the next few weeks the problem got worse and in the end I couldn't move my left hand. Now I can't use a typewriter or computer any more.



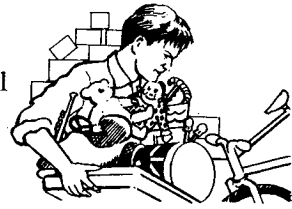
**TOMAS CZARNECKA**

We were working on the construction of a new hospital, installing the electricity supply. When you have worked with electricity for as many years as I have, you don't take any risks and I thought I knew what I was doing. But on this occasion, it was a very hot day and I wasn't wearing my safety gloves. A young engineer who was working on another part of the building switched on the power while I was connecting a cable. I'm lucky to be alive.



**BILLY BRAITHWAITE**

I remember the day very well. It was three weeks before Christmas. The warehouse was filled with thousands of toys waiting to be delivered to shops all over the country. Every day new toys were arriving and we didn't know where to put them. Inside it was impossible to move. One day I was moving two bicycles, when two heavy boxes fell on me.



**MAKIKO KITA**

Six months ago they sold our company to a larger group. My boss, who is the managing director, immediately became more involved in the group's activities and less in our company's business. He was spending three or four days a week away from the office. As a result I had more work to do and greater responsibility. I was staying at the office until 9 or 10 in the evening and often at weekends too. Three weeks ago I was talking to a customer on the phone when suddenly I lost consciousness – for about thirty seconds I didn't know where I was. I thought it was strange because I wasn't feeling particularly tired or ill at the time.



TYPE OF JOB	DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT/PROBLEM	REASONS FOR ACCIDENT/PROBLEM	RECOMMENDATIONS
1			
2			
3			
4			

*Health and safety* Worksheet

31

**ACTIVITY**

Groupwork: reading, speaking

**AIM**

To describe an accident in the past and talk about its causes.

**GRAMMAR AND FUNCTIONS**

Past continuous and past simple to describe actions leading up to an event in the past.

*Should* for recommendations

**VOCABULARY**

Health: *a pain, safety gloves, to lose consciousness, to be alive, ill, a risk*

General: *to search for, to get worse, to install, to involve, to spend time*

**PREPARATION**

Make one copy of the table for each student in the class. Cut out the four sections as indicated for each group of two to four students in the class. Each student should have a description of a different accident or problem.

**TIME**

30 minutes

**PROCEDURE**

- 1 Introduce the subject of safety at work by asking students what kind of health risks there are in different places of work such as a factory, an office, a building site etc.
- 2 Explain that they are going to read about an accident or a problem at work and the events leading up to it.
- 3 Give each student the table and one of the descriptions.
- 4 Ask students to read their description and to complete the table. They should not yet fill in the 'Recommendations' section.
- 5 Ask the students to work in groups of two, three or four to find out about the other accidents or problems from other students in their group. Elicit the questions the students will need to ask.  
For example:  
*What happened to Vanessa?*  
*How did that happen?*  
*What was she doing at the time?*
- 6 Tell the students to fill in the details on the table as they find out the information.
- 7 When they have finished, ask students to discuss in their groups how this kind of accident/problem can be avoided.  
For example:  
*You should always follow safety procedures.*  
Ask students to note down their ideas under 'Recommendations'.
- 8 When they have done this, go through the recommendations with the whole class.

**FOLLOW-UP**

Ask the students to write a description of an accident or a problem they know about or have experienced. They should ask the group to comment and to make recommendations.

**ANSWERS**

	TYPE OF JOB	DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT/PROBLEM	REASONS FOR ACCIDENT/PROBLEM
1	Typist	sharp pain in hand	typing for 5-6 hours a day
2	Electrical engineer	nearly electrocuted	not wearing safety gloves
3	Storeman	hit by two heavy boxes	overcrowded warehouse; boxes piled too high
4	Secretary	lost consciousness	stress due to overwork