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Pre-Intermediate Student’s Book

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**I = Interviewer, W = Sandy Weisz**

**I:** Normally we only hear bad news so it’s good to have some good news from time to time. For example, did you hear in the news about Maria Garza? She was sitting on an aeroplane in Denver airport with her one-year-old child when she saw a fire from the window. It was coming from one of the engines. Did you read that? No? It was amazing. While the other passengers were running to the exits, Maria climbed out of the window and onto the wing of the plane. She saved her daughter’s life and she was pregnant at the time! So, in fact she saved three lives.

In today’s programme we’re talking about why some people are survivors. We want to know what makes these people so special. For example, what are their personal qualities? Here to help us answer that question is Doctor Sandy Weisz. Sandy is a doctor of psychology and an expert in survival skills. So Sandy, what kind of person is a survivor?

**W:** Well, the story of Maria Garza is a good one because she showed a personal quality that all survivors have.

**I:** Which is?

**W:** They are always decisive. They always think and move very quickly and so she saved three lives. It’s an important quality in a difficult situation. Another important quality they need is determination. For example, did you read about thirteen-year-old Bethany Hamilton? She showed real determination. One day when she was surfing a shark attacked her and she lost an arm. It was an incredible story. With one arm, she swam back to the beach.

**I:** Incredible, and there was another recent similar story … err that couple … the Carlsons.

**W:** Sorry, what were they doing?

**I:** They were sailing their boat when a wave hit them. The boat sank and they were at sea for thirty-one days.

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**W:** Oh yes, I remember that story. But they were experienced with boats so skill and knowledge probably saved them more than anything else.

**I:** Right. So, what if I don’t have special personal qualities or skills? Is there anything I can do?

**W:** Yes, there is. Most survivors don’t normally take risks.

**I:** What do you mean?

**W:** Well, on an aeroplane, the survivors usually wear seat belts. At sea, you take extra food and water. On a mountain, a climber always wears warm clothes …

**I:** Right. I suppose we normally think survivors are risk-takers but in fact most of them are quite careful.

**W:** Exactly. We all take risks – even when we walk across the road – but most survivors don’t take unnecessary risks.