

READING 1

Three Taiwanese fishermen were rescued yesterday from a small uninhabited island in the South Pacific. The men had disappeared for more than three months. They had left Taiwan in a small fishing boat and had planned a week-long trip. On their fifth day, however, they encountered a typhoon, and it badly damaged their boat. Fortunately, no one was hurt.

After the storm had passed, they discovered that the engine wouldn't start, so their boat just drifted at sea for over a month. During this time, the fishermen caught fish to eat and drank rain water to stay alive.

Finally, the boat drifted toward a small island. When it got close enough, the men jumped out and swam to shore. On the island, they found fresh fruit and vegetables, and they continued to catch fish to eat. The fishermen had lived on the island for two months when a passing ship rescued them. Although the three men had lost a lot of weight, they were still in fairly good shape. Their families feared that the fishermen had died during the typhoon. They were surprised and happy that the ship had found them and that they were safe and sound.

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READING 2

For many years tattoos were associated with sailors and soldiers, then in the 60s and 70s with bikers and heavy metal rock stars. But today more people from all social classes are having tattoos done and there has been a significant increase in the number of women who have them.

Many famous people have had tattoos done too. Footballer David Beckham, and his wife, Victoria, both have tattoos of their first son's name Brooklyn. David has one on his back and Victoria has one on her arm. Other famous people include singers, actors and actresses such as Robbie Williams, Britney Spears, and Angelina Jolie among others.

Tattoos have existed for more than 5.000 years. The word tattoo comes from the Polynesian word tatau, meaning "symbol". In Polynesia tattoos were a sign of social status and the transition from childhood to adult life. They became known in the West when sailors on voyages of discovery to the Polynesian islands had tattoos done because they wanted to be accepted by native people or because they wanted a souvenir of their voyage

The traditional method of tattooing is to make a drawing on the skin and then trace the lines of the final tattoo by injecting ink under the skin, using a machine with a needle. Sounds painful? It is. But not as painful (or expensive) as having a tattoo removed!

Modern laser surgery has improved the situation, but even with this method there is no guarantee that a tattoo can be completely removed. So a lot of people have henna tattoos, which are not permanent. These are fine if the pure henna dye is used, but sometimes artists use inferior dyes containing the chemical PPD, which can cause permanent skin problems. There are also semi -permanent tattoos which can last for up to five years

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