



This is not a word for word transcript.

William: Hello and welcome to another edition of 6 minute English. My name is William Kremer.

Neil: And I'm Neil Edgeller.

Hollywood style music

Neil: Why the dramatic music, Will?

William: Well, that's some Hollywood-style music to accompany today's story, which is a little bit like a Hollywood film. It has a gripping plot and an action hero.

Neil: OK, I'm intrigued.

William: Now, the setting is the Peruvian jungle...

Neil: The **jungle** – a thick, tropical forest. Jungles are the thickest parts of a rainforest.

William: Now, before we go any further Neil, will you allow me to quiz you?

Neil: Ah yes, the quiz. I almost forgot about that.

William: What proportion of Peru is covered by the Amazon rainforest? Is it

- a) 35%
- b) 60% or
- c) 85% ?

Neil: Well Peru is covered by mountains so I don't think very much, so I'll go for a) 35%.

William: Ok, well of course, we'll hear at the end of the programme what the answer is. Now, back to our Hollywood-style story: the setting is, as I said, the Peruvian jungle and the hero is a policeman called Luis Astuquillca. The details are still rather unclear, but we do know that Mr Astuquillca survived an attack by the rebel group Shining Path. But that's not all. He was separated from other officers and survived by himself for seventeen days in the **jungle** before finding his way to a village.

Neil: Wow – he survived for seventeen days in the **jungle**! That is actually rather more exciting than most Hollywood films.

William: Yes, I agree. And now Mr Astuquillca is back in the capital Lima and being hailed as a hero. Let's hear the first part of a report by Mattia Cabitza about this story. As you listen try to hear whether Luis Astuquillca arrived back in Lima unharmed by his experience.

BBC correspondent Mattia Cabitza:

Luis Astuquillca is only 22 years old but already a hero in Peru. With a bandaged hand and slightly limping, he got off a military plane in Lima and embraced his mother, sister and grandmother. The young officer suffered bullet wounds to his leg and arm during a mission to rescue 36 people who were kidnapped by the Shining Path rebels earlier this month.

Neil: So Luis Astuquillca was indeed injured.

William: That's right, the report said that he had a **bandaged** hand and was **limping**. A **bandage** is a strip of material used to cover or protect an injury. It's also a verb, meaning to put this material on after someone has had an injury.

Neil: To **limp** means to walk unevenly, usually because one of your legs or feet is injured. Luis Astuquillca had a **bandaged** hand and was **limping**. In fact, he had been shot in the arm and leg. But what was Luis Astuquillca doing in the jungle in the first place, William?

William: Well he was part of a mission to rescue 36 **hostages** who had been taken by that rebel group, Shining Path. Now, a **hostage** is a person who has been taken by someone else, or by a group of people. Now, before they give that person back they usually demand money or for something to be done.

Neil: Shining Path are a communist rebel group. Back in the 1980s and early 1990s they presented a real threat in Peru, but nowadays they only operate in quite a small part of the country. But what happened to these **hostages**, William?

William: Let's listen to the next clip from the report. See if you can hear what has happened to them.

BBC correspondent Mattia Cabitza:

The rebels released the hostages six days later, but not without leaving casualties: two soldiers and two police officers died, and Mr Astuquillca was one of two policemen who went missing.

Neil: The hostages were released but sadly four people died. What's more, two policemen went missing. Luis Astuquillca was one of them, but who was the other one?

William: Well, the other policeman's name is Cesar Vilqua. And unfortunately since Mattia Cabitza filed this report for the BBC, Mr Vilqua's body has been found in the jungle, so sadly it looks like five people died rather than four. Now, the Peruvian government has been criticised for its **handling** of this situation.

Neil: Its **handling**, so the way it has reacted to a difficult situation. But why have they been criticised for their handling of the situation? Let's listen to the final clip from the report.

BBC correspondent Mattia Cabitza:

No details are yet known about how he survived for 17 days in the Peruvian jungle. The government was quick to say it was thanks to his training in the police force. But the Peruvian press has criticised the authorities for their handling of the rescue operation, saying that the two officers who went missing were abandoned.

Neil: So the press in Peru are saying that the missing police officers were **abandoned** by the authorities. If you **abandon** someone you stop caring for them, you leave them to take care of themselves.

William: OK, well that was our dramatic Hollywood-style report. Now, what about that quiz question, Neil? I asked you what proportion of Peru is covered by the Amazon rainforest? Is it

- a) 35%
- b) 60% or
- c) 85% ?

... and you said –

Neil: I said a) 35%.

William: Ok, you were wrong! The answer is b) about 60% of the country.

Neil: Ok then. Well before we finish, let's hear the words from today's programme one more time.

jungle
bandage
to limp
hostage
handling
to abandon someone

William: That's all from us for this week. Goodbye!

Neil: Goodbye!

Vocabulary and definitions

jungle	thick, tropical forest
bandage	a strip of material used to cover or protect an injury; also a verb, meaning to put this material on an injury
to limp	to walk unevenly, usually because one of your legs or feet is injured
hostage	a person who has been taken by someone else, or by a group of people. Before they give that person back they usually demand money or for something to be done.
handling	the way a person or group reacts to a difficult situation
to abandon someone	to stop caring for a person, to leave them to take care of themselves.

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