

Stories for Lipreading



[LIFEBOAT MAROONS by Barrie Wickens: Spot the Missing Words – ANSWERS.](#)

The missing words and phrases are highlighted in yellow below.

[This text is read aloud at the beginning of this video:]

Welcome to Stories for Lipreading. If you haven't used our website before, we suggest you look at our 'How to Use' page before you begin. We hope you enjoy this short, factual piece about lifeboat maroons, by Barrie Wickens.

Lifeboat maroons are small rockets or mortars that are used to call lifeboat crews to launch the lifeboat. Some of the phrases in this piece have been left out. You can use this piece in two ways.

1. Print the ANSWER sheet which gives a complete version and simply follow the piece through.
2. Print the piece as it is, follow it through and see if you can lipread the missing phrases.

[Lifeboat Maroons by Barrie Wickens](#)

Traditionally lifeboat crews were summoned by the firing of two 'maroons'. In recent years, crews have been summoned by a message sent via a pager. Until 2005, maroons were still fired each time the lifeboat launched, to let those in distress know that help was on the way and to alert the community, especially families and employers.

In 2005, following some incidents with maroons, the Royal National Lifeboat Institute advised lifeboat stations not to fire maroons as a matter of course, but rather to judge each situation on its merits.

For the benefit of people who miss the firing of maroons, the RNLI now has a system whereby anyone with a computer or a mobile phone can subscribe to a message alert that a particular lifeboat has launched. Those messages are charged at 25p or 50p, and about half of that charge goes to the RNLI as a donation. That seems to me a very interesting way of supporting a charity.

You can sign up for that scheme by going to the RNLI website at www.rnli.org where you can choose which lifeboat station or stations you wish to support in that way.