

# ***Dolphin Rescue***

based on a true story  
retold by Rebecca Brandenburg





- 1 It was a cool, winter morning off the coast of Florida. A diver wore a wet suit, an air tank, and flippers. He rolled over the side of his boat. He splashed into the water and drifted deep below the surface. He sensed that something might be about to happen.
- 2 Suddenly, the diver heard a loud, clicking sound followed by a whistle. The clicking grew louder and louder until it pounded in his ears. It sounded like a creaking door. Then he saw three dolphins swimming quickly toward him—a father, a mother, and a baby. The baby dolphin's tail had become tangled in a huge ball of fishing line.
- 3 The little dolphin appeared to be scared and hurt. However, its parents brought it even closer to the diver. They stopped about three feet away from him. What did those clicking noises mean? What were they trying to tell him? Were they asking for help?
- 4 The dolphins inched even closer. They would allow the diver to touch them. The baby swam between the parents' flippers and onto the sand in front of the diver. Suddenly, the frightened baby tried to swim away, but its parents brought it back. Using his beak, or nose, the father nudged the diver's arm upward a few times. It was as if he were urging him to "start working."
- 5 Despite their appearance, dolphins are not fish but mammals, like people. If they become sick or injured in water, they may drown. The diver knew that without his help the baby dolphin could not swim and would probably die.
- 6 However, could he really free the baby from the huge ball of tangled line? He took off his gloves and stroked the baby's smooth, silky skin. Suddenly, the three dolphins swam away. The parents swam under the injured baby and helped support it. They returned a minute later. The diver realized that they had gone to the surface to breathe. "I'll have to work fast," he thought.
- 7 The fishing line cut into the baby dolphin's skin. The dolphin cried as the diver tried to gently loosen the line. The father clicked. He seemed to want the diver to work faster.
- 8 The diver worked carefully with his diving knife to try to free the line. The mother dolphin stroked her baby with her nose. She hovered near it like a nurse. The father nudged the diver impatiently. Finally, the baby dolphin's tail was free. The parents clicked excitedly, and they swam rapidly toward the surface.
- 9 Floating above was a fishing boat. The father dolphin slapped his tail hard on top of the water. The surprised pair of fishers heard the warning. They headed toward shore. The dolphin chirped and whistled to his family. Then they dove back below the waves.
- 10 When they returned, the three dolphins circled the diver. They clicked. The father looked into his eyes. He nudged the diver with his nose as if to say "thank you." Then he clicked again, and the family again swam toward the surface.
- 11 In the days that followed, the diver couldn't stop thinking about the dolphins. Had the baby survived? Then one day he spotted some dolphins racing near his boat. He heard a familiar whistle. In the middle of the group, he thought he saw the baby dolphin! He watched with joy as the little dolphin leaped happily through the waves.

## COMPREHENSION

**A** Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a*, *b*, or *c*.

- 1 This story is mainly about
  - a** dangers that dolphins face in the wild.
  - b** a diver who helps save a baby dolphin.
  - c** why dolphins make clicking sounds.
- 2 You know from this story that dolphins make clicking and whistling sounds
  - a** to communicate with one another.
  - b** to communicate with the diver.
  - c** Both **a** and **b**
- 3 The fishers headed their boat back to shore because they
  - a** were through fishing for the day.

- b** saw that the baby dolphin was alone.
- c** understood the dolphin's warning slap.

- 4 The baby dolphin survived because
  - a** the diver chased away the fishers.
  - b** the diver freed the dolphin from the line.
  - c** Neither **a** nor **b**
- 5 The diver was able to tell that the baby dolphin was the one he helped save because
  - a** the baby leaped out of the water.
  - b** the dolphin's whistle sounded familiar.
  - c** the baby still had the line around its tail.

## LEARN ABOUT WORDS

**B** Often you can find out the meaning of a word by seeing how it is used in a story. The other words in the story give you clues.

Find the word in the story that best fits each meaning. (A paragraph number tells you where to look.) Write the word.

- 1 knotted; twisted around (2)
- 2 pushed a little (4)
- 3 petted (6)
- 4 floated; hung (8)
- 5 in a worried way; restlessly (8)
- 6 stayed alive (11)
- 7 well-known; recognizable (11)

**C** **too** = also

**two** = the number after *one*

Words that sound alike but have different spellings and meanings are called homophones. *Too* and *two* are homophones.

Look at each word in **bold type** below. Note the paragraph number. Look at the paragraph and find the homophone. Which of the two words fits in the blank in the sentence? Write the word.

**8 tale** (2)

The diver told the \_\_\_\_\_ to his friends.

**9 there** (5)

The parents brought \_\_\_\_\_ baby closer.

**10 pear** (9)

The hungry diver ate a \_\_\_\_\_.

## THINK ABOUT IT

**D** Read the sentences. Each one tells about an event in the story. Put the five events in the correct order by writing *a*, *b*, *c*, *d*, or *e*.

- 1 The diver helped the injured dolphin.
- 2 The father dolphin "thanked" the diver.
- 3 Three dolphins swam toward a diver.
- 4 The diver watched with joy as the baby dolphin leaped through the waves.
- 5 The dolphin chased the fishing boat away.

**E** Some contractions are made by putting a verb and *not* together.

*wasn't* is made from *was not*

Other contractions are made by putting a pronoun and a verb together.

*that's* is made from *that is*

*I'll* is made from *I will*

Read each sentence. Which two words make up each underlined contraction? Write the two words.

- 6 The dolphins weren't afraid of the diver.
- 7 I don't know if I can help, he thought.
- 8 He couldn't let the baby dolphin die.
- 9 It's wonderful to help animals.
- 10 He'll always remember his adventure.

**F** Read each sentence. If it can be said about a diver, write *divers*. If it can be said about a dolphin, write *dolphins*. If it is about both, write *both*.

- 11 They breathe air.
- 12 They have long, thin bodies and live in the ocean.
- 13 They stroke dolphins.
- 14 They wear wet suits, air tanks, and flippers.
- 15 They make clicking and whistling noises to communicate.