

## Listening 1

### Alexander Selkirk

#### The Real Robinson Crusoe

In 1719, author Daniel Defoe wrote the classic adventure novel, *Robinson Crusoe*, about a man stranded on a deserted island. Experts believe that Defoe based his story on the adventures of Scottish sailor, Alexander Selkirk...

Aye, so you want to know a wee bit about how I came to be stranded on my island. I was a good sailor, and a good navigator, though a bit hotheaded. In 1704, I was on the crew of a ship called the *Cinque Ports*. Captain Stradling was young and arrogant, only 21 years old. Most of the crew had more sailing experience than him! We had been hired by the British crown to raid Spanish ships and villages around the coast of South America.

When we discovered that worms were eating through the wooden ship, we docked on a deserted island for repairs. The ship was in a bad state and I told Captain Stradling that it wasn't seaworthy. Most of the crew seemed to agree, but Captain Stradling stood firm. We argued and I told Stradling that I'd rather stay on the deserted island than sail a leaky ship. I thought the crew would agree with me, but they all followed the captain back on board the ship. Stradling took great pleasure in leaving me stranded!

I expected to be found within a few days. In fact, it was five long years. I built a shelter near a stream, ate fish and wild goat, and foraged for fruit and vegetables. Oh, how I craved foods like bread and salt! I kept a close watch for ships on the horizon, though I hid if I saw a Spanish one. In time, I got used to life on my island, but it was still a joy when Captain Woodes Rogers rescued me on his ship, the *Duke*!

I learned that the *Cinque Ports* had indeed sunk and only Captain Stradling and a few others had survived. So, my sailor's instincts had saved me! When I returned to Britain, I became famous. I was interviewed for *The Englishman* magazine and became the inspiration for the best-selling novel, *Robinson Crusoe*.

Adapted from *Shipwreck Surviving the Storm* by Caryn Jenner

## Alexander Selkirk



### 1. Tick (✓) the right answer.

1. Alexander Selkirk was from

a. Scotland.	
b. England.	
c. Spain.	

2. He was good at

a. sailing.	
b. navigating.	
c. both the above.	

3. Selkirk was sailing on the *Cinque Ports* in

a. 1704.	
b. 1714.	
c. 1710.	

4. Captain Stradling was

a. young and hot-headed.	
b. young but experienced.	
c. young and big-headed.	

5. The crew of the *Cinque Ports* had to

a. raid Spanish ships and villages.	
b. explore the coast of South America.	
c. discover new islands.	

6. Selkirk said that the ship wasn't seaworthy. What did he mean?

a. The ship was very cheap.	
b. The ship was not fit to sail.	
c. The ship was not big enough.	

7. Selkirk stayed on the deserted island for five

a. days.	
b. months.	
c. years.	

8. When Selkirk was stranded he built a shelter

a. in a cave.	
b. by a stream.	
c. over a tree.	

9. Which foods did Selkirk long for?

a. fruit and vegetables	
b. bread and salt	
c. fish and meat	

10. Selkirk was rescued by

a. Captain Stradling.	
b. Captain Woodes Rogers.	
c. Captain Duke.	

11. When the *Cinque Ports* sank

a. only Captain Stradling survived.	
b. Captain Stradling and some crew members survived.	
c. no one survived.	

12. His story inspired

a. readers of <i>The Englishman</i> magazine.	
b. the author of the novel <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> .	
c. the British crown.	