



## Sample Paper 1

Score for Ideas \_\_\_\_\_

# If I Were Stranded

You've probably heard of people making "deserted island" lists—what music, gear, tools, or whatever, would you want to have with you if you were stranded on a deserted island? So, here's a version of that question for you. What would you do if you were stranded on a deserted island (no people, no civilization), and you could take only one thing with you? Think carefully, now, before you just blurt out an answer.

I'll help you out by sharing some answers from my friends—a watch, a cell phone loaded with apps and games and music, a survival knife, a book, and instant pudding. (No joke. I have a friend who loves pudding.) Let's analyze these, starting with the ones that don't make much sense. Now, why would you want a watch? If you were stranded for any length of time, hours and minutes would cease to have meaning. A cell phone is also a pretty poor choice. If you had coverage, which you probably wouldn't, you could call someone and let them know you were stranded. But what are the chances your battery would last long enough to try to make calls, much less play with your apps or listen to music? Your phone would be a distraction, and then a frustration. You'd be better off spending your time looking for food and water. As to the pudding, what can we say? Really, man. *Pudding?*

Bringing a knife or a book makes more sense. The benefits of a knife are obvious—protection, a tool for making fire, shelter, or making the ends of sticks into spears. These are all good things. A book is a sensible answer, too. At least you would have entertainment and company. Of course, reading the same book over and over could make you crazy (unless it was a survival guide for people stuck on islands). You might be better off writing your own book, once you figured out what to write on and write with.



Now, to my personal recommendation—I would take my fly-fishing rod. It's that simple. A person has to eat, and if you're on an island, it stands to reason there are fish around. I would keep myself entertained and occupied doing something I love to do. Being stranded on an island with no distractions or competition is a dream for someone who loves to fish, as I do—as long as I'm not stranded for too long. I'd be pretty happy for a month. Make that a year.

In short, a fly-fishing rod is the perfect answer—or at least perfect for me. Being stranded is about surviving, and usually we think that means getting food, water, and shelter, the basic needs. But you also need to help your mind survive. However you answer the question, make sure your choice helps you survive without losing the most important thing you'll take with you—a sound mind.