



Spotlight 8

Reading Task 8803

Read the text and mark the statements

True (1),

False (2),

Not Stated (3).

Three skydivers made history over Mount Everest on October 5th by being the first people to parachute above the world's highest mountain. The parachutists from New Zealand, Britain and Canada trained for many years to make their jumps. Their plane flew about 150 metres above Everest's peak when they leapt out. They had to wear oxygen masks and parachutes that were larger than usual to help them in the thin air. The three were in free fall for 30 seconds before their parachutes opened and they glided down to land. A member of the jumpers' support team explained to *the Reuters* news agency: "They looked like tiny birds flying in the blue sky as they jumped from the plane."

The skydivers were over the moon with their jump over Everest. New Zealander Wendy Smith said: "It was stunning (сногсшибательный, ошеломляющий). I had never seen so many mountains before. To be on top of the world was simply stunning." Britain's Holly Budge agreed, saying her jump was "just spectacular". Their jumps broke several skydiving records. They entered the record books for making the highest skydiving free fall at nearly 8,900 metres. They also landed on the world's highest drop zone at 3,761 metres. Twenty-nine more brave sportsmen are waiting for favourable weather conditions to make the same jump. The thrill seekers are part of the *Everest Skydive* event organised by the British extreme sports company *High and Wild*.

1. Three skydivers jumped off the top of Mount Everest.
2. The decision to make the jumps was a sudden one taken recently.
3. They had been training for three years before the jump.
4. The skydivers were specially equipped for the high mountain conditions.
5. The weather was sunny on the day of the record jump.
6. The skydivers were happy about their jump.
7. The parachutists were the first to break several skydiving records within ten years.
8. There are nearly 30 jumpers waiting to make the jump above Everest.

