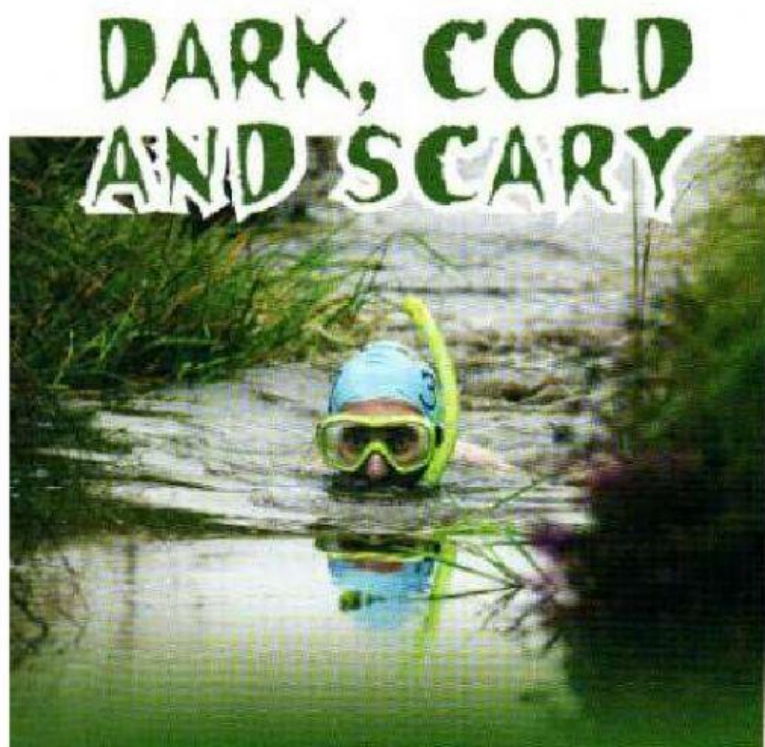


UNUSUAL SPORTS

- 1 **SPEAKING** Look at the photo. How would you describe this sport?
a messy b cold c slow d tiring
- 2 **1.22** Read the text. Is bog snorkelling only popular with British people?



Tournament **champion** **world record** **competitors** **compete**
course

The British seem to enjoy unusual sports more than most other nationalities. But the Bog Snorkelling Championship is one of the strangest. It takes place every year in Wales. The have to swim 110 meters thorough cold, dark, muddy water-without using their arms! And they have to keep their faces in the water at all times, breathing through a snorkel. Who would want to in a horrible event like that?! Well, in fact more than 100 people enter it each year, many of them from other countries. Dan Morgan from Wales is the current He finished the in 1 minute 30 seconds- !

Is bog snorkeling really so nasty? Sheelagh Tomkins, the woman who started the, says yes. 'It's dark and you can't see, and that's scary.' So why do the British enjoy such unusual sports? Perhaps it's because we have a chance of winning!

Read the text again. Answer the questions.

- 1 Where does the competition take place?
- 2 How far do the competitors have to swim?
- 3 How many competitors enter each year?
- 4 What is the fastest ever time?
- 5 Who started the competition?
- 6 Why is it frightening, according to Sheelagh Tompkins?

Student A

Read the text below about the unusual English sport of Cheese-Rolling. You have some information missing from your text. Ask your partner questions using the six hints below to find out the missing details and write these in the gaps.

The Cooper's Hill Cheese-Rolling is an event which takes place every year in ¹_____ at Cooper's Hill, near Gloucester in England. The competition started over ²_____ years ago, and traditionally all of the participants came from the local village of Brockworth. Nowadays, however, people come from ³_____ to take part in the championship or simply to watch.

The rules of the contest are very simple. A round of Double Gloucester cheese is rolled from the top of the hill, and contestants race down the hill after it. The first person over the finish line at the bottom of the hill wins

⁴_____. In theory, the competitors are trying to catch the cheese, but as it can reach speeds up to 70mph (112 k/h), this is really impossible! ⁵_____ is the current champion and record-holder; he has won the contest six times.

Because ⁶_____, the sport is very dangerous and every year, there are many injuries, including twisted ankles, broken bones and concussion!

1 Which month? 2 How many years? 3 Where from? 4 Prize? 5 Who? 6 Why?

 **LISTENING 7** Listen to the radio programme. Who usually wins the 'man versus horse' marathon: a man or a horse?

 **LISTENING 7** Listen again. Choose the correct answer.

- 1 The idea for the 'man versus horse' marathon came from an argument between
 - a two men and the owner of a pub.
 - b two customers in a pub.
 - c a customer and the owner of a pub.
- 2 The first race took place
 - a the same year.
 - b a few years later.
 - c in 1985.
- 3 The race isn't actually a marathon because
 - a horses take part.
 - b the course is too short.
 - c the race is cross-country.
- 4 The first few years of the event,
 - a horses won some and humans won some.
 - b horses always won.
 - c humans always won.
- 5 In 1985, an American cyclist called Jacquie Phelan
 - a won the race on foot.
 - b won the race on her bike.
 - c nearly won the race on her bike.
- 6 The first human to win the race was Tim Gould,
 - a an American cyclist.
 - b a British runner.
 - c a British cyclist.
- 7 Huw Lobb, the first runner to win the race, won in
 - a 1989. b 2004. c 2007.
- 8 Huw Lobb's winning time was about
 - a 2 hours 19 minutes.
 - b 2 hours 40 minutes.
 - c 2 hours 5 minutes.

Homework

PROJECT Work in groups. Find information about an unusual sporting event in your own country or abroad. Make notes about:

- where the event takes place and when/how often.
- what the name of event is and what happens at the event.
- whether you would like to take part in the event and why/why not.

SPEAKING Present the information you found to the class.