Reading

Diving for White Gold

Ted Becks loves it when golfers have a bad game. Every year, golfers in the USA lose over 2.5 billion golf balls. They hit many of them into golf course ponds and lakes – and that's exactly where Ted wants them! Here, Ted tells us all about his life as a golf ball diver.

A On weekdays, I set off for the golf course at around 10 am. Many golfers play early in the morning before they go to their office jobs, so I usually wait until they leave before I begin work. The first thing I do is put on my wetsuit and oxygen tank. Then, I jump into a pond and dive straight down to the bottom. There, I crawl around on my hands and knees and look for golf balls.

B It's not easy, though – it is extremely dark down there because the water is dirty. Usually, I can't see anything and have to rely completely on my sense of touch. Also, sometimes there are dangerous animals in golf ponds in the USA, including poisonous snakes and crocodiles! You need to be very brave to do my job!

C Most days, I work for 5 hours and collect around 2,500 balls. The company I work for pays me ten cents for each ball, so I get around $250 each day. But golf balls aren't the only things I find in the ponds. Sometimes, I come across computers, washing machines and even cars!

D Diving in the ponds of a golf course isn't the same as diving in the beautiful blue waters of the Caribbean – but it's still a great way for divers to earn a lot of money. So don't get annoyed the next time you hit a golf ball into a pond – you're making sure that somebody like me has a job!

1 ★ **Read the text and mark the statements (1-4) *T* (true) or *F* (false).**

1 There are 2.5 billion golf balls in the ponds and lakes of American golf courses. .....
2 Ted plays golf in the morning before he goes to work. .....
3 Ted searches for golf balls by feeling the bottom of a pond with his hands. .....
4 Ted earns more money when he collects more golf balls. .....

2 ★★ **Answer the following questions.**

1 Why does Ted like it when a golf player has a bad game?
2 Why does Ted begin work late in the morning?
3 Why do you need to be brave to be a golf ball diver?

3 ★★ **Find words in the text with a similar meaning to the following words/phrases.**

- **Para A:** leave for, wear, move on hands and knees
- **Para B:** unclean, depend
- **Para C:** gather, find by chance
- **Para D:** angry

4 ★★ **Fill in:** *comes, crawl, puts, sets, make.*

1 Always ..... sure that your oxygen tank is working before you go underwater.
2 Lisa ..... off for school at half past eight every morning.
3 Babies don't walk. They ..... .
4 The cleaner sometimes ..... across money on the office floor.
5 After his shower, Steve ..... on his clothes and goes downstairs.

LIVEWORKSHEETS