

PET READING

Look at the sentences below about an unusual place along a river.

Read the text on the opposite page to decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect.

If it is **correct**, write **A**. If it is **not correct**, write **B**.

THE GLEN NEVIS RIVER RACE

Glen Nevis is known as the 'outdoor capital' of Scotland. Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis, rises above the area, while the waters of the River Nevis flow through the rocky valley below. The spectacular scenery attracts walkers and climbers all through the seasons, despite the cold weather in winter.

During the summer months, one of the most exciting activities is the annual Glen Nevis River Race, in which competitors race for three kilometres along the river, but not in a boat. Instead, each competitor uses a lilo, a plastic bed filled with air normally used for camping or floating in the sea, or another kind of beach toy to race along the river. There are rocks, waterfalls and sections with scary names like Dead Dog Pool and the Leg Breaker for them to get through though there are areas of calmer waters too.

Competitors set off at 30-second intervals by jumping with their lilos from a tiny shelf in a rock into the fast-flowing water 12 metres below. It can take anything from 20 minutes to over two hours to complete the course, depending on the level of the river and the abilities of the competitor.

There is much discussion amongst people who take part regularly about which type of lilo works best for the race. Some prefer short wide ones, while others say that a long narrow one is better. But since you can use anything that floats, all kinds of beach toys such as bananas, sharks and crocodiles can be seen floating down the river.

The only rules are that competitors must be at least 16 years old, and should provide their own crash helmet, a rubber wet suit and a life jacket. Gloves and old trainers are recommended to protect against knocks and bumps. The most important qualification, however, is a sense of fun.

The race is full of exciting moments, and the greatest of these is at Lower Falls Leap, where terrified competitors have to jump over a ten-metre waterfall not far from the finish. More than 3,000 athletes have taken part in the race during its 30-year history. Their £30 entry fee helps to raise money for the mountain rescue team, whose members provide an essential service in the region for free. The race is a popular afternoon out for visitors and it costs nothing to watch, although any money given is gratefully accepted.

The prizes may not be fantastic, but everyone receives a certificate of completion and the winner gets the title River Race Champion and all agree that it has been worth it for the satisfying feeling of reaching the end safely.

- 1. Visitors come to Glen Nevis to enjoy outdoor activities all year round.*
- 2. Parts of the course of the River Race are less rough than others.*
- 3. Competitors are able to begin the race as soon as they are ready.*
- 4. The depth of the water has an effect on how long the races last.*
- 5. Some people return to do the race again and again.*
- 6. Only certain types of lilo may be used in the race.*
- 7. Competitors must use the safety clothing provided by race organizers.*
- 8. The most frightening part of the race is in the second half of the course.*
- 9. Members of the mountain rescue team are paid professionals.*
- 10. There is a fixed charge for visitors who come to see the race.*