

## 12 READING

## An interview with Shawn Johnson

How often do you think professional athletes practice?



Get a sneak peek  
inside the life of  
this U.S. gold  
medal-winning  
Olympic gymnast!



Where are you from?

Des Moines, Iowa. I live there now.

Who do you train with?

A lot of people think I have a private coach.  
But I train with 13 other girls at the gym!

How often do you practice?

Most athletes train about 45 hours a week. But  
my parents want me to have a "normal life."  
I train about 25 hours a week. I usually work out  
four hours a day during the week, and five to six  
hours on Saturdays. I don't practice on Sundays.

What do you eat to stay healthy?

I have to watch my diet to be a healthy gymnast.  
But I don't get stressed about it.

What are your favorite foods?

Chicken and steak kebabs, peaches and cream,  
and corn on the cob.

What do you do when you're not training?

I love to ride horses and spend time with  
my friends.

What do you do for good luck?

I always travel with my blankets. But I don't  
believe in good-luck charms!

Who are your biggest fans?

My mom, dad, and of course my coach!

**A** Read the interview. Then check (✓) the correct answers to the questions.

- Who does Shawn train with?  
a. ☐ just her coach      b. ☐ other gymnasts
- How often does she practice?  
a. ☐ 25 hours a week      b. ☐ 45 hours a week
- How much does she train on Saturdays?  
a. ☐ four hours      b. ☐ five to six hours
- What does she like to do in her free time?  
a. ☐ eat in restaurants      b. ☐ ride horses and be with friends
- What does she travel with?  
a. ☐ a good-luck charm      b. ☐ her blankets

**B GROUP WORK** Do you think athletes have an easy life? Is playing a sport fun, or hard work? Discuss your reasons with your classmates.

What sports do you play? ■ 69