

Living dangerously

8

PART 2



Reading and speaking

Two stuntwomen and a stuntman

Look at the photo. What is the job of a stunt man or woman? What kind of things do they have to do?



Think of some films you've seen. Which do you think have used stunt doubles? Why?

Look at these adjectives. Which qualities are necessary to be a stunt double?

athletic brave competitive crazy
easy-going fit healthy sensitive
strong sporty slim thin

Read the introduction and the **Fact Files** about the two stuntwomen.

THE TOUGH WORLD OF TWO HOLLYWOOD STUNTWOMEN

Being a stunt double is a risky job for both men and women. Jumping through glass, crashing into cars, and falling down stairs is no easy day's work, but for stuntwomen it is even more dangerous – they often have to do these stunts wearing high heels and a mini skirt. Men and women usually earn the same money, but in New Zealand stuntwomen earn more than stuntmen – they recognize that women can't wear as much protective clothing.

FACT FILE AMANDA FOSTER

From: Essex, England

Years in the business: 25

Family: three children (single mum)

Credits include:

James Bond 007: Die Another Day (Halle Berry)

A Knight in Camelot (Whoopi Goldberg)

World War Z (with Brad Pitt)

The *Harry Potter* series

Ninja Assassin (Naomie Harris)



How did she become a stuntwoman?

Amanda had a difficult childhood, but she was always sporty. For a while she worked as a PE teacher and a film extra. Then, in her late 20s, while working as an extra on the film *Patriot Games* with Harrison Ford, she heard someone say that there were no British black stunt actresses. She thought, 'Great! I'll be the first!'

Which celebrities has she worked with?

She has doubled for some of the world's greatest stars. Her first major role was 20 years ago, doubling for Whoopi Goldberg in *A Knight in Camelot*. 'I was sword-fighting, jumping over tables,' she remembers. 'It was good fun.' Then she worked with Halle Berry in the Bond film *Die Another Day* – one of her favourites. She won an award for it. More recently she did *The Edge of Tomorrow* with Tom Cruise and *World War Z* with Brad Pitt. She loved that – she had to jump on top of Brad and bite his face!

How do stunt doubles prepare for a film?

Obviously, most stunts are dangerous one way or another, so they have to do a lot of preparation – both mental and physical – but they also have to learn special skills. Amanda's skills include: gymnastics, trampolining, motorcycle racing and martial arts. Also, you have to develop a good relationship with the star. Amanda says: 'I watch to see how they move. The viewer has to believe that you are the star.'

Has she been injured much?

'Many times! We don't talk about that stuff,' says Amanda. 'It's a seriously risky job to do.' She doesn't like to talk about her worst injury. 'All I can say is that as long as I leave a day's work in my own car, and I don't have to leave in an ambulance, it's been a good day!'

FINAL WORD

Amanda is doing very well for someone who spent their childhood in children's homes and had three children by the age of 21. They are grown up now and very proud of their mother.

She says about the job, 'I'll keep going until my body won't allow me to.'

FACT FILE DAYNA GRANT

From: Auckland, New Zealand

Years in the business: 22

Family: Husband, Dane Grant (stuntman)
One son

Credits include:

Mad Max: Fury Road (Charlize Theron)

The Chronicles of Narnia (Tilda Swinton)

Xena: Warrior Princess (Lucy Lawless)



How did she become a stuntwoman?

Dayna grew up in New Zealand and was always a keen gymnast and horse rider. She was 18 when two friends, who were working as stuntmen, asked her to audition to be a stuntwoman on a TV show called, *Xena: Warrior Princess*. She didn't know anything about the profession and didn't expect to get the job. But they liked her, and she started the next day!

Which celebrities has she worked with?

She has doubled for many famous stars, including Charlize Theron, Gwyneth Paltrow, and Tilda Swinton. For the action film *Mad Max: Fury Road*, as Theron's double, she had to shave her head and spend nine months in the Namibian desert. 'I lived and breathed that film,' she says. She had to run alongside a moving truck and fall under its wheels – all in a day's work. She met her stuntman husband, Dane, on that film.

How do stunt doubles prepare for a film?

Obviously, they have to keep fit. They often train in martial arts, such as judo and karate, but as Dayna says, you have to learn different skills for different films. For the adventure film *Hercules*, she had to learn archery and chariot driving! Another part of the preparation for the stunt double is to train the actor. Sometimes they work together 12 hours a day. The preparation for a role can be difficult if there's not a lot of time, and they have to 'crash' diet!

Has she been injured much?

Dayna did once have a very serious accident – this was because of the shoes she was wearing: 'They were very slippery, feminine shoes.' She slipped and her head fell on a dagger. 'I was a bit of a mess,' she says bravely.

FINAL WORD

Dayna knows it's an unusual career, but she loves it. Her son came back from school one day and said: 'I've just realized you're not a normal mum. Most mums drink tea and sit on the couch. You jump off buildings and set yourself on fire!'

Answer the following questions:

- Where are they from? Are they married?
- Where do stuntwomen earn more than stuntmen? Why?
- Which films have they worked in?
Do you know any of them?

Listening – a stuntman's story

8.8 Listen to stuntman **Andy Lambert** talking to his friend, **Justin**, about being a stuntman. What are his answers to the questions in the articles?



What do you think?

- Do *all* actors use stunt doubles for dangerous actions?
- Stunt doubles' acting skills are usually not noticed. Some of them are annoyed that the stars take the credit for their stunts. What do you think about this?
- Stunt doubles are paid more for the most dangerous stunts, but they aren't paid as much as the stars. Is this fair?

Watch a video and find out more about the exciting and dangerous life of an underwater photographer.



Vocabulary and speaking

Not a thing to wear!

Parts of the body

head neck eyes shoulders arms
hands fingers wrist waist knees
legs ankles feet toes

Things to wear

a belt boots a cap a dress a jacket
jeans a jumper gloves sandals a scarf
a shirt and tie a suit shorts socks a skirt
a watch sunglasses trainers a T-shirt
leggings a track suit a helmet goggles
a swimsuit a sports vest a hoodie

Dress Person X

- 4 With your partner, decide if **Person X** is male or female. Give them a name. Choose the clothes to dress him/her for one of the situations below. Tell the class who your person is and which clothes you chose.

- going to the gym
- a skiing holiday
- a beach holiday
- a job interview
- a party
- a wedding



Discuss the questions with a partner.

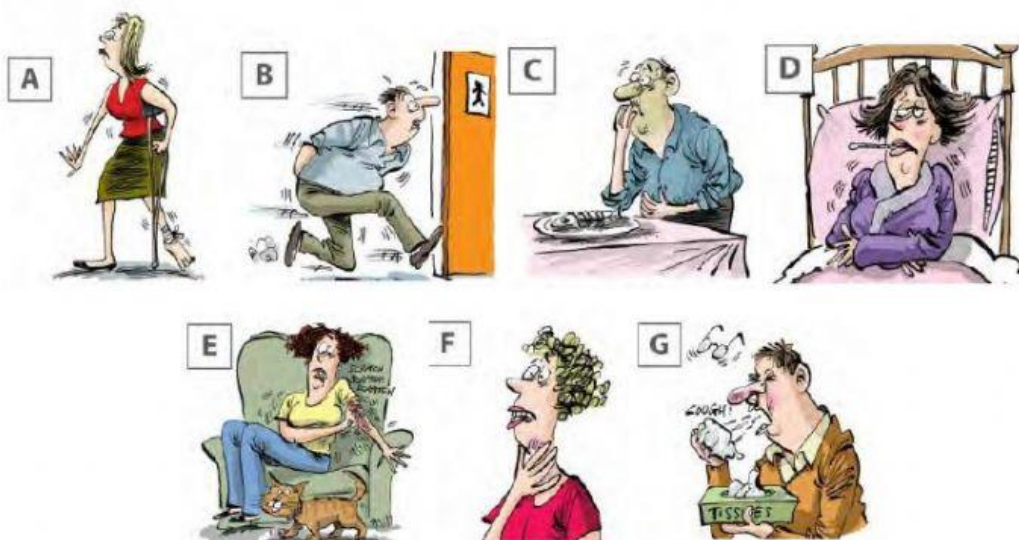
- What was the last item of clothing you bought?
- Which clothes do you usually wear in winter?
- Which in summer?
- Which clothes do you always/often/never wear?



Everyday English At the doctor's

Match the pictures with a word or phrase from the box.

a sore throat a cold diarrhoea /,daɪə'ri:ə/ flu
an allergy a sprained ankle food poisoning



Complete:

Patient's symptoms	Doctor's diagnosis
1 I can't stop coughing and blowing my nose.	You've got _____
2 I've got a fever, my whole body aches, and I feel awful.	You've got _____
3 It hurts when I walk on it.	You've got _____
4 I keep going to the toilet.	You've got _____
5 My glands are swollen, and it hurts when I swallow.	You've got _____
6 I keep being sick, and I've got terrible diarrhoea.	You've got _____
7 I start sneezing when I'm near a cat.	You've got _____

8.10 Listen and check. What else does the doctor say?

8.11 Listen to a conversation between **Edsom (E)**, a student from Brazil, and a **doctor (D)**. Answer the questions.

Seeing the doctor

- D** Hello. Come and sit down. What seems to be the ¹ _____?
- E** Well, I haven't felt ² _____ for a few days. I've had a bad ³ _____, and now I've got a ⁴ _____.
- D** Any sickness or diarrhoea?
- D** No, I haven't been ⁵ _____ or had any diarrhoea.
- D** Do you feel hot?
- E** Yes, especially at night. I can't sleep because I feel hot, and I start ⁶ _____ when I lie down.
- D** OK, I'll just ⁷ _____ your temperature. Can I just pop this in your mouth?
- E** Aaargh!
- D** Ah, yes. You do have a bit of a ⁸ _____. Now, let me see your throat. Open your ⁹ _____ wide, please.
- E** 'ot can u see?
- D** Pardon?
- E** Can you see anything?
- D** Yes, your throat looks very red. Does this ¹⁰ _____?
- E** Ouch!
- D** And your glands are ¹¹ _____.
- E** Is it serious?
- D** No, not at all. You just have a bit of a ¹² _____ infection. You should have antibiotics. Are you allergic to penicillin?
- E** No, I'm not.
- D** Good. Now, you ¹³ _____ go to work for a couple of days, and you ¹⁴ _____ drink plenty of liquids. Just take things easy for a while. I'll write you a prescription.
- E** Thank you. Do I have to pay you?
- D** No, no. Seeing me is free, but you'll have to pay for the ¹⁵ _____. It's £8.80.
- E** Right. Thanks very much. Goodbye.



- 1 What are Edsom's symptoms?
- 2 What questions does the doctor ask?
- 3 What does the doctor think is the matter with Edsom?
- 4 What does she prescribe?
- 5 What advice does she give him?
- 6 Does he have to pay for anything?