

# LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!



Read the article. Some sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A-H the one which fits each gap. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

*Annie Fielding talks about her journey to becoming a successful female stunt performer.*

Falling face first through a plate of glass, being thrown from a moving car, diving off a tall building and being beaten up—this could be the material from people's nightmares, but for me it's all in a day's work.

Having trained as a professional dancer, I started out by choreographing dance routines in music videos and films. I was working on the set of a musical, overseeing a particularly complex dance sequence, when I was introduced to Dan Pullman, who was the senior stunt coordinator on the movie. We hit it off straight away.

(1)\_\_\_\_ We enjoyed each other's company and gradually grew very close. Then we decided to get married.

At first, I had absolutely no interest in stunt work, but just for fun, Dan started showing me a few basic stunts, such as falling and landing safely. (2)\_\_\_\_ Apparently, I was a natural. I didn't find these stunts too difficult, because my dance background had equipped me with a certain amount of physical strength and flexibility. Compared to dancing around a studio, I found it exhilarating because there were more risks involved. It prompted me to rethink my own career.

So then Dan started training me seriously. I learnt the martial art of judo and how to fight, and to ride horses and motorbikes. I remember the pain that I suffered in this short space of time. (3)\_\_\_\_ By the time I was hired for my first stunt job, I felt ready. I know that within the stunt community there was some talk that my connection with Dan had helped me to land jobs. Well, that may have been the case at first.

I only entered the stunt industry four years ago and now I have built up a fairly impressive list of stunt work experience. I have worked in music videos, television and major motion pictures. (4)\_\_\_\_ It isn't easy to get regular work in this field, especially if you are a woman. There are many unemployed stunt performers out there. The longest I have gone without a project is a month, so I consider myself really lucky.

It's great work if you can get it. You might get asked to do a stair fall or a car knock-down. (5)\_\_\_\_ Last week I was strapped to a moving truck as it caught fire. The days tend to be long and depending on what is being made, a job can last from a few hours to several months. Sometimes you get to travel. My last job – doubling for an actress in a horror film – involved spending three whole weeks in Mexico.

If I'm not working, I'm training. I take karate lessons and always find time to ride, as horse stunts are my specialty. I also make sure I rehearse driving stunts in deserted areas. Doing long falls is a common thing asked of stunt people but it is not something that you can practice regularly (6)\_\_\_\_ That way I am prepared for anything that is asked of me.

On the surface, my profession seems glamorous and daring, but I take every opportunity to tell young people that they must be prepared to work incredibly hard. (7)\_\_\_\_ Yes, you do get to live out your action fantasies and have the chance to work with top celebrities, but there is always the possibility that you may get injured in spite of all the safety precautions.

A I also point out how physically demanding and dangerous it is.

B I like it when we work on a film together, because we can see each other every day.

C I think even he was surprised by what I could do.

D I didn't know then that he would inspire me to follow a different path in life.

E You never know what to expect, and no two stunt jobs will ever be exactly the same.

F People in the industry say that such success so early in your career is very unusual.

G I just need to keep my body lean and in peak physical conditions.

H I would go to bed every night covered in bruises, but I remained extremely focused.