READING COMPREHENSION: STUNT PERFORMERS

Student:	

Read the text "Stunt Performers" carefully. Then complete the following activities.

Stunt Performers

Stunt performers (stunt men or stunt women) are professionals who are trained to do stunts during a movie. A stunt person who replaces an actor or actress in a few scenes during a movie is called a stunt double. These scenes can include extreme falls, fights, car crashes, and explosions. The performers have to be trained in different disciplines like martial arts and combat. This makes them better prepared to do their job and deal with risk factors.

The idea of stunt performers first started in the circus. Acrobats and gymnasts, called cascadeurs (from the French cascade meaning "waterfall"), would perform falls or stunts with water. Later, these acrobats started to incorporate jumps into their routines and the performances became more risky to the performers. The word stunt came into being during the 20th century with Wild West movies. This genre of film simulated fights between rival groups using guns and arrows, and stunt performers had to enact those fights. It started to be considered a professional skill requiring special training in the early 1900s. The first stunt double was used in a movie called The Great Train Robbery in 1903. Since then, stunts have been incorporated in a variety of genres of movies, including action, drama, kung fu, and even comedies.

Some actors, like Jackie Chan, also do their own stunts, but this is not very common. There have been dozens of serious injuries and even a few deaths of stunt performers throughout the years. The most recent one was in 2017 when filming the



TV series The Walking Dead. The stuntman fell from six meters high while doing a stunt, missing the safety net by a couple inches. Hopefully in the future, these types of accidents will be prevented with better training and equipment. Currently, computer-generated images are taking some of the jobs of stunt performers, but computers have not yet reached the level of authenticity that a live stunt person can.

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ACTIVITY 1. MULTIPLE CHOICE

Choose the correct answer.

What is a stunt performer?

a) A person who directs movies.

b) A professional trained to perform dangerous actions in movies.

c) A person who designs movie costumes.

d) A person who sells movie tickets.

What is a stunt double?

a) An actor who plays two characters.

b) A person who replaces an actor in dangerous scenes.

c) A movie producer.

d) A professional photographer.

Where did the idea of stunt performers first start?

a) In the circus.

b) In Hollywood.

c) In the theater.

d) In television.

In which year was the first stunt double used in a movie?

a) 1900

b) 1903

c) 1917

d) 2003

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What technology is currently taking some stunt performers' jobs?

a) Smartphones.

b) Video games.

c) Computer-generated images.

d) Robots.

ACTIVITY 2. TRUE OR FALSE

Read the statements and write T (True) or F (False).

1. _____ Stunt performers are trained to do dangerous actions.
2. _____ Stunt performers only work in comedy movies.
3. _____ Acrobatics and gymnastics were part of the beginning of stunt work.
4. _____ Jackie Chan always uses a stunt double.
5. _____ A stuntman fell six meters high while filming *The Walking Dead*.

ACTIVITY 3. MATCHING

Match the words in Column A with their correct definitions in Column B.

COLUMN A	COLUMN B
Stunt	A person who replaces an actor in a dangerous scene.
Stunt double	A large stream of water falling from a cliff or mountain.
Acrobat	A daring or skillful action.
Waterfall	A person who performs difficult physical movements.
Martial arts	Fighting disciplines that involve physical skills and techniques.

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