

Major Sports of the 21st Century



Kristen Ulmer went on her first ski trip when she was a kid. Ever since then, she has been hooked on adventure and risk. Now in her thirties, she has skied down some of the world's tallest mountains, in remote places from Tajikistan to New Zealand. She has also gone mountaineering in Tibet, and ridden a bike solo across India. She goes rock-climbing to relax! Kristen is skilful

and fearless - and some might say crazy! She is part of a new kind of sport where risk is the most important thing. Heart-stopping activities such as mountain biking, snowboarding and skydiving are known as 'extreme sports'. And they are attracting more and more people. Rock-climbing, for example, is now enjoyed by more than half a million Americans. Only 50,000 were doing it in 1989. One of the most extreme of all these sports is BASE jumping. First done in 1980, BASE jumping is jumping off tall buildings, towers and bridges using a parachute. It's dangerous, but of course that's why BASE jumpers love it. Like other extreme sports, it's the risk of disaster that makes BASE jumping so exciting. As one BASE jumper puts it, 'There aren't many injuries in BASE jumping; you either live or you die. Some experts predict that extreme sports will become the major sports of the 21st century. They may become more popular than traditional favourites like soccer and baseball. At one recent extreme sports show in Chicago, most of the crowd were kids under sixteen. As they stood watching in their baggy pants and hooded sweatshirts, one excited eleven-year-old spoke for the next generation of athletes. 'That is so cool!' he exclaimed. 'I gotta do that!'



Which is the best option a, b, c or d, to each of the following sentences?

1. Kristen Ulmer_____.

- a. rode a bike through New Zealand by herself.
- b. rode a bike through India by herself.
- c. rode a bike through India with a group of friends.
- d. ran across New Zealand.

2. The number of Americans who enjoy rock-climbing is now_____.

- a. less than the number in 1989.
- b. the same as the number in 1989.



- c. double the number in 1989.
- d. more than ten times the number in 1989.

3. Many young people think that extreme sports are_____.

- a. boring.
- b. only for old people.
- c. attractive and exciting.
- d. relaxing.

4. Some BASE jumpers might not want to take a first-aid kit in their pack because_____.

- a. they want their pack to be as light as possible.
- b. they think it will bring them bad luck.
- c. there are no injuries in BASE jumping.
- d. they don't know how to use one