

BAREFOOT WATER-SKIER

Read the text and answer the questions.

By Dan Thomas

Have you ever been barefoot water-skiing? It's just like normal water-skiing, being pulled along behind a boat at 40 mph - but without any skis! It sounds scary but it's amazing! My cousin used to take me water-skiing, and that's where I first learnt to stand up and balance. But I moved on to barefooting when I did it for a laugh with some mates. And I loved it!

Barefoot water-skiing is one of the most popular watersports there is - to watch, anyway! When someone jumps really high and then lands. It's awesome. And you don't need expensive stuff like boards, although a wetsuit's a good idea. But catching your toes on things in the lake can hurt. I guess you can't help getting water up your nose when you start learning, too, as you have to lie almost flat in the water before you pull yourself up - but it's OK.

Now I'm experienced. I've learnt not to attempt new moves in rough water as it never goes well. Instead, I make sure I limit myself to skiing directly behind the boat, where the water's calmer. I ask the boat drivers to warn me about big waves coming, although they can't always see them.

Finding time to practice regularly is hard as I'm still at school - but then it's not as if I'm into winning prizes and stuff. But if I want to learn a new move I need to repeat it over and over, and that's not easy in winter when it's cold. Lots of skiers say they'll continue during cold weather, but not many do. So I'm often the only one out on the lake!



1 What is Dan trying to do in this text about barefoot water-skiing?

- A explain why he's determined to become a champion
- B convince people that his sport is both safe and easy
- C suggest the best ways to begin learning his sport
- D describe what he does to get better at his sport

2 Dan started barefoot water-skiing when

- A he tried it out just for fun
- B he realized how easy it was to do
- C he was taught how to do it by his cousin
- D He was persuaded by friends to have a go.

3 What does Dan think are the disadvantages of barefoot water-skiing?

- A Although not much equipment is needed, it isn't cheap.
- B If your feel hit something in the water, it's painful.
- C If you start in the wrong position, you breathe in water.
- D Although you jump higher without skis, it's harder to land.

4. How does Dan feel skiing in rough water?

- A confident that his boat drivers will keep him safe.
- B annoyed about having to ski inside a limited area.
- C unwilling to try anything he hasn't practiced before
- D certain of his ability to handle difficult conditions.

5 What might Dan write to a friend about his barefoot water-skiing?

- A I'm one of the few people who avoids going once the weather gets a bit colder!
- B The boat travels along in the water at quite a speed, but it's not as frightening as you'd think!
- C It's a fantastic water sport to watch -it's just a shame more people don't enjoy going to see it.
- D If I can fit enough practice of the sport in my studies, I'm hoping to win a prize.

