9D The Surprising Thing I Learned Sailing Solo Around the World



"When you're a child, anything and everything is possible. The challenge, so often, is hanging on to that as we grow up."

DAME ELLEN MACARTHUR

Read about Dame Ellen MacArthur and get ready to watch her TED Talk. ▶ 9.0

AUTHENTIC LISTENING SKILLS

Weak forms

Often, words such as prepositions (*to, of, from*), auxiliary verbs (*are, was*), conjunctions (*and, but*), and articles (*a, the*) aren't stressed. These unstressed words are called weak forms. The vowel sound in a weak form is the schwa sound, /ə/.

2 Work in pairs. Underline the words that could be weak forms. Then listen and check. 58

1 I will never forget the excitement as we closed the coast.
2 I will never forget the feeling of adventure as I climbed on board the boat and stared into her tiny cabin for the first time.

WATCH

3 Watch Part 1 of the talk. Choose the correct responses for each question. ▶ 9.1

1 Which three of these did Ellen experience when she first went on a boat?
a challenge **b** adventure **c** excitement **d** freedom **e** danger **f** relaxation

2 Which two of these things did Ellen do to reach her goal of becoming a sailor?
a saved to buy a boat **b** read books about sailing **c** worked in a boat shop **d** took sailing classes

3 Ellen's school said that she wasn't smart enough to do what?
a be a vet **b** be a sailor **c** go to college

4 When she was 21, Ellen met someone who helped her do which two things?
a learn how to sail **b** design a boat **c** get a job in a company **d** sail around the world

4 Complete the experiences Ellen had when she sailed around the world. Then watch Part 2 of the talk and number them in the order she talks about them. ▶ 9.2

blown broke climbed finished hit saw took

a ___ *Climbed* to the top of the mast (the highest part of the sailboat)
b ___ _____ sunsets and wildlife
c ___ Almost _____ an iceberg
d ___ Were _____ over by the wind
e ___ _____ everything she needed for three months
f ___ _____ a speed record
g ___ _____ in second position

6 Watch Part 3 of the talk. Correct the sentences. ▶ 9.3

1 Ellen realized suddenly that the global economy is ~~different from~~ *the same as* living on a boat.
2 She decided to continue the job of sailing around the world.
3 She talked to chief executives, experts, scientists, and economists to teach them.
4 Her great-grandfather owned a coal mine.
5 According to the World Coal Association, there is enough coal for 180 more years.
6 Other valuable materials—copper, tin, zinc, silver—are not limited.

7 Watch Part 4 of the talk. Are these sentences *true, false,* or *not given*? ▶ 9.4

1 Ellen thinks we can stop waste in food packaging, car engines, electronic equipment, and food.
2 Ellen thinks we should use energy efficient light bulbs.
3 When Ellen's great-grandfather was born, there were 25 cars in the world.
4 Ellen says that computers are dangerous for the world.
5 Ellen says that her talk gives a plan for the future.
6 Ellen thinks young people should lead the change.

LIVEWORKSHEETS