

TEDTalk activity

1. Look at this picture and answer the questions



1. Where are these people?

- ☐ in an office
- ☐ at the airport
- ☐ at a park

2. What do people usually do here?

- ☐ relax or take a walk
- ☐ wait for flights
- ☐ type reports

3. What are these people doing?

- ☐ improvising
- ☐ reading signs
- ☐ shopping for clothes

The video you are going to watch is a TED Talk given by Charlie Todd. He is a man who, delights in creating unexpected scenes like the one in the picture above. Here are some words you will hear in his TED Talk. Complete the paragraph with the correct form of the word. Not all words will be used.

cop *n.* a police officer

diverse *adj.* made up of people or things that are different from each other

improvise *v.* to speak or perform without preparation

inspire *v.* to give (someone) an idea about what to do or create

play *n.* activities that are done especially by children for fun or enjoyment

prank *n.* a trick that is done to someone usually as a joke

Improv Everywhere is a group that creates
(1) _____ in public places. Their
founder, Charlie Todd, believes that
(2) _____ is as important for adults
as it is for kids. He was (3) _____
to start the group when he couldn't find a
regular theater to perform in. Now, Improv
Everywhere's (4) _____ members
can be found all around the world. So the next
time a group of people are (5) _____
on the street or a store, you might be seeing an
Improv Everywhere performance.

Watch the video

- **Circle the main idea.**

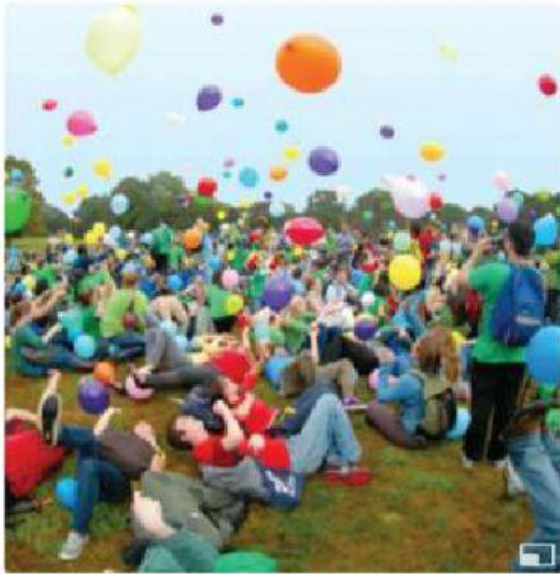
1. Charlie Todd couldn't find work as an actor.
2. Everyone needs to be creative and have fun.
3. Improv Everywhere creates pranks that are positive experiences.

- **Select the best option**



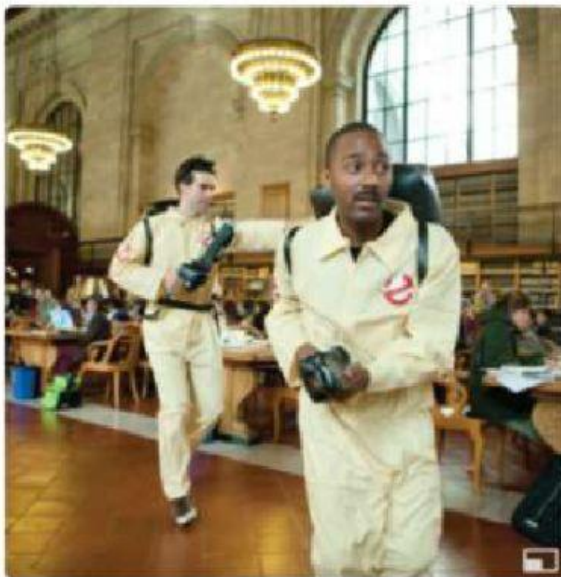
1. Which caption goes with this photo?

- ☐ Getting a high five on your way to work might make your day better.
- ☐ Charlie Todd wants to share a sense of fun and play.
- ☐ Improv Everywhere's pranks take place in public places.
- ☐ Nobody expects to see characters from a movie at the library.



2. Which caption goes with this photo?

- ☐ Getting a high five on your way to work might make your day better.
- ☐ Charlie Todd wants to share a sense of fun and play.
- ☐ Improv Everywhere's pranks take place in public places.
- ☐ Nobody expects to see characters from a movie at the library.



3. Which caption goes with this photo?

- ☐ Nobody expects to see characters from a movie at the library.
- ☐ Improv Everywhere's pranks take place in public places.
- ☐ Getting a high five on your way to work might make your day better.
- ☐ Charlie Todd wants to share a sense of fun and play.



4. Which caption goes with this photo?

- ☐ Charlie Todd wants to share a sense of fun and play.
- ☐ Getting a high five on your way to work might make your day better.
- ☐ Nobody expects to see characters from a movie at the library.
- ☐ Improv Everywhere's pranks take place in public places.

- Complete the summary with the words from the box.

stand actors
believes completed
event performances

Charlie Todd (1) _____ that we should be having more fun. In 2005, he staged an Improv Everywhere prank when he asked a group of friends to (2) _____ in the window frames of a building. Todd calls their (3) _____ "missions," and the (4) _____ are "secret agents." Since the first prank, Todd and his group have (5) _____ more than 100 missions and some of them have become an international (6) _____.

- **Match the phrases to the information from the TED Talk.**

_____ 1. number of high fives Rob gave	a. 2006
_____ 2. number of agents participating in "Blue Shirt" mission	b. 8
_____ 3. number of windows in the building	c. 80
_____ 4. year he was inspired to do "Blue Shirt" mission	d. 2,000
_____ 5. age of one young "secret agent"	e. 70

- **Select the statements that paraphrase Charlie Todd's ideas.**

1. When I moved to New York, I wanted to be famous.
2. I started performing in public because I couldn't use a theater.
3. We want to create performances that make people happy.
4. Riding the subway in New York is a pleasant experience.
5. Adults need to learn to play again.