DAREDEVILS

How exciting is your job? Read about three people with very exciting lives.



Danny MacAskill

Danny is a Scottish street trials pro-rider who was born and brought up on the Isle of Skye. When he released a video on YouTube that showed him performing stunts, it changed his life. The video showed Danny cycling up and down trees, riding along railings and jumping off roofs. His flatmate filmed him and a few hundred people watched it on one day! So far, more than 20 million people have seen it. Since the video appeared, things have progressed quickly. There was an article about Danny in *The New York Times*, he worked on a Hollywood film as a stuntman, he appeared in a TV commercial for a new car and he was nominated for the Action Sports Person of the Year. Danny eventually gave up his job as a mechanic so that he could ride full-time and he now lives in Edinburgh. A new video shows him going back home to Skye and doing some spectacular stunts. However, his sport isn't without risk. He has broken his collar bone three times. According to Danny, he spends his time in hospital thinking up new stunts!

Kilian Martin

When Kilian Martin was ten, he joined a gymnastics school in Madrid, Spain. At the same time, he developed a passion for surfing. However, with the ocean over six hours away, daily practice was impossible. Then he realised he could take up skateboarding to help his surfing abilities. After a year of this, Kilian Martin discovered freestyle skateboarding when he saw Powell Peralta's skate video *Ban This*. He realised that this style of skateboarding would allow him to use his gymnastic abilities. More importantly, it would give him the opportunity to be more creative. When he turned 21, he decided to move to California, where he set out to master his skateboarding skills. Kilian copied many freestyle tricks and adapted them to street skateboarding. Since then he has developed his own unique style. He has achieved a level of skill that has put him in a class of his very own.

Stella McGowan

Stella McGowan, who grew up in London, hasn't always been a champion break dancer. When she was younger she had problems at school and became involved in petty crime. Her boyfriend ended up in prison and she asked herself 'What am I doing with my life?' She won a place at a very good dancing school where she started to do break dancing. She has been competing for years now and has even been British break dancing champion. She has also been to Africa to shoot an advert and recently danced at a store opening. Stella is very busy these days and she teaches and trains up to six hours a day. She has also given advice to many of the youngsters she teaches. 'Kids need to feel good about themselves. I try to show them they can do what they want and that any dream is worth working for. I consider it a life skill.'



LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 **Read the article again and answer the questions by writing D (Danny), K (Kilian), or S (Stella) at the end of each line.**

EXAM TIP

Read the texts quickly before looking at the questions to get a good idea of the content.

In the exam there will be between four and six short texts and ten questions.

Which person

has performed in films?	1 ☐
works a lot with children?	2 ☐
started formal training at a young age?	3 ☐
was inspired by seeing a short film?	4 ☐
used to mend vehicles?	5 ☐
takes part in competitions regularly?	6 ☐
became an overnight sensation?	7 ☐
went abroad to learn more?	8 ☐
has often been injured?	9 ☐
started by doing a different sport?	10 ☐

LIVEWORKSHEETS