

1 Extreme Skydiving



Before you watch

A Match the words to the meanings.

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 1 terminal velocity | ☐ | a the object players hit in the sport of badminton |
| 2 falcon | ☐ | b a bird of prey |
| 3 free fall | ☐ | c fastest speed |
| 4 shuttlecock | ☐ | d part of a parachute jump before the parachute opens |

While you watch

B Watch the video clip and decide if these statements are true or false. Write T for True or F for False.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1 An average skydiver in free fall reaches a speed of about 120 miles per hour. | ☐ |
| 2 Mark Calland claims to be faster than a jet engine. | ☐ |
| 3 The peregrine falcon can reach over 200 miles per hour in an attack dive. | ☐ |
| 4 In competitions, skydivers must use the same techniques. | ☐ |
| 5 Mark's body and pants take the shape of a shuttlecock during dives. | ☐ |
| 6 Marco Wiederkehr wins the men's skydiving championship. | ☐ |

After you watch

C Complete the summary of the video clip below using these words.

challenger competitive exceed harnesses holds inflate lure place recorded resistance

Skydivers in free fall (1) _____ speeds of 100 miles per hour in seconds. They reach terminal velocity when air (2) _____ on their bodies prevents more acceleration. But in (3) _____ speed skydiving, participants use scientific approaches to go faster.

The peregrine falcon, however, has learned how to reach higher speeds. Ken Franklin decided to find out just how fast the peregrine falcon was. He released a falcon from 15,000 feet and then he jumped out. When Ken reached terminal velocity, he dropped a (4) _____ of meat, which the bird chased in an attack dive. A computer attached to the bird (5) _____ a speed of 242 miles per hour.

Mark Calland, who (6) _____ the British record for speed skydiving, hopes a method similar to the falcon's will increase his speed for the world championship. His main (7) _____ is Marco Wiederkehr from Liechtenstein.

The average speed of participants' best three jumps is measured with speedometers attached to their (8) _____. Mark's first jump is 302 miles per hour, but Marco's is 312 miles per hour. Mark is still confident because of his special trousers that (9) _____ with air. His body takes the shape of a shuttlecock, giving him more control during a dive. Marco's rubber suit keeps air resistance to a minimum, but he wobbles and loses speed. Mark's final skydive goes beautifully and he manages to take first (10) _____.



Skydiver in free fall



Ideas Focus

- Would you like to try extreme skydiving? Why? / Why not?
- What kind of personality do you think an extreme skydiver has?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of extreme sports?