

ACTION MEN (AND WOMEN)



Sharon Starr is a stunt performer. She works on US TV cop shows. One day, she wants to work in Hollywood movies.

How did you start working as a stunt performer?

About ten years ago, I was working as an **extra** on a TV show, and I met two stuntmen. There was a fire in a house, and one of them ran out with his clothes on fire. I was really **impressed!**

I found out about a school for stunt performers, and I did a course there. I got my first stunt job three months after I finished the course, on a **comedy show!**

Things are different now, and as well as men, there are a lot of women stunt performers.

Is it dangerous?

Stunt organizers are very good, and the planning is amazing. But the performers have to **concentrate**. If the planning is good, it isn't dangerous. But if you don't concentrate, it can be very dangerous.

Is the money good?

Every job is different. Stunt performers in Hollywood **blockbusters** can make a lot of money. A guy jumped off the CN Tower in Toronto and got \$150,000. The jump took ten seconds—that's \$15,000 per second for the job! But, of course, if you're hurt, you can't work or make any money.

Did you have any serious accidents?

I broke my arm once. It was only my second job, and I jumped through a window. It wasn't a real glass window, so it didn't hurt. Unfortunately, my shoulder hit the window frame and I fell 30 meters to the ground. I was really angry at myself for making a mistake.



2 Read the text and answer the *yes/no* questions. Give more information.

1. Does Sharon only want to work on TV?
2. Did Sharon get her first stunt job on a TV cop show?
3. Is stunt work always dangerous?
4. Do all stunt performers make a lot of money?
5. Did Sharon break her arm because of the glass?



3 PAIR WORK Think of three good things and three bad things about a stunt performer's job. Talk to your partner. Are your lists similar?