CLIMBING TO THE TOP



What do Olympic champions do when they retire from their sport? Some try television presenting, others become coaches and some even start practicing new sports. But of this last group, how many people have been successful?

Victoria Pendleton is a British Olympic cycling champion, the winner of two gold medals. Since she retired, she's appeared in a dance competition on TV, advertised shampoo and even designed a range of bikes. But her next step surprised everyone.

In 2015, Victoria decided to try horse riding, and since then, she has competed in several big races! She took the challenge of learning to ride in one year, and then took part in a famous horse race at the Cheltenham Festival in England.

Olympic cyclists love moving fast, and Victoria soon developed a passion for her new sport. She picked it up quickly and was soon taking on big jumps. Six months after she began her training, she came second in a race. And then, just a few weeks before the big race at Cheltenham, she won for the first time.

At Cheltenham, no one expected Victoria to do well. For Victoria herself, simply being part of the race was enough for her. But she surprised everyone by coming fifth and described it as one of the greatest achievements of her life.

1. **Choose the correct option.**

The article is about...

a) Someone who started doing something new.
b) Olympic athletes who can't do sport any more.
c) The dangers of horse racing.

LIVEWORKSHEETS



2. Choose the correct option.

a) Victoria **has / still hasn't** stopped cycling in competitions.

b) Victoria **has / has never** won a gold medal.

c) Since she stopped cycling, Victoria **hasn't done anything / has done lots of things**.

d) Victoria learnt horse riding **easily / slowly**.

e) Victoria **has already won a race / hasn't won any races yet**.

f) Victoria **didn't participate / took part in** the race at Cheltenham

3. Are these sentences true or false?

a) Paragraph 1 describes three options for Olympic athletes when they retire. When Victoria retired, she decided to start a new sport.

True False

b) Victoria learnt to ride a horse in half a year.

True False



c) At the end of that period Victoria raced at the Cheltenham Festival

True False

d) Victoria doesn't like moving fast when she rides a horse

True False

e) She nearly came fifth at the Cheltenham Festival

True False

4. Is the text formal, informal or neutral? Tick the correct answer.

☐ Formal ☐ Informal ☐ Neutral

LIVEWORKSHEETS