

Listen again and fill-in the blanks

I = Interviewer A = Dr Aziz

I: This morning we have Dr Mischa Aziz with us in the studio to talk about risk-taking. Why do people take risks and what sort of people are risk-takers? Let's examine these questions _____. Doctor Aziz...

A: Well, Brian, people take risks for a number of reasons. _____, it gives you an adrenaline rush – it's the same reason we watch horror films. They're frightening, but this gives you a buzz, which is exciting.

I: But not everybody enjoys horror films. Not everybody is a risk-taker.

A: Mm... that's very true. Scientists believe there may be a genetic element to risk-taking – certain genes may make people take risks, so risk-taking is something you're born with. We haven't discovered the exact gene yet, but we're sure it's there.

I: And why do we have this gene? What's the point of it?

A: Well, we're still trying to find out. But everything is in our body for a reason, and this gene has a purpose, too. Dr Marvin Zuckerman, a professor at the University of Delaware, believes it's part of human evolution. Our _____ ancestors – early man – _____ needed to find new sources of food, which involved finding, hunting and killing large animals. To do this, to leave your home and go to new places, involves risk. But early man needed to take risks to survive.

I: But why do we still have this gene today?

A: That's a good question! Why do we have the urge to take risks in modern life? The risky element of life is _____ disappearing. In fact, much of modern life is _____ boring – working in an office all day, for example. People often want some element of risk, some danger, in their lives but they don't get it. We don't need to trek through forests to hunt large animals, so instead, people do things like extreme sports.

I: Like my 16-year-old son. He's _____ into extreme sports like bungee jumping. He's _____ going rock climbing – I never see him at weekends!

A: And that's normal. _____, teenage boys are the biggest thrill seekers of all. This is because they have more testosterone than older men.

I: And men have more testosterone than women.

A: _____. This testosterone makes boys want to do adventurous things, to take risks, and that's why they love extreme sports. But it's not just for teenagers, as I say. Anyone can be a risktaker, if they have these genes, this, um, need for adrenaline.

I: I see. Well, I'm afraid we have to stop there. Mischa, thank you for coming in today and explaining everything so _____.