Reading



Around the world on one wheel

In 2018, a British man became the first person to ride a unicycle around the world. A unicycle is like a bicycle, but it has only one wheel. Riding a unicycle isn't easy—you have to concentrate. You mustn't ride over holes or bumps in the road, or you will fall off!

Ed Pratt learned to ride a unicycle in 2012. He loved it so much that he wanted to teach other people to ride, and he started a unicycle club at his school. He taught ten students to ride. When he left school, he wanted to do something exciting and to see the world. He decided to ride his unicycle around the world!

Ed started his journey in March 2015, when he was 19 years old. He wanted to raise money for the charity School in a Bag. This charity helps children all over the world. Ed's journey took over three years. He rode through Europe and the Middle East into Asia, then Australia and New Zealand, and then finally across the U.S. He flew back to the U.K. and finished his journey in July 2018. He was 22 years old.

His journey wasn't easy. In Kazakhstan, he had to walk and push his unicycle for 80 kilometers because the road wasn't very good. The journey was also dangerous because of the snow and freezing temperatures. At one point, he had to jump off his unicycle when a car nearly hit him. He decided to take a break for a few months and wait for the weather to get better.

In total, Ed cycled about 34,000 kilometers and raised £300,000 for charity. What an amazing journey!

Check it out!

Find these words and phrases and check their meaning.

hole bump take a break

1 Read the article. Choose the correct answers.

1 The article is about a man who
   - **a** rode a bicycle around the world.
   - **b** rode a unicycle around the world.
   - **c** taught children in Kazakhstan how to ride a unicycle.

2 Ed Pratt began his journey in
   - **a** 2012. **b** 2015. **c** 2018.

3 He rode a total of ... kilometers on his journey.
   - **a** 300,000 **b** 80,000 **c** 34,000

2 Read the article again. Answer the questions.

What is a unicycle?

It's a bicycle with one wheel.

1 What do you have to do when you are riding a unicycle?

2 Where did Ed teach other people to ride a unicycle?

3 How old was Ed at the beginning of his journey?

4 How long did the journey take?

5 Which continent did he ride through after the Middle East?

6 Why did he have to jump off his unicycle in Kazakhstan?

Writing

3 Imagine you went on an around-the-world journey to raise money for charity. Write a short article about your journey. Include the following information:

- when you started the journey
- the charity you raised money for
- the form(s) of transportation you used
- the continents / countries you traveled through
- what was difficult about your journey
- when you finished your journey

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