# 11 Extremes

## Reading

**1 Read the article on page 75 quickly. What is it about?**

a a new world record

b the history of a famous book

c the life story of a famous businessman

**2 Read the article again. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?**

1 The idea for a book of records came from an argument about phones. T F

2 The first *Guinness Book of Records* appeared in 1955. T F

3 By the 1980s, there were copies of the book in many languages. T F

4 There are other world record companies now. T F

5 The Guinness World Records organization has closed down. T F

# THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS

Who holds the world record for the tallest person? Where is the world's longest road? The highest mountain? You can find the answers to all these questions in *Guinness World Records* (previously called *The Guinness Book of Records*). The book contains all kinds of world records and has been around for over 60 years. But how did it start?

The idea for a book of world records began in the early 1950s. Two British businessmen were at a party, and they began to argue about the fastest bird in the world. They could not agree on an answer. This gave them the idea for a book of facts and world records. In 1955, they published the first *Guinness Book of Records*.

The book quickly became popular. It sold more than a million copies in its first year, and another 23 million copies in the next 10 years. By 1987, *The Guinness Book of Records* existed in 31 languages and was in bookstores all over the world. There were even TV shows and museums for the Guinness World Records organization.

Today, things are different. Many people just look up facts on their smartphones. There are also new companies that are doing similar work to the Guinness World Records organization. But the *Guinness World Records* book still sells around a million copies every year. There are also judges for new world records, and they find more than 6,000 new world records every year. The Guinness World Records organization may not be the only world record

A Guinness World of Records museum

**3 Find these words in the article. Check the meaning in a dictionary and choose the best definition (a or b).**

1 **record** (line 1)

a (n) the top or number one in an area, especially in sports

b (v) to make an electronic copy of sounds or images

2 **look up** (line 17)

a (v) to improve or get better

b (v) to find a particular piece of information in a list or a book

3 **judges** (line 22)

a (n) people who make decisions about the law

b (n) people who decide the results of a competition or a world record

## Grammar

### Superlative adjectives

**1 Complete the chart with the superlative form of these adjectives.**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| bad | cheap | funny | hot | nice | useful |

| | |
|---|---|
| **+ *-est*** | the hardest |
| **+ *-st*** | the closest |
| **+ double consonant** | the biggest |
| **+ *-iest*** | the dirtiest |
| ***the most* + adjective** | the most comfortable |
| **irregular form** | the farthest |

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**2** Write sentences. Use the simple present and the superlative form of the adjectives.

1 Monday / be / busy / day of the week.
*Monday is the busiest day of the week.*

2 This / be / comfortable / chair in the house.
_____

3 Trulli / be / good / restaurant in town.
_____

4 Marta / be / friendly / person in our office.
_____

5 São Paulo / be / big / city in South America.
_____

6 January / be / hot / month in my country.
_____

7 This / be / bad / job I've ever had.
_____

**3** Look at the information about three sports classes. Complete the sentences with the name of the sport and the correct form of the adjective in parentheses.

**Parkour Classes**
**Price:** $20 per class
**Difficult?** very difficult
**Number of students:** 4–6

**BMX Classes**
**Price:** $25 per class
**Difficult?** quite difficult
**Number of students:** 2–5

**Crossfit Classes**
**Price:** $12 per class
**Difficult?** a bit difficult
**Number of students:** 10–15

1 The *crossfit* classes are the *cheapest* (cheap) classes.

2 The _____ classes are the _____ (expensive) classes.

3 The _____ (easy) classes are the _____ classes.

4 The _____ (difficult) classes are the _____ classes.

5 The _____ classes are the _____ (small) of all the classes.

6 The _____ (big) classes are the _____ classes.

# Pronunciation

## Saying /st/

**1** 11.1 Listen and circle the word(s) you hear.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | cheaper | cheapest |
| 2 | happier | happiest |
| 3 | more useful | most useful |
| 4 | closer | closest |
| 5 | bigger | biggest |

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# Vocabulary

## Weather words

**1** Match the temperatures (1–4) with the words (a–d).

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 2°C ○ | ○ a warm |
| 2 15°C ○ | ○ b hot |
| 3 25°C ○ | ○ c cool |
| 4 40°C ○ | ○ d cold |

**2** Complete the sentences with these words.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| cloudy | foggy | raining |
| snowing | sunny | windy |

1 Take an umbrella. It's _____ heavily.

2 The chairs in the backyard have fallen over. It's very _____ today.

3 I hate driving when it's _____. You can't see the road.

4 It's the perfect weather for a photo. It's _____ and the sky is blue.

5 It's _____ in the mountains. Maybe we can go skiing next weekend.

6 You can't see the moon tonight. The sky is too _____.

# Listening

**1** 11.2 Listen to three different conversations about the weather. Match each conversation (1–3) with the place where it happens (a–d). One place is extra.

Conversation 1: _____

Conversation 2: _____

Conversation 3: _____

a in an elevator

b in a car

c in a store

d in a park

**2** 11.2 Read the questions (1–3) and look at the pictures. Then listen again and choose the correct answer (a, b, or c).

1 What was the weather report for the beach?

a

b

c

2 What's the temperature outside?

a 13°C b 30°C c 36°C

3 What did the woman bring to work?

a

b

c

# Grammar

*Have to / Don't have to*

**1** Circle the correct option to complete the sentences.

1 I *have to / don't have to* work today. It's a holiday.

2 Milo *has to / have to* visit his sister tomorrow.

3 *Do / Does* you have to check this with your boss?

4 You *has to / have to* have an ID card in my country.

5 Mei *have to / doesn't have to* wear a uniform to work.

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**2** Look at Phan's notes for a family vacation. Complete the sentences below with the correct form of *have to* or *don't have to*.

| |
|---|
| *Weather in May: very cold but not rainy* |
| *Visas for the family? Not necessary* |
| *Remember! Print tickets* |
| *Arrive at airport 2 hours early* |
| *Taxi to airport* ✓ |

1 Phan _____ pack warm clothes.

2 He _____ take an umbrella.

3 Phan and his family _____ get visas.

4 Phan _____ print the tickets.

5 Phan and his family _____ arrive at the airport two hours early.

6 Phan _____ drive to the airport.

# Pronunciation

## Saying /b/ and /v/

**1** 11.3 Listen and number these words in the order you hear them (1–4). Then listen again and repeat.

a _____ best  c _____ vote

b _____ boat  d _____ vest

# Writing

**1** Reviews often include the five W's. Match these question words with the sentences (1–4).

what  when  where  who  why

1 The café is next to the park. _____

2 I went on Friday with a friend. _____, _____

3 We ordered the vegetarian pizza. _____

4 I like this café because it's cheap. _____

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