Callie Rice – ice dancer

Growing up, I was in an ice-skating club, and my friends and I did lots of competitions. When I was 18, I entered a big one in Italy, and I came first. The prize was a job as an ice dancer in a big show. That's how my career started.

One of the things I love about the shows is the beautiful clothes. The only trouble is that sometimes they're heavy and I get very hot. Also, I have to change lots of times in one show. The people who make the clothes are very clever – it's amazing how quickly they work!

Before the show starts, we get dressed, put our skates on, and wish each other good luck. Then, while I'm waiting to go on, I like to sit quietly by myself and think about what I'm going to do. The other skaters chat together or listen to music.

In the shows, we have to dance, sing, and also speak. For me, ice dancing is fine, but I'm not an actor. I'm always a bit scared I won't remember the words. I'm not bothered about falling – it doesn't usually happen. And I really enjoy joining in with all the songs.

People always ask me if I'm tired when each show finishes, but I love skating, so I never feel that way. I love listening to the people who came to watch – so excited as they leave, talking about what they've seen. That's when I'm really happy I chose ice dancing as a career.

14 How did Callie's career as an ice dancer begin?

A She won a competition.

B She saw an advert for a job.

C A friend invited her to join an ice show.

15 What does Callie say about the clothes she wears?

A Some are prettier than others.

B It's hard to skate in them.

C Making them takes a long time.

16 What does Callie do just before each show?

A She talks to the other skaters.

B She checks her skates are okay.

C She takes a moment to be alone.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

17 What does Callie worry about?

A having an accident on the ice

B forgetting what she has to say

C dancing and singing at the same time

18 How does Callie usually feel after a show?

A ready for a rest

B glad that she's finished

C pleased about making people happy

A wonderful year

Ben Jones talks about his year of travel before studying at university.

I always knew I wanted to spend a year travelling before university. I wanted to see the world, improve my skiing, make new friends from other countries and, more than anything, try lots of things I've never done before.

The first place I visited was France. I've always loved the French language and I wanted to study it. Then, while I was there, I became interested in French food. I took some cooking lessons at a farmhouse in the French countryside, and learned to make lots of lovely dishes.

Next, I visited Australia. My cousins live near the river in Sydney, so I had somewhere to stay. To begin with, we spent a lot of time sailing in their boat. But then I got a job in a hotel. It was great – the customers and staff were so friendly.

My last country was Japan, where I learned to become a skiing teacher. I planned to do a three-week course. But when I got there, I saw that I wasn't actually that good, so I changed to a seven-week one. The course was amazing and afterwards I got a job with a skiing company.

The other teachers were very friendly and on our days off, we did activities like snowboarding. One weekend we even did winter camping. That was quite interesting, but it was cold, so I can't say I slept well! Anyway, we're all planning to meet up soon and I can't wait.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

14 What did Ben want to do during the year after he left school?

A try some different sports

B have some new experiences

C meet up with old friends

15 Why did Ben go to France?

A to do a French cooking course

B to see the French countryside

C to learn to speak French

16 Where did Ben live when he was in Australia?

A in the hotel where he worked

B with members of his family

C on a boat on the river

17 Why did Ben change his course in Japan?

A He heard about a better one.

B He knew he needed more practice.

C He wasn't enjoying the first one.

18 What does Ben say about winter camping?

A It wasn't pleasant at night.

B He would love to do it again soon.

C It was the most interesting thing he's ever done.

LIVEWORKSHEETS