

Test Unit 1

READING

First read the text. Then answer the questions.

Kitesurfing in paradise

The tiny fishing village of Cumbuco in Brazil only has about 1600 residents, but it has many more visitors every year. Indeed, Cumbuco is becoming a very popular tourist destination, but it's not for the peace and quiet that people go there; it's because it's the perfect location for an extreme sport that **takes your breath away!**

Kitesurfers stand on a surfboard and hold onto a special 'kite' with their hands. They're pulled along by the wind, like in windsurfing; however, unlike windsurfers, kitesurfers are lifted into the air for long periods of time. This makes the sport even more dangerous than windsurfing and means that kitesurfers can encounter many difficulties.

Cumbuco is a popular destination for kitesurfers because of its perfect weather conditions and its long white sandy beach. It's always warm, with an average sea temperature of 23–25° and, more importantly, wind is practically guaranteed for most of the year.

Nevertheless, it's really important to **keep an eye on** the weather. If the wind suddenly blows in the wrong direction, **before long** you could be flying away from the beach and land **in the middle of nowhere**, surrounded by sharks. Yikes!

Needless to say, anybody who wants to try kitesurfing should get lessons first. In Cumbuco, where kitesurfing is taken seriously, lessons are offered to kite surfers of all levels and experts are always **on hand** to help.



- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1 Cumbuco village has only a small permanent population. | T / F |
| 2 Most tourists go to Cumbuco because they want to rest and relax. | T / F |
| 3 According to the text, windsurfing and kitesurfing are equally dangerous. | T / F |
| 4 Cumbuco is well liked by kite surfers because of its climate. | T / F |
| 5 Constant professional support for kite surfers is available in Cumbuco. | T / F |

Match the idioms from the text (6–10) to their meanings (A–G). There are two meanings you don't need.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 6 take ... breath away | A far away from places where there are people |
| 7 on hand | B surprise and impress |
| 8 keep an eye on something | C soon or soon after |
| 9 in the middle of nowhere | D after a lot of time |
| 10 before long | E nearby and ready to help |
| | F check/watch something carefully |
| | G at the centre of the problem |

VOCABULARY AND GRAMMAR

Vocabulary 1: Complete the text with the words and phrases in the box.

rock climbing skateboarding skydiving snowboarding windsurfing

I'm not really interested in everyday activities like football, but I love extreme sports. I started going (1) _____ years ago with my dad. He took me into the countryside with him for the first time when I was 8 years old. It was summer and when we reached the top of the mountain we camped there for the night. I'm also good at (2) _____ and I get to do it every weekend at my local park. I'm looking for new challenges now, though. I'm going to go (3) _____ when I go on my winter holiday this year; I already ski well and I want to try something new. I'm also desperate to try (4) _____, but my mum and dad say they won't let me jump out of a plane until I'm at least 18. My parents say that I can go (5) _____ on my summer holiday this year, though. It's going to be amazing – I can't wait to ride the waves. Yeah!

Vocabulary 2: Choose the correct options to complete the text.

I guess what people like about extreme sports is that they get to (6) **fulfil / overcome / face** their potential as a human being. They really like the idea of (7) **risking / encountering / overcoming** obstacles and proving that things which seem impossible are actually possible. You might ask why adults want to (8) **take / risk / reach** their lives for a sport, but they have to practise hard and take the training very seriously to reduce the chances of things going wrong. Extreme sports are not just sports, though. They're a way of (9) **reaching / facing / fulfilling** your fears. I think it's important to (10) **attempt / achieve / encounter** things that challenge you, as I believe it makes you a stronger person.



Grammar 1: Complete the text with the word(s) in brackets. Use the present simple or continuous form of the verb in the active or passive voice.

Vicky ... why aren't you answering your phone? I'm at home. My brother (11) _____ (try) to persuade me to go to a base jumping school with him. He found out about a school in London. I keep telling him that he's crazy, but he (12) _____ (think) I'm just scared and that I need to face my fears. I (13) _____ (not, care) what he says; there's no way I'm going to do something so stupid. In any case, he's wrong if he thinks he can do the course. I'm pretty sure there's a law saying that people under 18 (14) _____ (not, allow) to jump off cliffs! Anyway, what about you Vicky – what (15) _____ (do) now? Call me when you get this.

Grammar 2: Complete the text with the word(s) in brackets. Use the past simple or continuous form of the verb in the passive or active voice.

Hi Vicky. You never answer your phone! Why (16) _____ (not, be) at school today? While I (17) _____ (walk) home from school I called you, but you (18) _____ (not, answer). Is everything OK? In biology we watched the documentary that Mr Smith (19) _____ (mention) to us at the beginning of the week. I can't believe you weren't there to see it! It was about some people who'd gone skydiving. But ... something went wrong and they fell into the middle of the ocean by accident. Nobody could find them and they (20) _____ (surround) by sharks! It was great – and, believe it or not, it even had a happy ending. ☺



LISTENING



Part 1

Listen to the talk and complete the summary with words or short phrases that you hear.

Free diving is the (1) _____ most dangerous extreme sport in the world. Free divers dive underwater using no (2) _____ to help them breathe. Free divers try to (3) _____ as much as they can so that they use as little oxygen as possible underwater. Herbert Nitsch has the world (4) _____ in free diving. In this dive, he (5) _____ a depth of just over 200 metres below the surface of the sea. He can hold his breath for (6) _____. This is because he can hold (7) _____ of air in his lungs, which is much more than a normal adult male.

Part 2

For questions 8–10, use your notes to help you choose the correct answer, A, B or C.

- 8 Free divers need to feel _____ before they dive.
A excited
B calm
C confident
- 9 Herbert Nitsch can hold his breath for _____ minute(s) longer than an ordinary person.
A 1
B 9
C 8
- 10 Herbert Nitsch's world record is for reaching a depth of _____ metres.
A 250
B 214
C 253

