

A) Reading:

To the Limit

Every year celebrities push themselves to the limit – all because of a passion to help charities. Here are three of them.

A Eddie Izzard

Eddie Izzard is better known for his comedy and acting skills than his running! However, Eddie decided to set himself a big challenge to try to raise a lot of money for charity. He set out to run 43 marathons across the UK. His aim was to run one marathon every day, six days a week and he nearly did it! In fact it took him slightly longer – 51 days. A challenge like this would be difficult for an experienced runner and Eddie had very little experience! When he decided to go ahead with the marathons he was rather overweight and hadn't done much running before. Some fitness experts worked out a nine month programme

for him to prepare but Eddie only had five weeks! So, he trained hard and then set out on the challenge of a lifetime. And he succeeded. Despite blisters and sore toes he ran and ran and returned home triumphant. He believes that it was his determination not to give up that saw him through the challenge – as well as the fear of letting down his charity. He ended up raising more than £200,000 online. Well done, Eddie!

B Matt Baker

Imagine cycling 16 hours a day for eight days from Edinburgh in Scotland to London. Then imagine that you are pulling a rickshaw behind you and most of the time there is a passenger in it! This was the task that Matt Baker, a TV presenter, set himself last year to raise money for charity. Luckily, Matt was quite fit to start with. However, after the exhausting ride he had lost weight, was suffering from lack of sleep and had a very sore bottom! Matt is certain that he could not have finished the task without the encouragement of people who lined the roads to watch him – even at night in the pouring rain. He was amazed by people's generosity. Many just pushed money into his hands and pockets as he rode past. Matt finished the challenge having raised over a million pounds. But he never wants to see a rickshaw again!

C David Walliams

David Walliams is a popular TV comedy actor who has spent a lot of time in recent years doing swimming challenges for charity. He has raised large amounts of money by swimming across the English Channel and the Straits of Gibraltar and in 2012 he swam 140 miles along the Thames River, finishing at Westminster Bridge in central London. David completed this marathon swim in eight days and it certainly wasn't an easy challenge. Because of the cold summer, the water temperature was low. When his skin started turning blue he had to wear a wetsuit! Then after a short time he picked up a stomach illness. The Thames isn't the cleanest river! In spite of a fever and sickness David continued. Luckily, he got better and completed his journey. Thousands and thousands of people cheered as he swam past and the final total donated to his online campaign raised was £1.1 million. What will it be next, David? Across the Atlantic?!

Read the article again and write A, B or C for questions 1-6. Which celebrity...

- 1) needed to lose weight? _____
- 2) was given some money directly? _____
- 3) has experience of doing sporting challenges for charity? _____
- 4) attracted Spectators in spite of the time and weather? _____
- 5) recovered from a health problem during the challenge? _____

B Use of English: (/ 40)

1. Complete the gaps with ONE word. /9

Jonathan loves extreme sports. You could say that he's hooked **(1)** _____ them. At the moment he's passionate **(2)** _____ ice climbing and in February he's going to the ice climbing festival in Norway. He's always been fascinated **(3)** _____ rock climbing and sees ice climbing as another challenge. He grew **(4)** _____ in the Scottish Highlands and his father, a professional climber, **(5)** _____ him up to understand and love everything about mountains and rocks. His mother always wanted him to **(6)** _____ tennis or chess rather than **(7)** _____ extreme sports like his father, but she accepts that this is what makes him happy.

2. Choose the option (A, B, C or D) that best completes the sentences. /12

It was a lovely day when we **(1)** _____ off with great excitement on our **(2)** _____ into the forest. We had no idea that the day would turn **(3)** _____ one of the worst days of our lives. We followed the track along the river into the centre of the forest, where we had planned to rest and go swimming under the waterfall there. We were really looking **(4)** _____ to this part. **(5)** _____ we were eating our lunch, it started to rain. It wasn't heavy at first but, once the thunder came, the rain became heavier and heavier. Suddenly, there was a **(6)** _____ roar and I shouted to everyone to **(7)** _____ away from the river bank and run as fast as they could. The next thing I knew, I was being swept down the river by a mountain of **(8)** _____ water. It seemed to go on forever, but then I found myself clinging to a tree, gasping for breath. I was absolutely **(9)** _____ and could hardly move. Then I finally succeeded **(10)** _____ getting to dry ground and lay there trying to **(11)** _____ out how far I'd been taken. Where were my friends? Were they OK? Suddenly, I heard someone shouting my name, and there they all were, completely dry. I had been the only one who had been washed away. It took us all a long time to get **(12)** _____ the experience and I still refuse to go near river banks, even on sunny days!

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1 A got | B put | C made | D set |
| 2 A trip | B travel | C break | D voyage |
| 3 A out | B into | C over | D off |
| 4 A forward | B for | C at | D out for |
| 5 A After | B During | C Afterwards | D While |
| 6 A tiny | B boiling | C terrifying | D fascinating |
| 7 A get | B make | C take | D set |
| 8 A enormous | B freezing | C exhausted | D terrible |
| 9 A scary | B confident | C starving | D exhausted |
| 10 A on | B at | C in | D by |
| 11 A make | B set | C get | D work |
| 12 A over | B out | C on | D off |

3. Complete the text with the correct form of the verb in brackets. Present perfect simple/Present perfect continuous. /6

I (1) _____ (*always / be*) interested in water sports and spent most of my holidays at the beach windsurfing, kite surfing or surfing. Now, however, I am under the water more than on it. Last year I qualified as a diver and (2) _____ (*travel*) around the world ever since, diving in as many different areas as possible. For the past few months I (3) _____ (*work*) in the Maldives and I (4) _____ (*do*) many interesting dives since I came here. Next month I'm going to Japan, somewhere I (5) _____ (*always / want*) to visit. I (6) _____ (*plan*) this trip for so long that I hope I won't be disappointed.

4. Complete the questions in the conversation. /6

A: Someone shouted loudly.

B: Who (1) _____ ?

A: A man. He had something in his hand.

B: What (2) _____ in his hand?

A: I'm not sure. I think it was a bag. I couldn't see properly.

B: Why (3) _____ properly?

A: It was dark.

B: What (4) _____ next?

A: He threw the bag into the river. Something fell out.

B: What (5) _____ ?

A: I don't know. Perhaps it was money or something. Then he was gone.

B: Where (6) _____ ?

A: Perhaps he went into the forest.

5. Complete the text with the correct form of the verb in brackets. /7

Until Sam Bentley (1) _____ (*be*) twenty-one, he (2) _____ (*never / have*) to worry about anything. As a young boy, he (3) _____ (*live*) in a big house with a wonderful family and he (4) _____ (*travel*) all over the world by the time he was fifteen. Then, one day, his life changed forever. His parents told him they had lost everything: the big house, the cars, the holidays; and Sam would have to leave medical school as they couldn't afford the fees any more. As they (5) _____ (*talk*), there was a knock at the door and several men came in and started taking all the furniture and paintings from the house. While this (6) _____ (*happen*), Sam (7) _____ (*make*) a decision: he would get a job and buy the house back for his family. Ten years later, as a successful businessman, he was able to do just that.

C Listening /10p

You will hear a conversation between Aysha and Henry. Decide if each sentence is correct (C) or incorrect (I).

1. Aysha and Henry both attended the film club last week.
2. Aysha believes that seeing story's locations in a film is helpful.
3. Henry was pleased that the TV detective was how he imagined him.
4. They agree that directors should have experienced of what they are filming.
5. Henry prefers watching horror films to anything else.

D Writing /20p

Write a film review.

Remember!

Paragraph 1 Name of film, setting, character, describe the story.

Paragraph 2 More details about the story

Paragraph 3 Give your opinions of the good and bad things about the film.

Paragraph 4 Your recommendations.



E Speaking /20p