

## Read the text and answer the questions

Some people run through a city with bulls chasing after them. Other people **A** climb high mountains or travel **alone** in **dangerous** places. Why do some people enjoy risky **activities** like these?

## Why Do People Take Risks?

Risk takers have some common characteristics, experts<sup>1</sup> believe. For example, **B** psychologist Marvin Zuckerman says that risk takers are always looking for change and excitement. They also feel **confident** in dangerous **situations**.

A chemical in the brain called dopamine may be related to<sup>2</sup> risk taking. When **C** people do something risky, this chemical creates a pleasant feeling. Dopamine makes people feel good, so they want to do more risky activities.

People who enjoy dangerous sports are risk takers. Extreme<sup>3</sup> athletes see the world in a different way, says sports psychologist Shane Murphy. In a dangerous activity such as **D** skydiving, most people probably do not feel in control.<sup>4</sup> Extreme athletes are the opposite: They feel in control in dangerous situations. The danger can **help** them. For example, skier Daron Rahlves says that fear makes him try harder to **succeed**.

Some people take risks to achieve a **goal**. Conservationist<sup>5</sup> Michael Fay led a dangerous **E** 2,000-mile expedition in central Africa. His goal was to help save the wildlife there. Fay's expedition helped to create 13 national parks.

Most of us are not extreme athletes or explorers. However, we all like some excitement in our lives. In fact, most people are risk takers in some way. Some people take social risks, such as speaking in front of a large group of people or talking to people you don't know at a party. **F** Some people take financial risks, such as buying a house or putting money into stocks.<sup>6</sup> Other people take **career** risks, such as leaving their job and starting their own **business**. Studies show that most people take risks in some areas of life, but not in others. What kind of risk taker are you?

### Identify the main ideas

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Extreme athletes are different from most people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Many risk takers have similar characteristics.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Most people take some risks in their everyday lives.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Some people have an important reason for taking risks.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Risk taking may be related to a chemical in the brain.

### Guessing meanings from the context

**pleasant** (paragraph C)  
**social** (paragraph F)

**expedition** (paragraph E)  
**financial** (paragraph F)

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_: a trip that has a special goal
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_: relating to groups of people
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_: relating to money
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_: enjoyable

### Identify the key details

1. A chemical called \_\_\_\_\_ may explain why some people take risks.
2. Extreme athletes often feel \_\_\_\_\_ in dangerous situations.
3. Michael Fay took risks to help save \_\_\_\_\_ in central Africa.
4. Speaking to people you don't know is an example of a \_\_\_\_\_ risk.
5. Buying stocks is an example of a \_\_\_\_\_ risk.
6. An example of a career risk is leaving your \_\_\_\_\_