



Spotlight 8

Reading Task 8801

1. Read the text. Match the sentences to the paragraphs. One sentence is extra.

Five of the Craziest Extreme Sports

1. This winter team water sport for divers has been played for over 50 years.
2. There were a lot of tragic accidents in this crazy sport that is out of law in most countries.
3. One can play this unusual sport only in summer.
4. Fans of this extreme sport move down as fast as some cars.
5. A person who is brave enough to try this sport has to experience both flying and swimming.
6. This water sport has an over two-century history.

A. *Volcano Boarding*

Racing down an active 2,380 ft (725, 4 m) volcano at the speed of 50 mph (80 km/h) with only a board for protection is considered by many thrill-seeking sports fanatics as the coolest sport. Thousands of travelers go to the foothills of Nicaragua's Cerro Negro Mountain every year to take part in the new sporting craze. Surfers, dressed in protective jump suits, knee-pads and helmets, can reach speeds of up to 80 km/h (50mph) on their specially-constructed plywood (фанера) boards. Since its creation, in 2005, the volcano boarding has attracted more than 10,000 participants.

B. *Train Surfing*

Usually an illegal sport, train surfing involves riders climbing or "surfing" on the outside of a moving train or subway. The practice is a serious problem in South Africa, where many young people have been killed or injured. The 'sport' was made popular in the 1980s in Germany, where it was called "S-Bahn Surfing". The phenomenon was then forgotten, but in 2005 it was rediscovered by a gang from Frankfurt, Germany. The leader of the crew who called himself "The Train-rider" surfed the InterCityExpress, the fastest train in Germany.

C. *Cliff Diving*

Cliff diving is defined as the acrobatic perfection of diving into water from a high cliff. This dangerous sport originated from the Hawaiian Islands in 1770. The local king demanded that his men jump off high cliffs and dive into the water feet first without a splash, to prove their courage and loyalty. Today, after centuries, the activity has expanded into a sport that is marked by immense courage, focus, thrill and risk. Cliff diving is one of the riskiest kinds of diving. Certain standards have been set to minimise the risk factor. Some of these include determining the height of the jump (23 - 28 metres for men, 18-23 metres for women), an ideal entering speed of 75 - 100 km/h, and a free fall time of 3 seconds.

D. *Underwater Hockey*

A little-known sport, underwater hockey is what some divers like to do during the winter months when the outside water is too cold for diving. The sport was invented in Great Britain during the 1950's when some British divers were looking for ways to stay fit during the winter. The game is played using nothing more than snorkeling equipment -and of course the stick, protective gear and gloves. The game is played at the bottom of the pool using a puck (шайба) weighing over one kilogram. The sport is tough and tiring. It is becoming increasingly popular around the world and some countries have formed national teams which take part in world championships.

E. *AirKicking*

In this strange extreme sport, a human catapult launches individuals over 26 feet in the air into a swimming pool. AirKick works propelling participants through the air in a pre-calculated parabolic trajectory using a special combination of air pressure and water recoil (отдача, отскок) technology. The participant sits in a specially constructed seat at the back end of the catapult arm and 3,2, 1...lift-off! The participant himself sets the device in motion by pushing a button. Approximately 60 litres of water are then forced through a rocket nozzle (сопло) under the seat. This pressurized water propels the participant 8 meters (26 ft) through the air for a cool and refreshing splash down in a swimming pool.

A	B	C	D	E

2. Read the text again and mark the statements True (1), False (2), Not Stated (3).

1. Sportsmen use traditional boards in volcano boarding.
2. Volcano boarding is practiced on most of world-famous volcanos.
3. Most dangerous sport of train surfing involves public transportation.
4. First cliff divers used to jump into the water head first.
5. The origin of cliff diving belongs to a royal tyrant.
6. The official conditions in cliff diving are the same for male and female participants.
7. Only good divers can play underwater hockey.
8. The Russian national team takes part in underwater hockey world championships every year.
9. In AirKicking the person starts the human catapult himself.

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