

Reading

Read the information about street luge. Match the paragraphs (1-8) with the headings (A-I). One heading does not match.

- A NOT EASY TO STOP
- B RULES & COMPETITIONS
- C FAST EQUIPMENT
- D PRESENT WINNERS
- E FROM TOP TO BOTTOM
- F OUT OF CONTROL
- G MANY NAMES
- H ROOTS IN SKATEBOARDING
- I SAFETY FIRST



- 1 Street Luge is an extreme sport that is exciting and dangerous. People also call it road luge or land luge. People do it as a serious sport and just for fun.
- 2 The sport comes from southern California from some skateboarders looking for a more exciting way of riding. Lying down on the board makes it go faster and gives the rider a much bigger thrill than skateboarding.
- 3 Street luge riders lie down on their board at the top of a hill and they travel downhill. They pick up speed along the way thanks to the power of gravity.
- 4 Riders can steer by moving their bodyweight left or right and backwards or forwards. There aren't any brakes on the board and the rider has to wear special shoes and drag their feet along the road to slow down or stop quickly.
- 5 The board is like a big skateboard, but it is wider and longer. It is steel or aluminium and it can have up to eight wheels. The wheels are wide and thick to make the board stable. They make it safe and allow it to reach high speeds without turning over. Street luge boards travel at speeds from 60-150 kmph.
- 6 As it is a dangerous sport, riders have to have special safety equipment. For example, they have to wear a helmet, a one or two-piece leather suit and special footwear. They can also wear special clothing such as a speedsuit on top of their leather suit if they want as well as gloves.
- 7 The governing body of the sport is the IGSA – the International Gravity Sports Association. It makes sure people follow the rules and organises national and international competitions, the championships and the rankings of the racers.
- 8 The current IGSA World Cup Series Champion is Peter Eliot from the UK. However, this year the top contender for the title is Russell Naude from South Africa.

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Further Practice

Reading

- 1 Read the text. For each question choose the right answer A, B, C or D.

The Magical Book

Katie and Peter were walking around a flea market looking for second-hand furniture. They had just moved into a flat in the city and although they were both working, neither of them earned much money and so they had very little spare cash once their bills were paid.

Katie spotted a small bookcase with a price tag of £20. She thought it would be great for her collection of romantic novels. She bought it and the old man behind the stall gave her an old book as a gift. She thanked him even though she didn't think she would read it as she didn't recognise the title, 'The Poor Man's Friend.' They got back to their flat and put the bookcase in place, then Katie sat flicking through the pages of the old book. Peter was looking in the kitchen cupboards and making suggestions for what they could eat for dinner. "I wish we could order a pizza," said Katie, but she knew it was a luxury they couldn't afford. They always cooked cheap simple meals at home and they never ate out. Just then a small piece of paper fell out of the book. She picked it up and saw that it was a crumpled £20 note. "Wow! What good luck!" she said. They ordered a big pizza with all the toppings and rented a DVD, too. They had a great night.

A few days later, when Katie was home alone ironing the clothes, the iron suddenly stopped working. She knew they couldn't buy a new one until they got paid at the end of the month. She felt anxious at the thought of going to work in creased clothes. She sat down and let out a heavy sigh.

She glanced over and saw the old book on the shelf. "Wouldn't it be great if there was more money hidden in the pages of that book?" she thought to herself. She picked the book up and shook it, not really expecting anything other than dust to fall out, and to her amazement a folded banknote fell to the floor.

- 1 Why didn't Katie and Peter have much money?
 - A They had spent it all on second-hand furniture.
 - B Their bills were high.
 - C They had just bought a new flat.
 - D Their wages were low.
- 2 Why did Katie take the book?
 - A She wanted to read it.
 - B It was a present.
 - C She recognised the title.
 - D She didn't have any books.
- 3 Why did Katie want to order a pizza?
 - A She couldn't cook.
 - B It was a cheap meal.
 - C She wanted a treat.
 - D She didn't want to eat out.
- 4 Katie was upset when the iron broke because
 - A it was an expected expense.
 - B she was alone when it happened.
 - C she didn't want to look untidy at work.
 - D she had just paid for a new one.
- 5 In the story, the money falls out of the book when
 - A Katie is upset.
 - B Katie is hungry.
 - C Katie wishes for it.
 - D Katie and Peter are together.