

16 Bungee!



Before you read

1. Would you like to try bungee jumping? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think bungee jumping is so popular?
3. Are there any other dangerous sports that you would like to try? What are they?

Reading

- 1 In June 2001 Dave Barlia jumped out of a helicopter in the sky above the Mohave Desert, USA. He fell more than 1,800 metres before the rope tied to his ankles pulled him up again. It was the longest bungee jump in the world!
- 2 Thirteen years before Barlia's amazing jump, Henry Van Asch and A. J. Hackett invented the special rubber rope that made bungee jumping possible. In 1988 the two men started the world's first bungee jumping business in the small New Zealand town of Queenstown. Some of the locals didn't think the new business would last very long. But they were wrong. Soon thousands of visitors were coming to Queenstown and paying to bungee jump off the Kawarau Bridge, 43 metres above the river below. The bungee jumping craze had begun.
- 3 Bungee jumping is now more popular than ever. Today you can go bungee jumping in many countries around the world. But why would anyone want to jump off a bridge high above the ground with nothing to save them but a huge rubber band? Some people do it just for the excitement. Others do it because they want to get over their fear of heights. And others just want to be able to say, 'Yeah, I did it!'

Vocabulary

A. Complete each sentence with the correct word or phrase.

helicopter visitors rubber band rubber fear of heights

1. Car tires are usually made of _____.
2. I went to Paris on holiday last year. But I didn't go up the Eiffel Tower because I have a _____.
3. Joe is baking a cake because he is having _____ this afternoon.
4. You should put a _____ around these letters to hold them together.
5. We live a long way from the nearest town. So when my brother broke his leg, he had to be flown to hospital in a _____.

B. Choose the correct word or phrase with the same meaning as the blue words in each sentence.

people living in the area overcame fashion rescued
the lower part of the legs

1. I used to be afraid of the dark. But eventually I **got over** it.
2. When there were forest fires in California, all the **locals** came to help put them out.
3. Body piercing is the latest **craze**. All the young people are doing it.
4. In fairy tales, the princess always gets **saved** by a handsome prince.
5. I don't like these socks. They are too tight around my **ankles**.

In other words

A. What is the main purpose of the passage? Circle 1, 2 or 3.

1. To explain why people want to try bungee jumping.
2. To describe the first bungee jump.
3. To explain how bungee jumping began.

B. Match each heading to the correct paragraph in the passage.

1. Paragraph _____ Queenstown pair start a new craze.
2. Paragraph _____ The 1,800-metre 'helicopter bungee'.
3. Paragraph _____ Why jump?

General understanding

Circle T for true or F for false for each of the following statements.

1. The world record for the longest bungee jump is over 1,800 metres. T / F
2. The world's first bungee jumping business was started in Germany by Dave Barlia. T / F
3. The Kawarau Bridge in New Zealand is above a highway. T / F
4. New Zealand and the USA are the only countries in the world where you can bungee jump. T / F

In detail

Write short answers to the following questions.

1. Who did the world's longest bungee jump? _____
2. What did he bungee jump from? _____
3. What is a bungee rope made from? _____
4. Where did Henry Van Asch and A. J. Hackett start their bungee business in 1988? _____
5. What did the locals think of the business? _____
6. Name two reasons why people like to go bungee jumping. _____

In focus

Match the words in the box to the descriptions. The first one has been done for you.

Queenstown Henry Van Asch and A. J. Hackett the USA
1988 bungee jumping desert

1. An extreme sport where people jump from high places, and are pulled up by a long rubber rope tied to their ankles. bungee jumping
2. The country where Dave Barlia performed his 1,800-metre helicopter bungee jump. _____
3. A large, dry area of land with not many trees or plants. _____
4. The inventors of the special rubber rope that made bungee jumping possible. _____
5. The town where bungee jumping first began. _____
6. The year the bungee jumping craze began. _____

Taking you further

In the puzzle below there are four extreme sports and six ordinary sports. Circle the sports and write them in the chart under the correct heading.

s	w	h	x	s	g	e	r	d	j	u	i	y
n	b	a	s	k	e	t	b	a	l	l	n	z
o	t	t	x	a	f	o	o	t	b	a	l	l
w	a	e	y	t	v	d	q	x	y	c	i	n
b	u	n	g	e	e	j	u	m	p	i	n	g
o	u	n	g	b	e	j	u	m	p	i	e	g
a	f	i	d	o	k	w	p	w	q	i	s	n
r	a	s	b	a	s	e	b	a	l	l	k	v
d	x	o	h	r	i	j	s	t	k	h	a	j
i	l	i	i	d	g	o	l	f	a	u	t	v
n	p	c	r	i	c	k	e	t	i	n	i	o
g	u	u	h	n	b	q	i	t	v	u	n	x
b	m	r	n	g	u	o	h	l	v	w	g	c

EXTREME SPORTS	ORDINARY SPORTS