

**THINK!** What is a 'scream machine'? (If you can't guess, look at the photo to help you.)

# SCREAM MACHINES

## Scary or fun?



Why do millions of people love roller coasters? The answer is that people love feeling afraid when they know they're in no real danger. But Jane Clark has never been on a roller coaster. She is **frightened** of heights and speed. 'It's **ridiculous**. All my friends have ridden on roller coasters, and they love it,' says Jane. 'I've always wanted to try, but I've never been brave enough.' Well, Jane has decided that today this is going to change. She has bought a ticket for *Oblivion* and her friends are here to support her. Her heart is beating and she can't speak as she gets in. Then they're off. People are screaming because they're scared, or is it because they're **excited**? She screams, too. Three minutes later, it's all over. Jane is happy. She's done it! She's been on her first roller coaster. 'Words can't describe it!' she says.

But for some people, roller coaster phobia never goes away. Psychologist Frank Farley believes that there are two types of people when it comes to fear and risk. Some people prefer the quiet life. For others, danger and excitement make them feel **alive**. Their brains produce 'feel-good' chemicals in **risky** situations, and they love extreme sports like climbing or paragliding. Roller coasters are great for these people because they can get the excitement without the danger. The chance of a **fatal** accident is one in 50 billion. Driving to the amusement park is more dangerous than riding on a 'scream machine'!

**1** Read the article. What is Jane Clark's problem?

**2** **2.24** Read and listen to the article again and complete the sentences.

- 1 Jane Clark is scared of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Jane is going on *Oblivion* because she wants to be \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Jane's \_\_\_\_\_ have come with her on the ride.
- 4 Jane feels \_\_\_\_\_ after the ride.
- 5 Some people love extreme sports because they love \_\_\_\_\_ and excitement.
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ in your car is more dangerous than riding on a roller coaster.

**3 VOCABULARY PLUS** Use a dictionary to check the meaning of the words in **blue** in the text. For more practice go to page 68 in the Workbook.

**4** **USE IT!** Work in pairs. Ask and answer the questions. Do you like going on roller coasters? Why / Why not?