

TEXT A – Leo

I used to go kayaking along the river near my home on weekends with friends. We often used to take tents and sleep overnight at sheltered spots before kayaking back the following day. It felt very adventurous, but what I did on vacation this year was on a whole new level!

I took my kayak and joined a group up at the border between the state of Minnesota and Ontario, Canada. There's an amazing network of lakes and rivers there and lots of wildlife to see.

Each day, we paddled for a few hours, often through white-water rapids, then got out of the water and carried or dragged our kayaks to a different river along routes called portages. That's where portaging got its name.

Anyway, it was a really exhilarating experience, despite being much harder than just kayaking. I slept like a log every night.

Leo

TEXT B – Zack

Last summer, I discovered a thrilling new extreme sport and now I'm hooked!

I used to love skateboarding in the local park and got pretty good at doing tricks. In the winter, I used to replace my skateboard with a snowboard—I loved the added excitement of speeding down snowy mountains.

So when I saw a video about mountainboarding, I knew I had to give it a try. I already had most of the necessary gear, like kneepads and so on, and I bought a second-hand board online.

It was easy for me to pick up as the technique wasn't anything new for me. But with mountainboarding, I didn't have to wait for snow to have fun going downhill. I could do it anytime, anywhere!

Zack

TEXT C – Jessica

I went to Sardinia with a couple of friends last year. It's a stunningly beautiful Italian island; we stayed on the south coast, in Villasimius.

While we were exploring the town on our first day, I spotted a poster about a photography competition. The theme was "The Sun" and the first prize was one thousand dollars!

I used to take photos all the time on my smartphone—maybe now was the time to start again! After all, my phone had a great camera.

So, every morning, I got up at the crack of dawn, went to the beach and took photos of the sunrise. In the evenings, I took more pictures of the amazing sunset on the horizon.

My friends helped me choose the best one, which I entered into the competition. To my delight, I won!

Jessica