

B2 - UPSTAIRS 2021

UNIT 6

NAME: _____

READING

A.

You are going to read an article about a woman who is a downhill mountain-bike racer. Seven sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences **A – H** the one which fits each gap (**9 – 15**). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Downhill racer

Anna Jones tells of her move from skiing to downhill mountain biking and her rapid rise up the ranks to her current position as one of the top five downhill racers in the country.

At the age of seven I had learnt to ski and by fourteen I was competing internationally. When I was eighteen a close friend was injured in a ski race, and as a result, I gave up competitive skiing. To fill the gap that skiing had left I decided to swap two planks of wood for two wheels with big tyres.

My first race was a cross-country race in 1995. It wasn't an amazing success. **9** After entering a few more cross-country races, a local bike shop gave me a downhill bike to try. I entered a downhill race, fell off, but did reasonably well in the end, so I switched to downhill racing.

I think my skiing helped a lot as I was able to transfer several skills such as cornering and weight-balance to mountain biking. This year I'm riding for a famous British team and there are races almost every weekend from March through to September. **10** In fact, there's quite a lot of putting up tents in muddy fields.

Last season I was selected to represent Great Britain at both the European and World Championships. Both events were completely different from the UK race scene. **11** I was totally in awe, racing with the riders I had been following in magazines. The atmosphere was electric and I finished about mid-pack.

Mountain biking is a great sport to be in. People ask me if downhill racing is really scary. I say, 'Yes it is, and I love it.' Every time I race I scare myself silly and then say, 'Yeah let's do it again.'

When you're riding well, you are right on the edge, as close as you can be to being out of control. **12** However, you quickly learn how to do it so as not to injure yourself. And it's part of the learning process as you have to push yourself and try new skills to improve.

Initially, downhill racing wasn't taken seriously as a mountain-biking discipline. **13** But things are changing and riders are now realising that they need to train just as hard for downhill racing as they would do for cross-country.

The races are run over ground which is generally closer to vertical than horizontal, with jumps, drop-offs, holes, corners and nasty rocks and trees to test your nerves as well as technical skill. At the end of a run, which is between two and three minutes in this country your legs hurt so much they burn. **14** But in a race, you're so excited that you switch off to the pain until you've finished.

A lot of people think that you need to spend thousands of pounds to give downhill mountain biking a go. **15** A reasonable beginner's downhill bike will cost you around £400 and the basic equipment, of a cycle helmet, cycle shorts and gloves, around £150. Later on you may want to upgrade your bike and get a full-face crash helmet, since riders are now achieving speeds of up to 80 kilometres per hour.

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ANSWERS:

- | | |
|---|--|
| A I've fallen off more times than I care to remember. | E The attitude was: how much skill do you need to sit on a saddle and point a bike in the same direction for a few minutes? |
| B I usually have to stop during practice sessions. | F I finished last, but it didn't matter as I really enjoyed it. |
| C The courses were twice as long and the crowds were twice as big. | G Nothing could be further from the truth. |
| D I'm not strong enough in my arms, so I've been doing a lot of upper-body training this year. | H It's not all stardom and glamour, though. |

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USE OF ENGLISH

Part 1

Read the text below and decide which answer A, B, C or D best fits each space. There is an example given at the beginning.

The Price of Fame

Charlotte Church looks like a (0) ...A..... teenager, but she is far from average. She has an amazing voice. Her fans stand in (1) for hours to get tickets for her concerts and she is often on television. Charlotte's singing (2) began when she performed on a TV show at the age of 11. The head of a record company was so impressed by her voice that he(3) her up on the spot. Her first album rose to number one in the charts. Charlotte still attends school in her home town when she can. (4) , she is often away on tour for weeks at a time. She doesn't miss out on lessons, though, because she takes her own tutor with her! She (5) three hours every morning with him. Her exam results in all the (6) she studies are impressive. But how does she (7) with this unusual way of life? She (8) that she has the same friends as before. That may be true, but she can no longer go into town with them because everybody stops her in the street to ask for her (9) It seems that, like most stars, she must learn to (10) these restrictions and the lack of privacy. It's the price of fame!

0. A normal	B usual	C ordinary	D natural
1. A rows	B queues	C ranks	D files
2. A profession	B job	C labour	D career
3. A signed	B wrote	C made	D picked
4. A Although	B While	C For	D However
5. A takes	B utilises	C spends	D uses
6. A titles	B materials	C subjects	D lessons
7. A cope	B adjust	C bear	D tolerate
8. A denies	B refuses	C insists	D complains
9. A signature	B autograph	C sign	D writing
10. A look down on	B make do with	C put up with	D run out of

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Part 2

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.

Here is an example:

Example: It was the most relaxing holiday I ever had.

SUCH

I have never (0) "had such a relaxing" holiday.

1. I find Robert's taste in music very hard to tolerate.

PUT

I find it hard Robert's taste in music.

2. I find waiting for buses very boring.

GET

I waiting for buses.

3. It's very difficult to predict the weather here.

TENDS

The weather unpredictable here.

4. People say learning lists of words is not a good use of time.

WASTE

Learning lists of words is of time.

5. Christine complained formally when her course of study was cancelled.

MADE

Christine when her course of study was cancelled.

6. We arrived in good time as we were afraid the coach might leave without us.

CASE

We arrived in good time without us.

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PART 3

A woman received a \$1000 prize for winning a short-story writing contest. Her acceptance speech appears below. Fill in the appropriate gerund or infinitive. In some cases, more than one answer may be correct.

It is a great honor (award) to be awarded this generous prize tonight.

(1) _____ (present) an award for something that I enjoy doing anyway thrills me. (2) _____ (say) that I am indebted to my parents would be an understatement. (3) _____ (have) parents who were trained as teachers gave me an important start. From the time I was very young, (4) _____ (study) four hours every day after school was required. It was a frequent sight (5) _____ (see) my siblings discussing main points and rehearsing the answers to problems. (6) _____ (scold) by our parents for not paying enough attention to our work would have been the greatest shame.

Besides doing my homework for school, (7) _____ (read) fiction and nonfiction books took up much of my leisure time. (8) _____ (read) so many types of books by the time I got to college proved to be a marvelous advantage. (9) _____ (see) so many good written models allowed me to creatively and effortlessly produce my own work for my university English classes.

Today, it requires more discipline for me (10) _____ (be) a good writer. (11) _____ (marry) with three children leaves less time to write. It requires initiative (12) _____ (arise) every day at 5:00 A.M. to write. (13) _____ (write) in this manner is the only way that I have been able to produce several short stories and a few poems. (14) _____ (not receive) very good marks on my essay pieces in college, I have left essay writing to some other writer! Well, I can see that my time is up. It has been an honor (15) _____ (select) as the winner of this contest and I thank my parents, family, and all of you for your recognition today.

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PART 4

Complete the sentences with a question tag.

- 1 You've seen that latest report, _____?
- 2 Larry didn't get a company car, _____?
- 3 This is such a difficult decision, _____?
- 4 You're going to the seminar, _____?
- 5 I'm a successful businessman, _____?
- 6 She won't forget to buy the tickets, _____?