

Reading Comprehension – Understanding Questions

Freeflyers: Modern Skydivers

Imagine falling towards the planet Earth at a terrifying 300 kilometres per hour. You started your fall from over four kilometres above the Earth. And you have less than one minute before you pull your parachute cord. You are falling so fast that just turning your head can send you off in a different direction. This is the wild side of a sport that has not found its limits – freeflying.

Freeflying is a variation on the more **traditional** skydiving. Skydivers were groups of jumpers who created magnificent, often very difficult manoeuvres in free fall. With skydiving all the jumpers are travelling at the same speed in the same arena of activity. They create formations and movements that make the onlookers gape in awe.

Even experienced skydivers watch the antics of freeflyers in amazement. The skill and control to be a freeflyer leaves many formation flyers shaking their heads.

Freeflyers, as the name suggests, do not hang around in crowds. Freeflyers enjoy the more spontaneous thrill of doing their own thing.

The wildest trip for a freeflyer is falling ‘head down’. You are heading straight to earth head first! Falling head first requires a great deal of control – and nerve. The small surface presented to the air means that not only do you travel faster, but the slightest movement has a greater effect on your direction.

Even the gear of freeflyers is more **outrageous**. They wear the zaniest jumpsuits, outlandish helmets and smaller ‘chutes. In fact, their ‘chutes are about one quarter the size of the traditional skydiver’s ‘chute, which means they surf to the ground at about sixty kilometres per hour.

It is only in the last few years that freeflying has gained any real public acceptance.

1. **Opinion:** Which of the two activities – skydiving or freeflying – do you think would be most dangerous. Briefly give your reason

Search and Find: Write short answers (one or two words) to questions 2 to 4

2. How fast do freeflyers fall before they use their ‘chute? _____
3. How long do freeflyers drop before pulling the cord? _____
4. What activity are skydivers most interested in? _____
5. **True or False:** Most people find skydiving a spectacular sport. _____

6. **Inferring:** Freeflyers could best be described as
Impudent Disorganised Daring

7. **Reasoning:** Skydiving requires more co-operation of participants than freeflying does because

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8. **Language:** The word **outrageous** could best be replaced by:
Shocking Sensational

9. **Language:** Which of the following words is closest in meaning to the word **traditional**, as used in the passage?
Historical Reliable Conventional Cautious

10. **Audience:** This passage would most likely be found in a manual teaching people how to freefly.

True False

Homework Sheet for Week 2

Name: _____

Critical Reading

Includes – Novels, non-fiction books, magazines, newspapers and as negotiated with teacher

Book: _____

Author: _____

In your own words, summarise your reading for this week.

Spelling		
a	b	c
brother	abolished	Aborigines
clothing	barrier	asylum
coastline	beliefs	bilingual
escape	campaign	casualties
gathering	diversity	deportation
homeland	emblem	economic
passage	members	foreign
settlers	migrants	generation
status	pioneers	immigrants
workforce	television	kindred

English Rules!

Highlight the correct form of the words, either with or without a hyphen, in these sentences.

1. Sailing is an excellent form of **recreation** / **re-creation**.
2. The comedian tried to **take off** / **take-off** the voice of the captain.
3. The jet had to quickly reach **take off** / **take-off** speed on the deck of the aircraft carrier.
4. It was an **ill managed** / **ill-managed** company, but it kept making money.

Common Curriculum Elements

CCE 13 is Compiling results in a tabular form. (Tabular form means in a table). This week's task is to make a table to record names and birth dates of the others in your class. How many different tables can you and your classmates come up with? What is the most logical/useful way to arrange this data?

Who is the target audience? How can you tell?

Would you recommend this reading to your friends?

Why/why not?

Parent Comment & Signature: _____

Teacher Comment & Signature: _____
