

1. Extreme sports

The subject of this week's lesson is extreme sports. One of the greatest ever feats in surfing was achieved by the American 'big wave' pioneer Greg Noll, who rode what is considered to be the largest wave ever paddled into, in Hawaii on 4th December 1969.

Level

Pre-intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level A2-B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Brainstorm on the subject of extreme sports, asking students what they understand by the term, and what examples they can think of. What do they think motivates practitioners of extreme sports? Are there any they would like to try?
2. Hand out Worksheet A and give students five to ten minutes to read through the text, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary.
3. When the time is up, divide students into pairs and hand out copies of Worksheet B, in which they have to answer two different types of comprehension question and then find antonyms.
4. Check answers in open class.
5. Keeping the students in their pairs, hand out Worksheet C in which students have to read a list of statements and decide whether or not they have been written in correct English. (The only errors the statements might contain are grammatical or lexical. Note also that a couple of the correct sentences contain examples of informal English.) In the first column, after the statement, they should write Y for Yes if they think the English is entirely satisfactory, or N for No if they think the statement contains one or more mistakes. In the second column they have to write the number of points they are willing to 'bet' on their answer (10 points if they are forced to guess, going up to 50 if they are very confident). As the sentences include vocabulary and grammatical structures from the main text, try to ensure that students attempt it without referring back to Worksheet A.
6. After the pairs have given their answers, it's time to score. Each pair calls out their answer and how many points they have bet. If they have answered correctly, students enter their points in the final column (points won). If they have answered incorrectly they should enter their points in the third column (points lost). In each of the cases where a statement contains a mistake, ask one of the students who answered correctly to explain why the statement is incorrect, and what the necessary corrections would be. At the end, students subtract the total of the third column from the total of the fourth column to give the total number of points they have won. The pair with the most points wins.

Answers

Part A

1. For about twenty years.
 2. Because he started wanting bigger challenges.
 3. She has received prize money by winning competitions.
 4. Her instructor.
5. F 6. T 7. D 8. D 9. D 10. T 11. F 12. T 13. T 14. T 15. D
16. massive
 17. beauty
 18. achievement
 19. abroad
 20. instructor

Part B

1. **Yes**
2. **Yes**
3. **No.** Climbing a mountain gives you a fantastic sense of ~~achieve~~ **achievement**.
4. **Yes**
5. **No.** I could never go skydiving – I'd be too ~~seary~~ **scared**.
6. **No.** Have you ever tried ~~surf~~ **surfing**?
7. **Yes**
8. **Yes**
9. **Yes**
10. **No.** My dream is to be able to make my ~~life living~~ from ~~surf~~ **surfing**.
11. **Yes**
12. **Yes**

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_4670000/newsid_4677500/4677520.stm

A short text from BBC *Newsround* in which a British thirteen-year-old explains why she enjoys surfing. Accessible to pre-intermediate level.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_6230000/newsid_6234300/6234373.stm

A short text on snowboarding, again from BBC *Newsround*, with links to two other texts. Accessible to pre-intermediate level.

http://www.trymysport.co.uk/extreme_sports_courses_experiences/extreme_sports_experiences.htm#surfing

A commercial site offering brief descriptions of various extreme sports. Challenging for pre-intermediate level.