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Historic jumps made above Mt. Everest

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THE ARTICLE

Three skydivers made history over Mount Everest on October 5th by being the first people to parachute above the world's highest mountain. The parachutists, from New Zealand, Britain and Canada, trained for many years to make their jumps. Their plane flew about 150 metres above Everest's peak when they leapt out. They had to wear oxygen masks and parachutes that were larger than usual to help them in the thin air. The three were in freefall for 30 seconds before their chutes opened and they glided down to land. A member of the jumpers' support team Krishna Aryal explained to the Reuters news agency what the jumps looked like from the ground: "They looked like tiny birds flying in the blue sky as they jumped from the plane," he said.

The skydivers were over the moon with their jump over Everest. New Zealander Wendy Smith said: "It was stunning. I had never seen so many mountains before. To be on top of the world was simply stunning." Britain's Holly Budge agreed, saying her jump was "just spectacular". Their jumps broke several skydiving records. They entered the record books for making the highest skydiving freefall at nearly 8,900 metres. They also landed on the world's highest drop zone at 3,761 metres. Twenty-nine more daredevils are waiting for favourable weather conditions to make the same jump. The thrill seekers are part of the 'Everest Skydive 2008' event organized by the British extreme sports company High and Wild.

WARM-UPS

1. MT. EVEREST: Walk around the class and talk to other students about Mount Everest. Change partners often. After you finish, sit with your partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

skydivers / making history / jumping / parachutes / freefall / oxygen masks / birds / being over the moon / stunning / breaking records / daredevils / extreme sports

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. DAREDEVIL: Are you a daredevil and a thrill seeker? Would you like to have some real fun? Complete the table. Share your ideas with your partner(s). Change partners and share your ideas again. Who is the biggest daredevil?

Fun thing	The dangers	Why I (don't) want to do it
Skydive over Everest		
Dive with sharks		
Fly to the moon		
Race an F1 car		
Bungee jumping		
Sail around the world		

4. THRILL SEEKERS: Students A **strongly** believe everyone must have a really exciting, action-packed hobby; Students B **strongly** believe gentle, safe hobbies are best. Change partners again and talk about your roles and conversations.

5. SIMPLY STUNNING: Which of these things would you most like to see? Rank them in order. Talk to your partner(s) about your rankings.

_____ Everest from above	_____ The Galapagos Islands
_____ The Great Barrier Reef	_____ Niagara Falls
_____ The Sahara	_____ Mecca
_____ Antarctica	_____ other (_____)

6. HISTORY: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'history'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. Three skydivers jumped off the top of Mount Everest. | T / F |
| b. The decision to make the jumps was a sudden one taken recently. | T / F |
| c. The parachutes used in the jumps were half the usual size. | T / F |
| d. An onlooker said the skydivers flew with rare bluebirds in the sky. | T / F |
| e. The skydivers were over the moon about their jump. | T / F |
| f. The parachutists broke several skydiving records. | T / F |
| g. Mount Everest is 3,761 metres high. | T / F |
| h. There are nearly 30 jumpers waiting to make the jump above Everest. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. mountain | a. a number of |
| 2. leapt | b. small |
| 3. chutes | c. very happy |
| 4. glided | d. jumped |
| 5. tiny | e. excitement |
| 6. over the moon | f. floated |
| 7. stunning | g. peak |
| 8. several | h. good |
| 9. favourable | i. parachutes |
| 10. thrill | j. amazing |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Three skydivers made | a. conditions |
| 2. 150 metres above Everest's | b. air |
| 3. the thin | c. books |
| 4. A member of the jumpers' | d. the moon |
| 5. They looked like tiny | e. history |
| 6. The skydivers were over | f. seekers |
| 7. simply | g. support team |
| 8. They entered the record | h. peak |
| 9. waiting for favourable weather | i. stunning |
| 10. thrill | j. birds |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Three skydivers _____ history over Mount Everest on October 5th by being the first people to parachute _____ the world's highest mountain. The parachutists, from New Zealand, Britain and Canada, trained for many years to make their jumps. Their plane _____ about 150 metres above Everest's peak when they leapt out. They had to wear _____ masks and parachutes that were larger than usual to help them in the _____ air. The three were in freefall for 30 seconds before their chutes opened and they _____ down to land. A member of the jumpers' _____ team Krishna Aryal explained to the Reuters news agency what the jumps looked like from the ground: "They looked like _____ birds flying in the blue sky as they jumped from the plane," he said.

thin
above
support
oxygen
made
glided
tiny
flew

The skydivers were over the _____ with their jump over Everest. New Zealander Wendy Smith said: "It was stunning. I had never seen so many mountains before. To be on _____ of the world was simply stunning." Britain's Holly Budge _____, saying her jump was "_____ spectacular". Their jumps broke several skydiving records. They entered the record books for making the highest skydiving freefall at _____ 8,900 metres. They also landed on the world's _____ drop zone at 3,761 metres. Twenty-nine more daredevils are waiting for favourable weather _____ to make the same jump. The thrill _____ are part of the 'Everest Skydive 2008' event organized by the British extreme sports company High and Wild.

just
top
seekers
conditions
moon
highest
agreed
nearly

LISTENING: Listen and fill in the spaces.

Three skydivers _____ Mount Everest on October 5th by being the first people to parachute _____ highest mountain. The parachutists, from New Zealand, Britain and Canada, trained for many years _____ jumps. Their plane flew about 150 metres above Everest's peak when they leapt out. They had to wear oxygen masks and parachutes that were larger _____ help them in the thin air. The three were in freefall for 30 seconds before their chutes opened and they glided _____. A member of the jumpers' support team Krishna Aryal explained to the Reuters news agency what the jumps looked like from the ground: "They looked _____ flying in the blue sky as they jumped from the plane," he said.

The skydivers were over the _____ jump over Everest. New Zealander Wendy Smith said: "It was stunning. I had never seen so many mountains before. To be on top of the world _____." Britain's Holly Budge agreed, saying her jump was "_____". Their jumps broke several skydiving records. They _____ books for making the highest skydiving freefall at nearly 8,900 metres. They _____ world's highest drop zone at 3,761 metres. Twenty-nine more daredevils are waiting _____ conditions to make the same jump. The thrill seekers are part of the 'Everest Skydive 2008' event organized by the British _____ company High and Wild.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words '**dare**' and '**devil**'.

dare	devil
-------------	--------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• history• trained• 150• 30• support• blue	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• moon• top• simply• just• 3,761• thrill
---	---

STUDENT THRILL SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about thrills in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

SKYDIVING DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'Everest'?
- c) Would you like to skydive over Mount Everest?
- d) What do you think of the tree skydivers in this story?
- e) What do you think of skydiving as a hobby?
- f) Why do you think skydivers like skydiving?
- g) Would you like to be in freefall for 30 seconds?
- h) What kinds of feelings do you think you'd have floating down to the ground from above Mount Everest?
- i) What kind of training would the skydivers need to do this?
- j) Would you like to fly like a bird?

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SKYDIVING DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) When was the last time you were over the moon about something?
- c) What would you do if you were on top of the world?
- d) What is the most stunning or spectacular thing you've ever seen?
- e) Would you rather dive in the sky or sea?
- f) Have you ever done any daredevil things in your life?
- g) Are you a thrill seeker?
- h) Would you like to get into extreme sports?
- i) What three adjectives describe skydiving or skydivers?
- j) What questions would you like to ask the skydivers?

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LANGUAGE

Three skydivers made (1) _____ over Mount Everest on October 5th by being the first people to parachute above the world's highest mountain. The parachutists, from New Zealand, Britain and Canada, (2) _____ for many years to make their jumps. Their plane (3) _____ about 150 metres above Everest's peak when they leapt out. They had to wear oxygen masks and parachutes that were larger than (4) _____ to help them in the thin air. The three were in freefall for 30 seconds before their chutes opened and they glided (5) _____ to land. A member of the jumpers' support team Krishna Aryal explained to the Reuters news agency what the jumps looked like from the ground: "They looked like tiny birds flying in the blue sky (6) _____ they jumped from the plane," he said.

The skydivers were over the moon (7) _____ their jump over Everest. New Zealander Wendy Smith said: "It was stunning. I had never seen so many mountains before. To be on top of the world was (8) _____ stunning." Britain's Holly Budge agreed, saying her jump was "just spectacular". Their jumps broke several skydiving records. They entered the record books (9) _____ making the highest skydiving freefall at nearly 8,900 metres. They also landed on the world's highest drop zone at 3,761 metres. Twenty-nine more daredevils are waiting for (10) _____ weather (11) _____ to make the same jump. The thrill seekers are part of the 'Everest Skydive 2008' event organized (12) _____ the British extreme sports company High and Wild.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) historian | (b) historical | (c) historic | (d) history |
| 2. | (a) trained | (b) training | (c) trains | (d) trainers |
| 3. | (a) flight | (b) flew | (c) flies | (d) flyer |
| 4. | (a) usually | (b) unusual | (c) usual | (d) usually |
| 5. | (a) across | (b) over | (c) down | (d) through |
| 6. | (a) was | (b) as | (c) is | (d) us |
| 7. | (a) by | (b) under | (c) on | (d) with |
| 8. | (a) simply | (b) simple | (c) simpleton | (d) simplest |
| 9. | (a) onto | (b) for | (c) to | (d) up to |
| 10. | (a) favouritism | (b) favourite | (c) favour | (d) favourable |
| 11. | (a) conditioned | (b) condition | (c) conditions | (d) conditioner |
| 12. | (a) by | (b) as | (c) to | (d) on |

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about the record-breaking jump above Everest. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. EXTREME: Make a poster about some of the world's extreme sports. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. OVER THE MOON: Write a magazine article about someone who is over the moon about something. Include an imaginary interview with the person.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. DIARY / JOURNAL: You are into extreme sports. What's your favourite extreme sport? Write about what you do in a normal day of training. Read your entry to your classmates in the next lesson.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to the skydivers. Ask them three questions about their jump. Give them three suggestions on what to do next. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F b. F c. F d. F e. T f. T g. F h. T

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. mountain | a. peak |
| 2. leapt | b. jumped |
| 3. chutes | c. parachutes |
| 4. glided | d. floated |
| 5. tiny | e. small |
| 6. over the moon | f. very happy |
| 7. stunning | g. amazing |
| 8. several | h. a number of |
| 9. favourable | i. good |
| 10. thrill | j. excitement |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Three skydivers made | a. history |
| 2. 150 metres above Everest's | b. peak |
| 3. the thin | c. air |
| 4. A member of the jumpers' | d. support team |
| 5. They looked like tiny | e. birds |
| 6. The skydivers were over | f. the moon |
| 7. simply | g. stunning |
| 8. They entered the record | h. books |
| 9. waiting for favourable weather | i. conditions |
| 10. thrill | j. seekers |

GAP FILL:

Historic jumps made above Mt. Everest

Three skydivers **made** history over Mount Everest on October 5th by being the first people to parachute **above** the world's highest mountain. The parachutists, from New Zealand, Britain and Canada, trained for many years to make their jumps. Their plane **flew** about 150 metres above Everest's peak when they leapt out. They had to wear **oxygen** masks and parachutes that were larger than usual to help them in the **thin** air. The three were in freefall for 30 seconds before their chutes opened and they **glided** down to land. A member of the jumpers' **support** team Krishna Aryal explained to the Reuters news agency what the jumps looked like from the ground: "They looked like **tiny** birds flying in the blue sky as they jumped from the plane," he said.

The skydivers were over the **moon** with their jump over Everest. New Zealander Wendy Smith said: "It was stunning. I had never seen so many mountains before. To be on **top** of the world was simply stunning." Britain's Holly Budge **agreed**, saying her jump was "**just** spectacular". Their jumps broke several skydiving records. They entered the record books for making the highest skydiving freefall at **nearly** 8,900 metres. They also landed on the world's **highest** drop zone at 3,761 metres. Twenty-nine more daredevils are waiting for favourable weather **conditions** to make the same jump. The thrill **seekers** are part of the 'Everest Skydive 2008' event organized by the British extreme sports company High and Wild.

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d 2 - a 3 - b 4 - c 5 - c 6 - b 7 - d 8 - a 9 - b 10 - d 11 - c 12 - a