



STUNT DOUBLES

1 Zoom! The stolen car flies down the hill. Its driver looks over his shoulder. Behind him is a man on a motorbike. The rider is not wearing a helmet. He is grinning. Suddenly, the car hits the bottom of the hill. BAM! Car and motorbike fly up into the air. The motorbike rider leaps off, his

black jacket flapping in the air. The car driver panics. He can't escape!

CUT!

2 You may have seen something like this on TV or in a film. Adding danger to a story can

make it fun. This can be done with a *stunt*. But there is a risk that a stunt will hurt the actors. To help the actor, filmmakers will use a *stunt double*. This is a person who has trained to do dangerous things.

- 3 The stunt double pretends to be the actor. They must look the same. Sometimes computers are used to make them look alike. When the villain is about to jump off a building, the camera stops recording. The actor playing the villain leaves. The stunt double stands on the same spot. Then the director yells: "ACTION!" It is now safe to do the stunt.
- 4 How do stunt doubles train? They play sports like skiing, gymnastics and rock

climbing. These teach them how to fall and balance well. Boxing, weightlifting and kickboxing give them good strength and speed. Some stunt doubles also do fighting sports, like karate or sword fighting. There is always a fight scene in action films.

- 5 Stunts are dangerous. It is important that everything is done safely. Stunt drivers have special cages to protect their bodies when their car crashes. When people are set on fire, they wear a suit that stops them from burning. They will also be covered in a special slime that keeps them cool. The slime doesn't last long, so the scenes have to be quick. When people fall, they will have ropes tied around them. This stops them from falling too fast. There will also be a soft mat for them to land on.



6 A lot of films are now using fake stunts. These are made with a computer. A fake stunt does not have any real people in it, so no one will be hurt. But this means that a lot of stunt doubles will lose their jobs.

Look closely when you next watch a film. When the hero jumps off a cliff, or catches on fire, you may be looking at someone else.



Questions

- 1 A stunt
 - a adds danger to a film.
 - b is a person trained to do dangerous things.
 - c always hurts actors.
- 2 What does a director call at the beginning of a scene?
 - a GO!
 - b CUT!
 - c ACTION!
- 3 What is a sport that gives them good speed and strength?
 - a gymnastics
 - b kickboxing
 - c karate
- 4 What protects a stunt driver in a car crash?
 - a a special slime
 - b a cage
 - c computers
- 5 What is not true about fake stunts?
 - a Fake stunts use computers.
 - b Fake stunts still look exciting.
 - c Actors can still get hurt in a fake stunt.
- 6 Why do actors have to look like their stunt doubles?
 - a so people don't see that there's a different person doing the stunt
 - b so computers don't have to be used to make films
 - c so stunts look dangerous



Vocabulary

Match the words from the text to the clues.

The brackets show the text sections ().

panic fake villain double lose

- 7 A bad or nasty character (3)
- 8 To misplace something (6)
- 9 Not real (6)
- 10 To become frightened and lose control (1)
- 11 Multiply by two (3)

Grammar

A **compound word** is made of two separate words, e.g. *afternoon*.

Make compound words from the following lists.

- | | |
|-----------|---------|
| 12 motor | lifting |
| 13 kick | thing |
| 14 every | boxing |
| 15 weight | bike |

Back To The Text...

- 16 The illustration on page 3 is described
 - a in section 4.
 - b in section 5.
- 17 Which section explains how stunts are made safer
 - a section 3
 - b section 5

- 18 The purpose of this text is
 - a to persuade.
 - b to inform.

Cloze

Lights, Camera, Action.

Choose from the following words to complete this cloze passage.

three people key set work

There are many people who 19 on a movie set. Some of these 20 have jobs with very strange names. Key Grip, Best Boy and Gaffer are just 21 of them. The key grip is the boss of the grips. They move the camera car or 'dolly'. One of the 22 grip's biggest jobs is looking after safety on the 23. The gaffer is the boss of the electrical team. The best boy helps the gaffer.

Challenge Option

Drawing: Draw a scene from your favourite movie.

