Open comprehension

1 **If you don't know some of the words in a reading text, what should you do?**

a Use your dictionary the first time you read the text.
b Try to guess what the words mean the first time you read the text.
c Try to guess what the words mean (or use a dictionary) the second time you read the text.

2 **Choose the correct alternative.**

1 My team won the ..... yesterday!
a spectator **b** cup **c** champion

2 Around 50,000 ..... watched the match.
a teams **b** winners **c** spectators

3 Usain Bolt won eight gold ..... at the Olympic Games®.
a medals **b** scores **c** leagues

4 In gymnastics, the ..... is the person who gets the best score.
a referee **b** winner **c** cup

5 The Tour de France™ is a famous cycling .....
a score **b** match **c** race

6 Katie Ledecky is an Olympic® swimming ..... from the US.
a champion **b** medal **c** final

Exam tip

In a Reading text, there are usually words you don't know. Remember that you don't need to understand every word to understand a text. The first time you read, get a general idea of what the text is about. Then read the text again and try to guess the meaning of new words, or use your dictionary.

3 **Answer the following questions in your own words according to the information given in the text. Do not copy from the text.**

1 What usually happens at the end of the Man v Horse Marathon?
2 What do runners do in the Cooper's Hill Cheese Roll?
3 What happened in Big Dog's Backyard Ultra in 2020?
4 Which countries are the races in?

Unusual races

Most running races are simple: you start, you run, and you finish. But if that isn't interesting enough for you, there are some very unusual races you can try.

The Man v Horse Marathon happens every year in a small town called Llanwrtyd Wells in the UK. You can probably guess what happens in this race. Yes, men – and women – run against horses! They run for 35 km and the winner is usually a horse. The race started in 1980. For the first 25 years, a horse won it every year. In 2004, a runner called Huw Lobb was the first human winner!

If you think running against a horse is a bad idea, what about running against cheese? At the Cooper's Hill Cheese Roll in the UK, someone throws a big, round cheese down a hill, and 14 people run down the hill after it. The race is very fast and dangerous, so some runners get hurt. The winner doesn't get a normal prize like a medal or a cup – the prize is the big cheese!

The Man v Horse Marathon and the Cooper's Hill Cheese Roll are hard, but Big Dog's Backyard Ultra is probably one of the hardest races you can do. It happens at a farm in the US and runners have to run 6.7 km every hour. For how long? Nobody knows! The race finishes when only one person is still running. This is usually after a few days! In 2020 the winner was Karel Sabbe, who ran an incredible 502 km in 75 hours!

4 **Find words that have these meanings.**

a a person, not an animal (paragraph 2)
b feeling bad in part of your body (paragraph 3)
c something a winner gets (paragraph 3)
d very good; amazing (paragraph 4)

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A2 Key Part 4

1 **Read the text in exercise 3 quickly. Which of these is NOT in the text?**

a the name of the first race Sarah won
b the person Sarah cycled with when she was a child
c Sarah's birthday

2 **Look at the photos then put the letters in order to make sports.**

1

nisigk

.....

2

ygbru

.....

3

kabalsebtl

.....

4

ynclcig

.....

5

lelylbvaol

.....

6

nasycsmtgi

.....

Exam tip

In multiple-choice vocabulary activities, read the whole text first to understand the general meaning. Then, look carefully at the sentence with a gap. Check each word in the gap before you choose.

3 **For each question, choose the correct answer.**

Sarah Gigante: a young cycling champion

Sarah Gigante was born in Australia on 6th October 2000. She **(1)** ..... cycling when she was a young child. She went on a cycling holiday with her mother every **(2)** ..... . They rode on a tandem, which is a bicycle for two **(3)** ..... . When Sarah was eight years old, she **(4)** ..... a cycling club. After that, she started riding in **(5)** ..... and she was often the winner. Now she is one of the best cyclists in Australia. She's also very clever – she got top marks in her **(6)** ..... in 2018 and went to a very good university. Cycling is her job now, and she loves it!

1	**A** made	**B** stayed	**C** started
2	**A** tomorrow	**B** summer	**C** morning
3	**A** groups	**B** people	**C** players
4	**A** joined	**B** went	**C** got
5	**A** scores	**B** matches	**C** races
6	**A** classrooms	**B** schools	**C** exams

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