

Nonfiction Reading Test

Trampolines

Directions: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Refer to the text to check your answers when appropriate.

What's more fun than standing still? Jumping up and down on a springy piece of fabric! This activity is known as trampolining and it's sweeping the nation.

The idea of trampolining is ancient. Eskimos have been tossing each other in the air using walrus skin for thousands of years. Firemen began using a life net to catch people jumping from buildings in 1887. And in the early 1900s, circus performers began bouncing off of netting to amuse audiences. These weren't the same as today's trampolines, but they show that the idea has been bouncing around for a long time.

A tumbler named George Nissan and his coach Larry Griswold made the first modern trampoline in 1936. They got the idea by watching trapeze artists bouncing off of a tight net at the circus. The two men experimented with different fabrics and designs. They found a winner when they stretched a piece of canvas across a steel frame and held it in place with springs. They named their device after the Spanish word *trampolín*, which means diving board.

At first Nissan and Griswold used their device to train tumblers. The piece of training equipment was a lot of fun. They realized that everyone could enjoy their trampoline, not just tumblers. The men wanted to share their idea with the whole world. In 1942 they began making trampolines to sell to the public.

Trampolines may be fun, but they can also be dangerous. Experts estimate that more than 100,000 people hurt themselves while using one each year. Clubs and gyms use large safety nets and rubber padding to make it safer. Most trampoline injuries happen at home. Since trampolines are more affordable than ever, injuries are even more common.

These injuries happen for many reasons. People may bounce too high and land off of the trampoline or onto the springs. From the peak of the bounce, this can be a fall of 13 feet or more.

Ouch. Injuries also happen when many people are jumping at the same time. Jumpers may collide and cause one another to land in strange ways.

Lots of people have broken bones in this way. Perhaps the worst injuries happen when untrained people try to do flips. Landing on your neck or head can paralyze or even kill you.

But don't let all that bad news keep you down. There are many things that you can do to practice safe trampolining. You can cover the springs with special pads so that people's limbs are less likely to get stuck in them. You can surround your trampoline with a net so that people don't fall off of it. You can limit bouncers to one at a time. This will prevent collision injuries. Perhaps most importantly, you should never flip on a trampoline without professional guidance. You are much less likely to get hurt on a trampoline if you do these things.

Trampolines have been around for a while now. They have brought a lot of joy to many people. There is no feeling quite like soaring up in the air and then free-falling. Trampolines can also be a good source of exercise and activity. They can help people improve their balance and aerial moves. But they can also be deadly. Be sure that you are practicing safety while having a good time. Happy bouncing!

1. Which statement would the author most likely **disagree** with?
 - a. The basic idea of a trampoline has been around for a long time.
 - b. Nissan and Griswold owe much of their success to circus performers.
 - c. Most club and gym trampolines are safer than most home trampolines.
 - d. Trampolines are dangerous and not much can be done to make them safer.

2. Which best describes the main idea in the second paragraph?
 - a. It explains how Eskimo have used walrus skins like trampolines for a long time.
 - b. It describes activities similar to trampolining that came first.
 - c. It compares and contrasts how different groups have used trampolines.
 - d. It discusses how trampolining is ancient.

3. Which of the following events happened **first**?
 - a. Firemen begin using life nets to catch people jumping from buildings.
 - b. Nissan and Griswold begin selling trampolines to the public.
 - c. Circus performers begin using netting to perform tricks.
 - d. Nissan and Griswold invent the modern trampoline.

4. Which is **not** cited as a cause of trampoline related injuries?
 - a. Colliding with other bouncers
 - b. Bouncing into low hanging objects
 - c. Jumping off of the trampoline
 - d. Landing a flip incorrectly

5. Which best explains why trampoline injuries are more likely to happen at home?
 - a. Home trampolines get rained on and become very slippery.
 - b. Home trampolines are cheaply made and fall apart during use.
 - c. Home trampolines often lack proper safety equipment.
 - d. Most people are on their best behavior when they leave the home.

6. Which best describes the structure of the text in the sixth paragraph?
 - a. Cause and effect
 - b. Compare and contrast
 - c. Chronological order
 - d. Descriptive writing

7. How does the purpose of the text switch after the fourth paragraph?
 - a. It goes from describing the uses of a trampoline to the dangers.
 - b. It shifts from explaining the history of the trampoline to health benefits.
 - c. It moves from Nissan and Griswold's life story to how trampolines are used today.
 - d. It changes from discussing the origins of the trampoline to the risks.

8. Which statement would the author most likely **agree** with?
 - a. Trampolines are extremely dangerous and should be banned.
 - b. Nissan and Griswold stole the idea for the trampoline from the eskimos.
 - c. You should take turns when jumping on a trampoline with friends.
 - d. You'll never learn to flip if you don't start practicing by yourself.

