

Video Zone: Record-breaking skydive – exercises

The daredevil Felix Baumgartner's latest stunt has made news headlines around the world. What record did he break? Watch and find out!

Do the preparation task first. Then, watch the video and do the exercises. Remember you can check the transcript at any time.

Preparation

Match the words with the correct definition and write a–f next to the number 1–6.

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|--------|------------------|----|--|
| 1..... | a parachute | a. | an extreme sport in which you jump out of a plane and fall to earth |
| 2..... | density | b. | faster than the speed of sound |
| 3..... | the stratosphere | c. | a person with lots of experience who gives advice to somebody less experienced |
| 4..... | skydiving | d. | a layer of the earth's atmosphere |
| 5..... | supersonic | e. | a large sheet that slows you down as you are falling through the air |
| 6..... | a mentor | f. | the thickness or heaviness of something |

1. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

- Felix did his skydive from _____.
 - the height that passenger jets fly at
 - the edge of space
 - the height that clouds float at
- He became the first man to fall faster than _____.
 - a jet plane
 - the speed of sound
 - the speed of light
- Joe Kittinger, the previous record holder, was Felix's _____.
 - mentor
 - father
 - sponsor
- During the attempt, Felix's mother was _____.
 - confident he would break the record
 - proud of his bravery
 - worried about his safety

5. Just before he jumped, Felix said '_____'.
a. Oh my God
b. One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind
c. Sometimes you have to go up really high to see how small you really are
6. There was a danger that _____, but in the end he was fine.
a. blood would come out of his eyeballs
b. his helmet would fall off
c. he would vomit
7. Felix stopped spinning when he _____.
a. hit the denser air near the earth
b. broke the sound barrier
c. opened his parachute
8. Felix's main concern during the jump was _____.
a. breaking the world record
b. gathering scientific data
c. coming back alive
9. Felix is planning to _____ in the future.
a. retire
b. become a helicopter pilot
c. try and break his own record

2. Check your understanding: gap fill – numbers

Fill the gaps with the correct number from the box.

2.5	4	4	20	24	43	834	Millions
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1. _____ of people watched the skydive online. It was broadcast with a _____ -second delay in case Felix was injured or killed during the jump.
2. Felix is _____ years old.
3. Felix went _____ miles (about 38km) up in a helium balloon, which took _____ hours. This is _____ times higher than the height aeroplanes fly at.
4. His top speed was _____ miles per hour, which is faster than the speed of sound. He was in freefall for over _____ minutes before he opened his parachute.

3. Check your understanding: ordering – parts of the news report

Write a number (1-5) to put these parts of the news report in order.

- | | |
|-------|---|
| | mention of Felix's plans for the future |
| | summary of what happened |
| | interview with Felix |
| | description of Felix's flight up in the balloon |
| | description of Felix's skydive and landing |

4. Check your vocabulary: multiple choice – collocations

Circle the correct word to complete the collocations used in the video.

- Moving faster than the speed of sound is called breaking the sound **limit / barrier / border** .
- The team of people on the ground that directed Felix's skydive is called mission **control / command / centre** .
- If we say that Felix entered the history **records / books / magazines** , we mean that he set a new world record.
- Felix also set a new record for the highest **staffed / attended / manned** balloon flight.
- Computers gathered scientific **data / facts / information** during the flight.
- Felix doesn't think he will ever do anything greater than this, so we can say that nothing will top the giddy **heights / tops / altitudes** of this achievement.

Would you like to do a skydive?

What's the fastest you've ever travelled?

What do you think Felix was thinking and feeling as he was falling?

Vocabulary Box

Write here any new words you have learnt in this lesson.