

6

Taking Risks

WARM-UP: Do you like riding on roller coasters? Why or why not?

Useful Vocabulary

scared	avoid	injury	extreme
overly	failure	decisions	reckless
cautions	shame	fence	thrill

Scaredy Cat or Daredevil?

“Scaredy Cat” is a negative word used to describe people who are overly cautious. These people try to avoid taking risks for fear of failure, shame or injury. The poet, Robert Frost, agreed that people should be cautious in making decisions. He said, “Don’t ever take a fence down until you know why it was put up.”



Fig. 6a: Scaredy Cat

READING

Read the article and discuss.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How cautious are you in making the following life decisions?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Getting married | <input type="checkbox"/> Saving for retirement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Choosing your major | <input type="checkbox"/> Having children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deciding where to live | <input type="checkbox"/> Making investments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Choosing your career | |



Fig. 6b: Daredevil

“Daredevil” is a typically negative word used to describe the other extreme; people who are overly reckless. These people enjoy taking risks because of the thrill. The poet, T.S. Eliot, challenged people to push the limits. He is quoted as saying, “Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far it is possible to go.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

2. Do you enjoy taking risks for the thrill? On a scale of 1 - 10, how cautious are you with the following?
- Driving with low fuel
 - Playing gambling games
 - Asking someone on a date
 - Arguing with someone
 - Breaking traffic rules
 - Driving without GPS Navigation
 - Turning off your alarm and sleeping again
 - Buying a used car



Fig. 6c: Texting & Biking sign

As most people get older, they take fewer risks, and take more time to make wise decisions. According to Psychology Today, teenagers are the group of people most likely to take dangerous risks without thinking deeply, such as texting while biking or participating in extreme sports.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

3. Do you think teenagers in your community take more risks than other age groups?
Were you more of a risk taker when you were a teenager than you are now?
4. How do you feel about extreme sports? Have you or would you ever try these?
- Scuba Diving
 - Skateboarding
 - Surfing
 - Snowboarding & Skiing
 - Skydiving
 - Bobsledding
 - Mountain Biking
 - Cliff Diving
 - Kayaking
 - Whitewater Rafting
 - Rock Climbing
 - Bungee Jumping
 - Parasailing
 - Hang Gliding

USEFUL IDIOMS & PHRASES

“The poet, T.S. Eliot, challenged people to **push the limits.**”

☞ “**push the limits**” (*verb phrase*): to test what is safe by going beyond the standard

EXAMPLE: Astronauts are **pushing the limits** by attempting to travel to Mars.

QUESTION: Have you ever **pushed the limits** of your company’s rules? For example, have you ever come to work late or dressed more casually than the company policy?

Perhaps the best advice about risk taking is to know when to take risks and how to learn from failures. The basketball superstar, Michael Jordan, once said, **I have failed** over and over and over again in my life and that is why I succeed.

GRAMMAR POINT: PRESENT PERFECT

Question: *Have/has* + **Subject** + Past Participle (+ object)?

EXAMPLE: *Have you failed* over and over again at something like Jordan?

Positive Statement: **Subject** *have/has* Past Participle (+ object)

EXAMPLE: **He** *has gone* scuba diving several times before.

Negative Statement: : **Subject** *have/has* **not/never** Past Participle (+ object)

EXAMPLE: **I** *have **never** been* on a safari.

EXAMPLE: **I** *have **not** seen* that horror film.

Share Your Experiences

Grammar

Use the verbs and objects to make past perfect questions and responses in pairs. Then ask follow up questions. Take notes and be ready to share your partner's experiences.

Practice & Discuss

Example: go + skydiving

A: *Have you gone* skydiving?

B: No I **haven't** *gone* skydiving.

A: Why **haven't** you *gone* skydiving?

B: Because I am a scaredy cat!

1. invest + stock

2. ride + horse

3. steal + something

4. get + in trouble

5. break + bone
