
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Words in the News

Parkour is here to stay



NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

Transcript

It's not a sport yet. But it requires a lot of **agility**.

This is 'freerunning', also called Parkour, and it's here to stay.

The practice of jumping through urban **obstacles** started in the streets in France and now is **going mainstream** in Britain.

The country's first **specialised** academies have opened their doors, to **encourage** people to learn how to do it in a safe environment.

It's estimated that 35,000 people practise 'freerunning' regularly.

Vocabulary

agility

the physical ability to be fast and flexible

obstacles

(here) objects that the freerunners have to move around or over

going mainstream

becoming well-known and accepted

specialised

concentrating on a particular area

encourage

(here) provide good conditions for people to do a particular activity, so that more people will do it

Watch the video online: Parkour is here to stay <http://tinyurl.com/qfcslyj>

Exercise

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from news reports.

Note that you may have to change the form of a word to complete the sentence correctly.

agility / obstacles / going mainstream / specialised / encourage

1. A spokesperson from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said: "It is well-documented that the beginning of the Afghan campaign presented military _____ but we can be proud of what we have achieved in Afghanistan".
2. The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy called on employers to _____ staff to be more physically active during the working day to reduce their risk of developing health problems.
3. Ben David's cutlery will never be mass-produced, but there's a long history of _____ cutlery. Steak knives are perhaps the most common. An advert in the Times in 1914 for Mappin and Webb, offered a gift set of "trustworthy cutlery" that included six egg spoons, a pickle fork and a chutney spoon.
4. Experts say many children do not get a proper workout which helps them develop coordination, strength and _____.
5. Tattoos are no longer the trophies of rockers, sailors, bikers, bohemians and criminals, they have _____.

Answers

1. A spokesperson from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said: "It is well-documented that the beginning of the Afghan campaign presented military **obstacles** but we can be proud of what we have achieved in Afghanistan".

Source: UK military 'made wrong calculations' on Afghanistan

<http://tinyurl.com/n7dphw5>

2. The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy called on employers to **encourage** staff to be more physically active during the working day to reduce their risk of developing health problems.

Source: Employers urged to encourage lunch breaks for staff

<http://tinyurl.com/nn55zlj>

3. Ben David's cutlery will never be mass-produced, but there's a long history of **specialised** cutlery. Steak knives are perhaps the most common. An advert in the Times in 1914 for Mappin and Webb, offered a gift set of "trustworthy cutlery" that included six egg spoons, a pickle fork and a chutney spoon.

Source: The strange world of super-specialist cutlery

<http://tinyurl.com/l8bko24>

4. Experts say many children do not get a proper workout which helps them develop coordination, strength and **agility**.

Source: Doctors say most PE lessons neglect all-round fitness

<http://tinyurl.com/2uh5et2>

5. Tattoos are no longer the trophies of rockers, sailors, bikers, bohemians and criminals, they have **gone mainstream**.

Source: Tattoos: Should people test-drive them first?

<http://tinyurl.com/3m5k3vj>