
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Words in the News

Obstacle race in Germany



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

Transcript

It looks like a **marathon**...

But strong legs are just one of the **requirements** to succeed in the Strongman Run. About 11,000 competitors **scramble** over mud and **slide** on water. **Fancy dress** is optional.

The athletes even give each other a helping hand around the 23km Nurburgring racetrack in Germany.

This year's winner did it in just over an hour and a half.

Vocabulary

marathon

a running race of just over 42km (just over 26 miles)

requirements

conditions which are necessary

scramble

move quickly but with difficulty

slide

move easily over a surface

fancy dress

party clothes usually representing a particular thing or character

Watch this video online: Obstacle race in Germany

<http://bbc.in/1HbV8N2>

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.

marathon / requirements / scramble / slide / fancy dress

1. "However, it is important to remember that our universities have high-entry _____ and they will only offer places to students who will flourish and succeed on their courses. Admission to university is and should be based on merit, and any decisions about admissions must also maintain high academic standards."
2. For most runners, a _____ is not just 26.2 miles of physical endurance - it means months and months of arduous, painstaking preparation.
3. A pick-up truck has been captured _____ down an icy road in Alabama, before hitting other parked cars.
4. We've seen some pretty weird and wild _____ costumes but this could be the most realistic cat costume we've ever seen.
5. Mount Everest is a dangerous place, and the Khumbu Icefall is one of the most dangerous parts of the climb. At 06:00 local time on Saturday, we were _____ through its living, moving blocks of ice.

Answers

1. "However, it is important to remember that our universities have high-entry **requirements** and they will only offer places to students who will flourish and succeed on their courses. Admission to university is and should be based on merit, and any decisions about admissions must also maintain high academic standards."

Source: Languages may be passport to Oxbridge, data suggests
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-32653440>

2. For most runners, a **marathon** is not just 26.2 miles of physical endurance - it means months and months of arduous, painstaking preparation.

Source: Could you run a marathon without training?
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-17456672>

3. A pick-up truck has been captured **sliding** down an icy road in Alabama, before hitting other parked cars.

Source: US snow: Multiple crash as truck skids in Alabama
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-31577800>

4. We've seen some pretty weird and wild **fancy dress** costumes but this could be the most realistic cat costume we've ever seen.

Source: Felt cat head could be best animal fancy dress ever
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/article/32340374/felt-cat-head-could-be-best-animal-fancy-dress-ever>

5. Mount Everest is a dangerous place, and the Khumbu Icefall is one of the most dangerous parts of the climb. At 06:00 local time on Saturday, we were **scrambling** through its living, moving blocks of ice.

Source: Nepal quake on Everest BBC man's lucky escape
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-32502389>