

The alternative games 另类运动竞赛

Vocabulary: *eccentric behaviour* 奇怪的行为举止

Have you ever raced against a horse, charmed worms or smashed an egg against your head?

These **wacky** activities are amongst the sports taking place in the World **Alternative** Games in the Welsh town of Llanwrtyd Wells. You might not see the likes of Usain Bolt around, but those who take part are extremely dedicated and compete for gold, silver and bronze medals in 35 events.



Gordon Green, who is involved in organising the games, says: "We've been staging a number of events since 1980, but we wanted an alternative to the Olympics to show that people who take part in **unusual** sports are as committed as their Olympic counterparts. (...) They may not train as hard, but they have as much fun."

Let's take a look at some of the **weird and wonderful** disciplines that are hosted. In the man-versus-horse race, men race against horses across the Welsh countryside. Predictably, the horses usually win, although men have won twice in the past.

Russian egg roulette is less dangerous and more **quirky** than the sport its name derives from. Competitors smash eggs against their heads: all the eggs are raw except one. Whoever gets the hard-boiled egg is the winner.

Worm charmers produce vibrations with a garden fork and a piece of metal or wood to entice worms to come out of the ground. The World Record was set by ten-year-old Sophie Smith in 2009, when she collected 567 worms in just 30 minutes.

Those with **extraordinary** strength might want to take part in wife carrying, where competitors carry another person – who may not be their wife and can be of the same sex – across a river and fields. The prize for the winner is the weight of the person they carried in beer.

Other **off-the-wall** games are **stiletto** racing, where competitors race in 3-inch high heels, running backwards, underwater hockey and **bog snorkelling**.

So if what's missing in your life is **a grain of folly**, you might want to consider taking part. All you need is dedication, **an eccentric streak** and **a penchant for ridicule**.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. Read the article and find as many adjectives as possible that have a similar meaning to 'eccentric'.
2. Is the following statement true, false or not given? You might see Usain Bolt taking part in the World Alternative Games.
3. What does the man-versus-horse race involve?
4. Is the following statement true, false or not given? Worm charmers play music to entice worms to the surface.
5. What does the winner of a wife carrying race receive?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Alan's not mad or weird... He's just a bit _____.

quirking	quirky	quirked	quirk
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2. How can he play the guitar so fast? It's _____!

extraordinary	wacky	dangerous	predictable
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3. Can I _____ you to come to my party by saying there will be free drinks and food?

dedicate	race	entice	smash
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4. I couldn't walk properly in the _____ I wore and tripped down the stairs. How embarrassing!

hockey	penchants	Russian roulette	stilettos
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5. My sister collects scorpions and wears a bright yellow hat to work. She's got _____.

an off-the-wall	a garden fork	an eccentric streak	a worm charmer
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. Read the article and find as many adjectives as possible that have a similar meaning to 'eccentric'. Wacky, unusual, weird and wonderful, quirky, off-the-wall.
2. Is the following statement true, false or not given? You might see Usain Bolt taking part in the World Alternative Games. False. Although you won't see athletes like Usain Bolt in these alternative games, the competitors are still very dedicated to these quirky sports.
3. What does the man-versus-horse race involve? It involves people competing against horses by racing across the countryside.
4. Is the following statement true, false or not given? Worm charmers play music to entice worms to the surface. False. They use a garden fork and a piece of metal or wood to create vibrations.
5. What does the winner of a wife carrying race receive? The winner receives beer - the amount is equivalent to the weight of the person they carry.

Exercise 练习

1. Alan's not mad or weird... He's just a bit quirky.
2. How can he play the guitar so fast? It's extraordinary!
3. Can I entice you to come to my party by saying there will be free drinks and food?
4. I couldn't walk properly in the stilettos I wore and tripped down the stairs. How embarrassing!
5. My sister collects scorpions and wears a bright yellow hat to work. She's got an eccentric streak.

Glossary 词汇表

wacky	古怪的
alternative	另类的，非主流的
unusual	不寻常的
weird and wonderful	怪异但又精彩的
Russian egg roulette	俄罗斯蛋轮盘赌
quirky	古怪的
a worm charmer	一个蠕虫诱导训练师
extraordinary	非凡的
off-the-wall	异乎寻常的
stiletto	细高跟鞋
bog snorkelling	沼泽潜水
a grain of folly	有点愚蠢，做蠢事
an eccentric streak	趋向古怪的性格（性格有些刁钻古怪）
a penchant for ridicule	喜欢捉弄嘲笑