

A full-page background image showing a person rappelling down a large, layered red rock cliff. The person is wearing a blue shirt, dark pants, and a helmet, and is suspended by ropes. The background reveals a vast canyon with similar red rock formations under a clear blue sky.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Watch and listen	Watch and understand a video about roller coasters
Reading skills	Preview a topic before reading
Academic writing skills	Write topic sentences for body paragraphs
Writing task	Structure 'for and against' arguments in essays

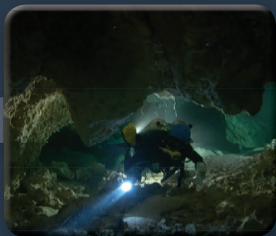
UNLOCK YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- 1 Work with a partner. Decide how risky the activities below are (low, high or extremely high risk).

1 rock climbing	6 working as a police officer
2 cooking	7 travelling in a helicopter
3 eating chocolate	8 smoking
4 going on holiday	9 doing housework
5 horse riding	10 motorcycle racing
- 2 For each activity, discuss how risk can be managed to make it safer.
- 3 What is the riskiest thing you have done? How did you try to minimize the risk?

WATCH AND LISTEN

Discovery
EDUCATION



USING YOUR
KNOWLEDGE TO
PREDICT CONTENT


UNDERSTANDING
KEY VOCABULARY

UNDERSTANDING
MAIN IDEAS

PREPARING TO WATCH

- 1 You are going to watch a video about risk. Before you watch, discuss the questions below with a partner.
 - 1 Why do people take risks in their lives?
 - 2 Why do we sometimes enjoy dangerous or frightening situations?
- 2 Read the sentences below. Which of the adjectives in **bold** are positive? Which are negative?
 - 1 Being on a roller coaster is really **disorientating** – you don't know which way is up or which is down.
 - 2 I couldn't cope with really **harsh** living conditions, like in the desert or the Arctic.
 - 3 I know some people find bullfighting **thrilling**, but I get no enjoyment at all from watching it.
 - 4 When planes do acrobatics, they make it look **uncontrolled** – but actually they know exactly what they're doing.
 - 5 Being in an underwater cave and having no idea what you'll see next was really **exhilarating**. I can't wait to go again.
- 3 Match the definitions below to the adjectives in Exercise 2.
 - 1 extremely exciting: _____ , _____
 - 2 unpleasant and difficult: _____
 - 3 makes you confused about what you're doing or where you're going: _____
 - 4 free – you can't make something do what you want it to do: _____

WHILE WATCHING

- 4  Watch the video. How does it answer the two questions in Exercise 1?

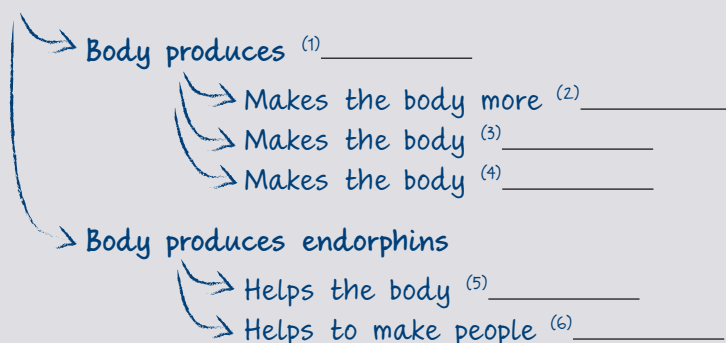
5 Work in pairs. Complete the sentences below.

- 1 It's rather surprising that people like roller coasters because ...
- 2 Some examples of natural risks shown in the video are ...
- 3 Roller coasters are actually safe because ...
- 4 Some ways people experience thrills are ...
- 5 Roller coasters are the easiest way to get excitement safely because ...

6 Look at the diagram about the chemical and physical effects of danger on humans. Complete it with words from the box.

faster adrenaline feel good withstand pain alert stronger

Extreme circumstances



7 Watch the video again to check your answers to Exercises 5 and 6.

8 Work in small groups. Discuss the questions below.

- 1 Have you ever been on a roller coaster or other theme-park ride?
If so, how did you feel? If not, would you like to go on one? Why / Why not?
- 2 Which of the dangerous activities mentioned in the video do you think is the most dangerous? Why?
- 3 Have you experienced danger? Say what happened and how you felt.

DISCUSSION

9 Work with a partner. Discuss the questions below.

- 1 What are the greatest risks that people face in everyday life?
- 2 Do you think our lives are too safe these days?
- 3 Is it possible to live life without risk?

UNDERSTANDING DETAIL

RESPONDING TO THE VIDEO CONTENT

READING 1

UNDERSTANDING KEY VOCABULARY

PREPARING TO READ

- 1 Match words and phrases (1–7) to definitions (a–g).
- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1 sail the seven seas | a to do something just in time |
| 2 cut it fine | b to solve a problem by making (and learning from) mistakes |
| 3 contingency | c plan for possible future outcomes |
| 4 all-inclusive holiday | d to be careful and not take risks |
| 5 trial and error | e a sport involving floating in the air attached to a parachute |
| 6 play it safe | f to travel widely and extensively |
| 7 paragliding | g a vacation where everything (food, drink, etc.) is included |

Previewing

Before you read a text on a particular topic, it can be useful to think about your own knowledge and views on this topic. Also, ask yourself if there are any questions you hope the text will answer. This will help you develop a greater interest in the text and make it easier to understand.

- 2 You are going to read a quiz called 'Are you a risk-taker or are you risk-averse?' Before you read, discuss these questions with a partner.
- 1 In what areas of our everyday lives can we be risk-takers?
 - 2 What kinds of question will check if you are a risk-taker?
 - 3 Look at the words and phrases in Exercise 1. Predict how they might be used in the quiz.
 - 4 Do you think the quiz will show you to be a risk-taker or risk-averse?

WHILE READING

- 3 Read the quiz and circle your response to each question.
- 4 Work with a partner Add up how many (a), (b) or (c) answers you circled. What do you think the difference is between them?

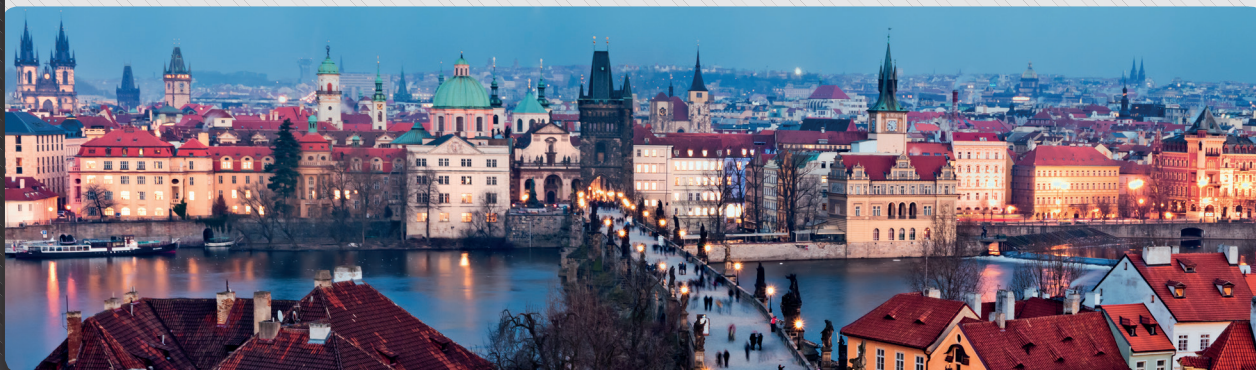
READING FOR MAIN IDEAS

Are you a **risk-taker**, or are you **risk-averse**?

Do our quiz to find out whether you love living on the edge of danger, or whether you would rather be safe at home!



- 1 What sports activities sound best to you?
 - a free climbing, paragliding and horse riding
 - b cycling and swimming
 - c watching sport on TV
- 2 You've just won a lot of money. What do you do with it?
 - a You buy a bright red, high-performance car. It is sure to go up in value.
 - b You use the money to expand your family's successful business.
 - c You put it in the bank in case you need it for an emergency later.
- 3 Your train leaves at 12:00. What time do you arrive at the station?
 - a 11:59. There's nothing wrong with cutting it fine.
 - b 10-15 minutes before it's due to leave.
 - c 45 minutes ahead of schedule. This leaves plenty of time in case things go wrong.
- 4 What would be your dream holiday?
 - a sailing the seven seas in a yacht
 - b exploring a European city on a weekend break
 - c going to the same all-inclusive resort you've been going to for the last ten years
- 5 Do you read the instructions before you use a new piece of equipment?
 - a You never read them – you prefer learning by trial and error.
 - b You only look at them if you get stuck.
 - c You always read them from cover to cover before you unpack the item.
- 6 You're eating out at a restaurant. What do you order?
 - a You ask the waiter to surprise you.
 - b You ask for advice and look at what other diners have ordered.
 - c You play it safe and go with what you know.
- 7 Which of these jobs appeals to you most?
 - a an astronaut
 - b a pilot
 - c an airline check-in clerk



- 5** Complete the explanation of the scores with the correct letters from the quiz.
- 1 If you answered mainly _____, you are happy to take risks, but only if you're sure things will turn out all right.
 - 2 If you answered mainly _____, you prefer a comfortable life, where things are predictable and there are few surprises. Don't be afraid to take a chance every now and then!
 - 3 If you answered mainly _____, you like to live life on the edge. You never know what's around the corner. Just be careful you don't take one risk too many!
- 6** Read the quiz again. Match formal phrases (1–7) to answers in the quiz.
- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1 making a high-risk motoring purchase | <u>2a</u> |
| 2 a nautical adventure | _____ |
| 3 allowing contingency time | _____ |
| 4 a risk-free pastime | _____ |
| 5 considering recommendations and observation findings | _____ |
| 6 experimentation | _____ |
| 7 space exploration | _____ |

READING BETWEEN THE LINES

- 7** Answer the questions below. Use the information in the quiz to help you.
- 1 Can watching sport on TV ever be dangerous?
 - 2 What are the advantages of investing your money in a family business?
 - 3 What is the problem with always cutting it fine?
 - 4 Why do more people not 'sail the seven seas' when they go on holiday?
 - 5 Why might it be a bad idea to read the instructions from cover to cover?
 - 6 What could happen if you asked a waiter to surprise you?
 - 7 Why might the job of an airline check-in clerk appeal to some people?

DISCUSSION

- 8** Work with a partner. Discuss the questions below.
- 1 Compare your quiz results with a partner. How much of a risk-taker are you?
 - 2 Do you think tests like this are useful? Why? / Why not?

READING 2

PREPARING TO READ

1 Work with a partner. Answer the questions about your country or other countries you know.

- 1 Do you have to wear a seatbelt when driving, or a helmet when riding a motorbike?
- 2 Is unhealthy food or drink prohibited, or is it taxed heavily?
- 3 Does the government warn against risky activities in posters or TV commercials? Which ones?

2 Complete definitions (1–7) with words from the box.

compulsory prudence regulations infringe
responsibility legislation prohibiting

- 1 If something is _____, it means that you have no choice whether to do it or not.
 - 2 To _____ on someone's freedom is to take it away or limit it.
 - 3 _____ means not taking any unnecessary risks.
 - 4 _____ is a formal word for the making of laws.
 - 5 By _____ something you are effectively making it illegal.
 - 6 If you are liable for something, it means you have legal _____ for it.
 - 7 _____ are sets of rules established by an organization.
- 3 Which of the issues below do you think governments should control?
- 1 national security
 - 2 road safety
 - 3 financial support for people in poverty
 - 4 disease prevention
 - 5 safety at work
 - 6 online security
 - 7 protection from injury in the home
 - 8 provision of healthcare
 - 9 smoking
 - 10 news services

USING YOUR
KNOWLEDGE TO
PREDICT CONTENT

UNDERSTANDING
KEY VOCABULARY

A government has a duty to protect its citizens from personal, professional and financial risk.

Give reasons for and against the statement and state your opinion.

Governments of some countries see it as their responsibility to control the amount and kind of risk that their citizens are exposed to. They can use legislation to protect personal health, prevent injury in the workplace and help people handle financial matters. In other nations, citizens are expected to take care of themselves and carry the responsibility of their own safety and that of others. This essay will explore the advantages and disadvantages of both approaches.

In the UK, the government protects its population from risk in a number of areas. It makes it compulsory to wear a seatbelt or helmet while on the roads, and manages risk of disease by taxing or prohibiting unhealthy foods or cigarettes. It prevents the spread of disease by investing in vaccination programmes and health education. Workers are protected from harm through government-implemented health and safety regulations and companies and managers are liable for employee death or injury. This has resulted in 800 fewer deaths per year in the British workplace. In terms of financial protection, the UK government gives those in poverty access to healthcare, food and shelter. It also tries to prevent fraud and other financial crime, while encouraging economic prudence through methods such as saving.

While some people believe the UK government acts in the best interests of their citizens, others feel it infringes on the freedom of the public. They object to paying hefty financial penalties (for example, for riding a motorbike without a helmet), even though they may personally accept the risk. People who smoke and eat unhealthy food argue that they are posing less risk to their health than horse riders or skiers and it is dangerous sports which should be banned, not food. Businesses complain that health and safety regulations mean that they spend too much time and money protecting against very low risks, and that this has a negative impact on their business and the national economy. Others reject government advice about saving money as hypocritical when they notice an increase in state borrowing.

In conclusion, we can see that there are both benefits and risks attached to a government that tries to control the safety of its citizens. This can reduce accidents, disease and crime, and cater for the basic needs of all members of society. Conversely, however, over-protective legislation can limit individual freedom and cause resentment. It can also suggest that people do not have to be responsible for their own actions. In my opinion, a country with tight controls provides a pleasant and safe environment. However, legislation needs to be carefully monitored to ensure it is appropriate, up-to-date and not excessively restrictive.



WHILE READING

- 4 Read the essay. Which of the issues in Exercise 3 does it mention?
- 5 Find the following words in the text. Then look for a synonym for each of these words in the text.
- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1 countries | 3 people | 5 regulations |
| 2 injury | 4 financial | 6 liable |

READING BETWEEN THE LINES

- 6 Work with a partner. Discuss the questions below.
- 1 What is the danger if managers are not liable for accidents in the workplace?
 - 2 What does the writer mean by *hefty financial penalties*?
 - 3 What sort of health and safety legislation do you think businesses complain about?
 - 4 Do you think the writer is a risk-taker?

DISCUSSION

- 7 Work with a partner. Discuss the questions below.
- 1 Do you agree with people who say that dangerous sports should be banned? If so, which ones?
 - 2 Should people take responsibility for their own risks?
 - 3 What new legislation should be implemented to further protect people from risk in society?

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

LANGUAGE OF FREEDOM

- 1 Complete the table with the words from the box.

allow ban curb limit criminalize permit restrict legalize
grant authorize

promoting freedom	restricting freedom

READING FOR
MAIN IDEAS

SCANNING TO FIND
INFORMATION

MAKING INFERENCES
FROM THE TEXT

2 Choose the best word (a, b or c) to complete the sentences.

- 1 Certain countries completely _____ the sale of guns.
a restrict b ban c grant
- 2 The president will _____ the building of several new colleges.
a authorize b criminalize c legalize
- 3 Governments _____ the sale of harmful drugs to make them illegal.
a allow b criminalize c curb
- 4 There will be a _____ on the sale of cigarettes at the end of the month – you will only be able to buy them if you are over 18.
a limit b ban c legalize
- 5 If countries _____ people the right to vote, they should use their vote carefully.
a grant b limit c authorize

EXPLANATION

Academic nouns

There are many formal academic nouns which can improve your essay writing. A lot of these end in *-tion* and *-sion*. Using these words instead of shorter, more common nouns is a feature of academic writing.

3 Replace the nouns in bold in sentences (1–7) with the words from the box.

regulations legislation prevention objection reduction
confusion dissatisfaction

- 1 The **fall** in numbers shows that many people think the risks are too high.
- 2 The government intends to introduce new **laws** to control migration.
- 3 Workplaces must introduce more strategies with regard to the **stopping** of risk.
- 4 There is a considerable amount of **unhappiness** about recent changes to financial policy.
- 5 The company has brought in extra safety **rules** to prevent further accidents.
- 6 There was **chaos** when the decision was announced.
- 7 Companies have outlined a key **complaint** to the recent change in government policy.

CRITICAL THINKING

At the end of this unit, you will write a 'for and against' essay. Look at a similar writing task in the box below.

'Taking greater risks leads to larger personal, professional and financial rewards.'

Discuss the arguments for and against this statement and give your opinion.

- 1** In this essay question, the risks have been divided into three topics: everyday life, work life, and your finances. Read risks (1–12) below and decide whether they are personal, professional or financial. They may belong to more than one topic.

- 1 investing in get-rich-quick schemes financial
- 2 not wearing protective equipment _____
- 3 not reading instructions _____
- 4 avoiding paying tax _____
- 5 ignoring or breaking the law _____
- 6 not doing a risk assessment in your office _____
- 7 regularly being late for work _____
- 8 spending money freely _____
- 9 not taking out house insurance _____
- 10 arriving with seconds to spare _____
- 11 spending on credit _____
- 12 not wearing a seatbelt _____

- 2** Match risks (1–12) to rewards (a–l) below.

- | | | |
|---|--|-------|
| a maximizes profit | <u>1 (investing in get-rich-quick schemes)</u> | |
| b means that you can get in and out of a car more easily | | _____ |
| c you can sleep for longer | | _____ |
| d you are more comfortable | | _____ |
| e you don't have to waste time waiting at the station or airport | | _____ |
| f you save money on the insurance policy | | _____ |
| g you learn more effectively by working it out for yourself | | _____ |
| h you do not have to pay money now, but at a later time | | _____ |
| i you can buy things you really like and have a good time | | _____ |
| j you keep money for yourself rather than giving it to the government | | _____ |
| k some things you really enjoy doing may be illegal | | _____ |
| l you can use the time more effectively on other parts of your job | | _____ |

- 3** Work with a partner. What are the arguments against taking each risk in Exercise 2?

EVALUATE

APPLY

GRAMMAR FOR WRITING

EXPLANATION

Cause and effect

There are simple verb phrases we can use to show the cause and effect of certain actions.

- Taking risks **results in** greater rewards.
- Taking risks **leads to** greater rewards.
- Taking risks **means** greater rewards.

Notice how we can also use more complex linkers to show the connection between two sentences.

- Maximizing profit is encouraged in investment banking. **As a result of this**, some bankers take on too much risk in their portfolio.
- Maximizing profit is encouraged in investment banking. **Because of this**, some bankers take on too much risk in their portfolio.
- Maximizing profit is encouraged in investment banking. **Consequently**, some bankers take on too much risk in their portfolio.

1 Complete each sentence (b) with a verb phrase so that it means the same as sentence (a).

1 a If you take fewer risks, you receive smaller rewards.

b Taking fewer risks _____

2 a If you manage risk carefully, everybody stays safer.

b Managing risk carefully _____

3 a If there is excessive risk-taking, chaos may follow.

b Excessive risk-taking _____

2 Complete the sentences below with your own ideas.

1 Some people avoid paying tax to save money. Consequently, _____

2 Many groups have criticized banks' excessive risk-taking. As a result of this, _____

3 It is very difficult to predict how long the bus will take to get to the station. Because of this, _____

Conditional language

We can use *if*-clauses to add a condition to an opinion.

Governments should legislate against extremely hazardous activities if they do not attempt to control too much of our personal lives.

In formal writing, we can use more complex linkers to replace *if*. It is also possible to reverse the order of the clauses.

- *Provided that* they do not attempt to control too much of our personal lives, governments should legislate against extremely hazardous activities.
- Governments should legislate against extremely hazardous activities *provided that* they do not attempt to control too much of our personal lives.
- *As long as* they do not attempt to control too much of our personal lives, governments should legislate against extremely hazardous activities.
- Governments should legislate against extremely hazardous activities *as long as* they do not attempt to control too much of our personal lives.
- *On condition that* they do not attempt to control too much of our personal lives, governments should legislate against extremely hazardous activities.
- Governments should legislate against extremely hazardous activities *on condition that* they do not attempt to control too much of our lives.

3 Work in pairs. Complete the sentences below with a suitable linker and condition.

1 Individuals should be allowed to do whatever they like _____

2 Risk is acceptable in the workplace _____

3 Potential problems connected to risk-taking can be minimized _____

4 Financial investments do not need to be risky _____

Topic sentences in body paragraphs

The *topic sentence* of a paragraph is generally its first sentence. Here are four examples.

- Governments of some countries see it as their responsibility to control the amount and kind of risk that their citizens are exposed to.
- In the UK, the government protects its population from risk in a number of areas.
- While some people believe the UK government acts in the best interests of their citizens, others feel it infringes on the freedom of the public.
- In conclusion, we can see that there are both benefits and risks attached to a government that tries to control the safety of its citizens.

1 Circle the correct words.

- 1 A topic sentence should identify the *main idea/detail* in the paragraph.
- 2 The focus of a topic sentence should be *specific/general*.
- 3 A topic sentence generally provides *no/many* examples to back up its main point.

2 Work with a partner. Read the topic sentences below and decide which sentence (a or b) would be the most appropriate to use in an essay.

- 1 **a** There are different definitions of risk-taking and success.
b One of the definitions of success is 'the favourable outcome of something attempted', another is 'the attainment of wealth, fame, etc.'
- 2 **a** If the only questions asked are those which we can already answer, then there can be no unexpected positive results.
b Positive results are impossible.
- 3 **a** 51% of people believe that risk-taking is bad.
b On the other hand, in the case of dangerous risks, the consequences are more likely to be negative.
- 4 **a** In conclusion, the answer to this question is dependent on the level of risk involved.
b There are three further points which need to be discussed.

WRITING TASK

'If children are never exposed to risk, they will never be able to cope with risk.'

Give reasons for and against this statement and give your opinion.

- 1 Look again at the essay on page 76. Consider the arguments for and against the essay title above. Use the paragraph structure below.

- Paragraph 1: Introduction
- Paragraph 2: Arguments for
- Paragraph 3: Arguments against
- Paragraph 4: Conclusion

- 2 Make notes on your essay below.

Paragraph 2: Arguments that children need to be exposed to some risk

Evidence 1: _____

Evidence 2: _____

Evidence 3: _____

Paragraph 3: Arguments that children should be protected from all risk

Evidence 1: _____

Evidence 2: _____

Evidence 3: _____

- 3 Look again at your notes for Paragraphs 2 and 3 and decide what your overall opinion is. Do you think that children should be exposed to risk? Write a one-sentence response to this question, providing evidence.
- 4 Write a first draft of your essay. Write 250–300 words.

PLAN AND WRITE
A FIRST DRAFT

- 5 Use the task checklist to review your essay for content and structure.

TASK CHECKLIST	✓
Have you given each body paragraph a suitable opening topic sentence?	
Have you used the correct essay structure in your writing?	
Is the evidence you have used appropriate and well-chosen?	
Have you written 250–300 words?	

- 6 Make any necessary changes to your essay.
- 7 Use the language checklist to edit your essay for language errors which are common to B2 learners.



LANGUAGE CHECKLIST	✓
Have you used a good range of topic-related vocabulary?	
Have you used cause and effect language correctly?	
Have you used conditional language correctly?	

- 8 Make any necessary changes to your essay.

OBJECTIVES REVIEW

9 Check your objectives.

I can ...

watch and understand a video about roller coasters	
	very well not very well
preview a topic before reading	
	very well not very well
write topic sentences for body paragraphs	
	very well not very well
structure 'for and against' arguments in essays	
	very well not very well

WORDLIST

UNIT VOCABULARY			ACADEMIC VOCABULARY
all-inclusive (adj)	grant (v)	portfolio (n)	confusion (n)
allow (v)	great (adj)	prohibit (v)	dissatisfaction (n)
authorize (v)	harsh (adj)	prudence (n)	legislation (n)
ban (v)	infringe on (v)	regulation (n)	objection (n)
compulsory (adj)	legalize (v)	responsibility (n)	prevention (n)
contingency (n)	liable (adj)	restrict (v)	reduction (n)
criminalize (v)	limit (v)	thrilling (adj)	regulation (n)
cut it fine (ph)	paragliding (n)	uncomfortable (adj)	
disorientating (adj)	permit (v)	uncontrolled (adj)	
exhilarating (adj)	play safe (ph)		