

TeachingEnglish lesson

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# Round the world travellers

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Task 1: Put the words and expressions in the box in the correct column. Use a dictionary or ask your teacher for help if necessary.

blizzard   journey   brakes   desert   to pedal   trip   freezing  
temperatures   mountain punctures   river   rudder   running shoes  
sea storm   autopilot   ocean   to cycle  
to run   to sail   voyage   wind   wombat   yacht

weather	travel nouns	geographical features	cycling	running	sailing	animals

# Round the world travellers

**Task 2:** You are going to read about three round the world travellers. As you read, complete the table with information about each traveller.

<b>Question</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
Who travelled around the world?			
How did he / she travel?			
How long did the journey take?			
What do you think was the biggest problem that he / she had?			

# Round the world travellers

**Task 2: Read the text and complete the appropriate column in the table.**

## Text A

James Bowthorpe, at the age of 31, became the fastest man to cycle round the globe when he arrived at Hyde Park in London on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009. It took him just 176 days to travel through 20 countries on his epic 18,000 mile (29,000 km) journey.

James pedalled out of the English capital, his home town, carrying 30 kilos of gear which included a GPS tracking system, camera batteries and a phone; all powered by a dynamo connected to his bike. He was sponsored by a British newspaper and managed to raise over £ 58,000 for research into Parkinson's disease.

He crossed mountains and deserts, rode along terrifying highways, battled against strong winds, collided with a wombat in Australia, broke his back brake and had to fix numerous punctures. In Thailand he was so ill that he lost a fifth of his body weight and had to spend three days in bed to recover. His other low points included being attacked by a gang of men (and then thankfully being rescued by a couple of teenagers).

Most of his encounters along the way were friendly and James was pleased to find that Lance Armstrong, a past Tour de France winner, was following his trip on social media. "For a couple of days I imagined him watching me with his arms folded, shaking his head at my technique," Bowthorpe says.

Information from The Independent, The Guardian

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**Task 2: Read the text and complete the appropriate column in the table.**

## **Text B**

Rosie Swale Pope, a grandmother from Wales, took five years to run around the world. She was 61 when she completed her round-the-world trip in August 2008. Her 20,000 mile (32,190 km) journey, which took her through the Northern Hemisphere including Europe, America, Greenland and Iceland, raised funds for a Russian orphanage and promoted cancer awareness.

Rosie carried her equipment on a small trailer as she ran. She either camped at night or stayed with people she met on the way. She met lots of people on route; most of them friendly. She received 29 proposals of marriage (nine of them in Poland) and was rescued from the snow during a blizzard by a local in Alaska.

Did she encounter any difficulties? As well as being hit by a bus, experiencing freezing temperatures and suffering from pneumonia, she was knocked unconscious by an axeman as she was crossing a river. She also had to replace her running shoes 45 times.

Information from El Periodico, The Telegraph

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**Task 2: Read the text and complete the appropriate column in the table.**

## Text C

Mike Perham was just 16 when he set off to circumnavigate the globe. He celebrated his 17th birthday alone in the Indian Ocean on his 50-foot (15 m) racing yacht.

A birthday party for one might not sound like much fun to the average teen. Other less enjoyable parts of the trip included numerous stops to repair the yacht's rudder and autopilot, accidentally falling overboard into the water and terrible storms in open sea. One of the most tedious aspects of the trip was having to put up with a diet of 'icky' freeze-dried food.

Against these odds, British teenager Mike completed his 28,000 mile (45,000 km) sea voyage in nine months and became the youngest person to sail solo around the world in August 2009.

Many people say that 16 is too young to sail around the world alone. But Mike's father was confident that his son had the physical strength, mental capacity and technical ability necessary for the trip.

Information from The Guardian, The Adventure Blog

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**Task 3: Read the questions and write James, Mike or Rosie. You can write more than one name for some of the questions.**

1. Who travelled around the world the fastest?
2. Who travelled furthest?
3. Who was sponsored?
4. Who raised money for charity?
5. Who got ill?
6. Who fell in the sea?
7. Who repaired or replaced equipment?
8. Who had the most romantic trip?
9. Who was followed on the internet by a famous sports person?

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**Task 4: Complete the questions with the words in the box. Do interviews in pairs. Student A is a round the world traveller, student B is a journalist. Take turns to be the cyclist, runner, sailor and journalist.**

How (x2)

What (x2)

Who

1. \_\_\_\_\_ did you travel around the world?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ long did it take?
3. \_\_\_\_\_ problems did you have?
4. \_\_\_\_\_ were the best times on your trip?
5. \_\_\_\_\_ helped you?



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**Task 5: Here is some advice for round the world travellers. Read the advice and tick if you agree / disagree or are not sure about each statement.**

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Not sure</b>
Learn the language of each place you plan to visit.			
Find a sponsor to provide money while you are travelling.			
Make sure you are fit before you begin your trip.			
Reserve hotel rooms in each country you will visit.			
Check your equipment at the start of each day of your journey.			
Take lots of travel photos – and share online if you can.			
Pack less stuff.			
Take a laptop so that you can contact family and friends while you are away.			
Get out of your comfort zone.			

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## Task 6: Discuss these questions.

- Would most parents allow their teenage son or daughter to travel round the world alone?  
Why / Why not?
- How dangerous is it to travel in different countries?
- Would you like to travel round the world? Why / Why not?
- How do you think it feels to break a world record?
- Have any world records been broken recently in your country? Which?
- Can world records always be broken?

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Thanks for attending the lesson