

A. Read the story.

Dogsledding



Hi, my name is Elizabeth. My favourite sport is dogsledding. If you enjoy nature, like speed, and love dogs, then this sport is for you!

I first became interested in dogsledding when I went on the trip of a lifetime to Alaska. I went there to see the world famous Iditarod Trail Race. It is a dogsledding race that spans over the rough Alaskan terrain. While I was there, I had a chance to talk to some of the people involved in the sport and I found out that I could do this in my hometown of Sudbury, Ontario too.

When I returned, my parents saw how excited I was and they bought me my first dog, which I named Gunther. Soon after came Rocky, Chinook, and Harley. I began training my team when they were puppies. I started by working on basic commands. Then, we began endurance training by going on long jogs together. Next, I introduced them to wearing a harness and began teaching them dogsledding commands. Did you know that to start a team you say "hike", to turn right you say "gee", to turn left you say "haw", and to pass by something you say "on by"? I bet you can figure out what they do when I say "whoa"!

The best part about the training is that you can do it throughout the year. As my dogs grew bigger, I hooked them up to a gang line and had them tow me on a mountain bike, and later they pulled me in a cart with wheels. When winter came, I had them tow me on skis and then finally on the sled. The most important things to remember are to never, ever let go of the sled and to always use the proper commands.

For now I am happy to enjoy the company of my team. Maybe one day I can enter the Iditarod Race and, who knows, maybe I'll even see you there!



B. Complete the sentences with words from the passage.

1. Dogsledding is Elizabeth's _____ sport.
2. The Iditarod Trail Race _____ over the rough Alaskan terrain.
3. Elizabeth has to train her dogs _____ the year.
4. Giving the _____ commands is important in dogsledding.
5. Going on long jogs is part of _____ training.

C. Answer the questions.

1. Why do you think Elizabeth enjoys dogsledding?

2. How did Elizabeth first get interested in this sport?

3. Who is on Elizabeth's team?

4. How did Elizabeth train her dogs in the summertime?

- 5.

Explain the terms used in dogsledding.

on by

haw

hike

gee



E. Complete each sentence with the correct group of homophones.

chilly chilli

peek peak

week weak

to too two

seen scene

herd heard

Homophones are words that sound alike but are spelled differently and have different meanings.



1. The dogs climbed to the _____ of the mountain. Elizabeth took a _____ over the edge.
2. I _____ a _____ of cattle rushing towards us.
3. My _____ dogs are _____ tired _____ continue the race.
4. I am feeling ill and very _____ this _____.
5. The criminal was _____ at the _____ of the crime.
6. A great meal to have on a _____ night is a hot bowl of _____.