

A. Read the passage.

Tony Hawk

Soaks to Success



When you hear the words “ollie”, “mute air”, “kickflip”, “fakie”, “900”, “mongo foot”, and “McTwist”, what comes to mind – a new language perhaps? Actually, these are just a few of the many skateboarding terms used to describe skateboarding tricks.



Skateboarding has been around since the early 1900s, but it used to be very different from the skateboarding we know today. Now deemed an “extreme sport”, skateboarding falls into this classification because of the daredevil aerial stunts that are performed while skidding onto and over obstacles at astonishing speeds.

For most people, skateboarding is a recreational activity, but there are some who take it to a higher level and make a career out of it. Tony Hawk is one of them. Tony Hawk, a world leader in skateboarding, became a professional skateboarder at the young age of 14. He received unconditional support from his family; in fact, Tony’s father founded the National Skateboarding Association (now called World Cup Skateboarding).

Hawk is legendary for being the first to do the “900”, which is two and a half rotations above the half-pipe. He successfully landed this trick at the “X Games” in 1999. Since he started competing over 20 years ago, Tony has won numerous titles, and has received 14 medals at the “X Games”.

Now, in his 40s, Tony no longer competes, but he still skateboards and continues to be involved in the sport. He is featured in commercials, films, and magazines, and has his own signature video game and skateboarder clothing line. At skateboarding events, he interviews athletes and does the commentary. Hawk also established the Tony Hawk Foundation, a non-profit organization that helps subsidize the building of public skateboard parks across the United States.



B. Write the terms for the skateboarding tricks described below.

Skateboarding Tricks



1. A skater in a green suit and red helmet is shown in mid-air, performing a trick where the skateboard has flipped 360 degrees around its longitudinal axis.

The skater flicks his/her front foot at an angle toward the nose of the skateboard in order to make it flip 360° along the board's axis.

2. A skater in a green suit and red helmet is shown pushing off the ground with one foot to lift the skateboard into the air.

It refers to using one's foot to push the board.

3. A skater in a green suit and red helmet is performing a backflip while riding a skateboard on a ramp.

It is an aerial spin of 900° (2.5 rotations) performed on a skateboard ramp.

4. A skater in a green suit and red helmet is performing a handplant, where one hand is on the ground and the skateboard is balanced on the other hand.

Mike McGill invented this trick. A skater performs a backflip while his/her hand grabs the side of the skateboard.

5. *Why is skateboarding regarded as an extreme sport?*

6. What proves that Tony Hawk had the full support of his parents?

7. What does the Tony Hawk Foundation help support?





C. Read the statements. Check the statement that is the main idea for each paragraph.

Paragraph 1

A Tony Hawk speaks a foreign language.

B Skateboarders have interesting words to describe their tricks.

Paragraph 2

A Extreme sports have an element of danger to them.

B Skateboarding has changed over the years to become an extreme sport.

Paragraph 3

A Tony Hawk has taken skateboarding to a higher level.

B One can become a professional athlete at age 14.

Paragraph 4

A Tony Hawk is a hero.

B Tony Hawk has had a successful skateboarding career.

Paragraph 5

A Tony Hawk enjoys being involved in various sports.

B Although Tony Hawk is no longer a competitor, he is active in keeping the sport alive.

D. Classify each verb as an action, saying, or thinking/feeling verb.

wonder exclaim rotate believe glide
 applaud whisper ask amaze

Action Verb

- _____
- _____
- _____

Saying Verb

- _____
- _____
- _____

Thinking/Feeling Verb

- _____
- _____
- _____

