THE WORLD’S MOST EXCITING JOBS
SAFE OR DANGEROUS, BORING OR EXCITING?

Which jobs do the following pictures show? First name the jobs.

1. FP_S
2. P_R
3. SN
4. AT
5. HR
6. ZR
7. PR
8. FN
9. DR

Now finish the following sentences, choosing some of the jobs in the pictures and giving reasons. You can be as funny or creative as you wish.

I’m thinking about becoming a/an __________________________
because __________________________
__________________________

When I was young I wanted to be a/an __________________________
because __________________________
__________________________

Never in a million years would I like to be a/an __________________________
because __________________________
__________________________

Being a/an __________________________
is the most awesome job in the world
because __________________________
__________________________

I was once a/an __________________________
but I was sacked because __________________________
__________________________
JOBS FOR ADRENALINE JUNKIES

Some jobs are fit for people who like to take risks and experience the rush of adrenaline. Here are ten such jobs. Can you guess what the people do – and why they are necessary? What risks and dangers do they face? What personal qualities are needed for each job? Discuss them with a partner, then read the article to learn the answers you don’t know and to check the rest.

Now look at this job advertisement. What job do you think it is advertising?

MAKING A HOUSE A HOME

We’re looking for animal lovers who stay calm under pressure to work “up close and personal” with some wonderful animals, helping to ensure they have a clean and healthy home. An ability to swim is essential. Experience is unlikely. Not looking delicious is a definite advantage.

Does this sound like you? Take the plunge and become

a(n) __________ !

Protective clothing supplied. Life insurance not included.

WHAT DO THEY CHOOSE?

Listen to four people discussing various exciting jobs. Which job from the article would each of them choose?

Jacy: ____________________________________________

Michael: _______________________________________

Emily: ___________________________________________

Ryan: ___________________________________________

MY IDEAL JOB

What is most important for you in a job? Write down five things.

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

Pick one or two of the other “dangerous jobs” and make your own advertisements. Think about the advantages of the job, the personal qualities of the people you’re trying to attract and so on. And have fun!
MILKING SNAKES, HUNTING FOR TREASURE

THE WORLD’S MOST EXCITING JOBS

Are you an adrenalin junkie? Is your only fear sitting at a desk for 40 years? Well, you’re in luck! There are lots of exciting jobs for people who like to take more risks at work than getting sore wrists from typing.

Damien Galeone (USA)

An aquarium’s shark tank can hold a whole lot of sharks, and the shark tank cleaner’s job is to climb in with them and clean it out with a brush. Movies often make sharks seem more dangerous to humans than they are, and they generally leave people alone. Still, sharks do occasionally attack people, so getting into a tank filled with them while armed with only a brush is always going to be risky. On the plus side, visitors to an aquarium really want to see something exciting – and you fighting a bunch of sharks with a brush would definitely be that.

MOUNTAIN GUIDE

A mountain guide’s job is to lead people safely up (and then back down) tall mountains such as Mount Everest or Mount Kilimanjaro. The key word is safely. To do that, a mountain guide has to be the first to climb unsteady rocks, try out narrow, untested paths and rescue people who are trapped or lost. This makes mountain guiding really dangerous, even without considering things like bad weather, avalanches or altitude sickness*. The climbers might be the ones looking for adventure, but it’s the mountain guide who takes the risks.

STUNTPERSON

When we see Jason Statham or Charlize Theron jumping between buildings in an action film, we are more likely to be watching their stunt double. A stuntperson’s job is to do the dangerous things that the actor can’t do, or that the movie studio doesn’t want them to do. If the studio just gave that actor $40 million, of course it doesn’t want such expensive legs to get broken. You, on the other hand, they don’t care so much about. So instead of having Charlize jump through fire or Jason fall out of a helicopter, you do it. It’s dangerous work and it won’t even make you famous, but at least you’ll get a Hollywood star visiting you in the hospital. Maybe.

SAFARI GUIDE

A safari guide takes tourists into the African wilds to observe wildlife. As with a mountain guide, their main responsibility is to keep the group safe. However, people on a safari are more likely to run into problems with large or dangerous animals. Safari guides are (hopefully) very well trained, so they understand the animals’ behavior and they know what to avoid and when a situation is unsafe. For this reason, animal attacks on safari groups are relatively rare, but they do happen. And when something bad does happen, the safari guide is the one who must ensure the group’s safety, which can even mean fighting off a lion.

SNAKE MILKER

While there is a long list of animals that get milked, most of them are pretty harmless. Milking a snake, however, is an entirely different thing. The “milk” in this case is venom*, and the “milking” is done by making the snake bite a piece of latex covering a jar and then massaging its venom glands*. The venom is needed to make antivenoms* as well as various medicines, so snake milkers have an important job. It’s a career for calm people with steady hands: after all, this is often done to very dangerous snakes like cobras, so even a little mistake can mean a very big problem.

SHARK TANK CLEANER

An aquarium’s shark tank can hold a whole lot of sharks, and the shark tank cleaner’s job is to climb in with them and clean it out with a brush. Movies often make sharks seem more dangerous to humans than they are, and they generally leave people alone. Still, sharks do occasionally attack people, so getting into a tank filled with them while armed with only a brush is always going to be risky. On the plus side, visitors to an aquarium really want to see something exciting – and you fighting a bunch of sharks with a brush would definitely be that.
**BULL RIDER**

Bull riding is an athletic contest with a simple goal: ride a 1,500-pound (700kg) bull for eight seconds while only holding on to the bull with one hand. Spoiler alert: it doesn’t always work out too well. The bulls don’t really like being used as sports equipment, so they show their unhappiness by jumping madly until the rider falls off. Then, just in case anyone didn’t get the message, the bull often kicks or stomps (= steps on) that person. It sounds like such a dream job.

**ASTRONAUT**

An astronaut might have the most exciting job in the world (or out of the world), but it’s also pretty dangerous. Astronauts carried by a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket begin by sitting on top of 287,000 liters of highly flammable* fuel. One minute and ten seconds after taking off, they hit supersonic speed*. And they keep getting faster, until they are rocketing up at about 27,000 km/h. And that’s only getting up there. Once an astronaut is in space there are a lot of dangers, from equipment failure to radiation.

**SEARCH AND RESCUE HELICOPTER PILOT**

This job involves finding people who are lost or have become trapped away from civilization. Because of this, a search and rescue helicopter pilot often flies into bad weather conditions or into dangerous situations like forest fires or rough seas. You’re basically a “professional hero”, which is a pretty cool thing to tell people at a dinner party.

**ADVENTURE FILMMAKER**

Have you ever seen documentary footage (= film) of a boat trip through the Amazon or a dogsled journey across Antarctica? That was shot by an adventure filmmaker. These people go on an adventure with a team so that they can film it. It’s exciting and dangerous because adventures are exciting and dangerous. Just because you have a video camera doesn’t mean you can’t get caught in an avalanche or bitten by a snake. Hey, at least you’ll get cool footage of it!

**SALVAGE DIVER OR TREASURE HUNTER**

A salvage diver’s job is to find something that is lost underwater. So if someone crashes a car into a lake or a plane crashes in the ocean, a salvage diver goes and finds it. Treasure hunters look for underwater treasure like sunken ships and gold. It sounds cool, but anything that takes place under the water is dangerous. Divers go into unstable structures under the water, their equipment could fail, or they could get attacked by sharks or pirates. Yes, pirates.

**GLOSSARY**

- **altitude sickness** – the dizziness, headaches and nausea caused by low oxygen levels in air at high altitude (= high above the sea level)
- **venom** – the toxic chemicals a snake can inject through its bite
- **venom glands** – the organs that produce the venom
- **antivenom** – medication used to treat bites by venomous animals
- **flammable** – easily burning
- **supersonic speed** – faster than the speed of sound