

Unit 2 Leisure and pleasure



riding motorbikes



Starting off

- 1 Work in pairs. Choose a word or phrase from the box for each of these photographs.

riding motorbikes playing computer games
clubbing window shopping playing chess
doing aerobics playing team sports

- 2 Answer the questions below.

- 1 Which of the activities in the photos have you done?
- 2 Which do you think is ...?
 - a the most enjoyable
 - b the cheapest
 - c the healthiest
 - d the most relaxing
 - e the least active
 - f the best one to do with friends
- 3 Which would you like to try? Why?

Reading

You will read an extract from a book in which Scottish actor Ewan McGregor explains how he first became interested in motorbikes.

- 1 Before you read, work in pairs. What do you think people most enjoy about riding motorbikes?
- 2 Read the extract quickly to find out how Ewan McGregor became interested in motorbikes.

My first bike

Film star, Ewan McGregor, recently rode round the world on a motorbike. He talks about how he first took up riding motorbikes.

My biking beginnings can be summed up in two words: teenage love. My first girlfriend was small with short mousy blonde hair, and I was mad about her. Our romance came to an abrupt end, however, when she started going out with another guy in my home town, Crieff. He rode a 50 cc road bike first and then a 125. And whereas I had always walked my girlfriend home, suddenly she was going back with this guy.

I was nearly sixteen by then and already heartbroken. Then one day, on the way back from a shopping trip to Perth with my mum, we passed Buchan's, the local bike shop. I urged my mother to stop the car. I got out, walked up the short hill to the shop and pressed my nose to the window. There was a light blue 50 cc bike on display right at the front of the shop. I didn't know what made it was, or if it was any good. Such trivialities were irrelevant to me. All I knew was that I could get it in three or four months' time when I was sixteen and allowed to ride it. Maybe I could even get my girlfriend back.

I'd ridden my first bike when I was about six. My father organised a tiny red Honda 50 cc and we headed off to a field that belonged to a family friend. I clambered on and shot off. I went all over the field. I thought it was just the best thing. I loved the smell of



it, the sound of it, the look of it, the rush of it, the high-pitched screaming of the engine. Best of all, there was a Land Rover parked next to two large piles of straw with about a metre and a half between them. I knew that from where the adults were standing it looked as if there was no distance between them. Just one large heap of straw. I thought I would have a go. I came racing towards the adults, shot right through the gap in the straw. I was thrilled to hear the adults scream and elated that it had frightened them. It was my first time on a motorbike. It was exciting and I wanted more.

So when I looked through Buchan's window in Perth that day, it suddenly all made sense to me. It was what had to happen. I can't remember whether it was to win back my ex-girlfriend's heart or not, but more than anything else it meant that, instead of having to walk everywhere, I could ride my motorbike to school and the games fields at the bottom of Crieff and when I went out at weekends.

I started to fantasise about it. I spent all my waking hours thinking about getting on and starting up the bike, putting on the helmet and riding around Crieff. I couldn't sleep. Driven to desperation by my desire for a bike, I made a series of promises to my mum: I won't leave town. I'll be very safe. I won't take any risks. I won't do anything stupid. But, in fact I was making the promises up - I never thought about keeping them.

Crieff is built on a hill. It's a small town and my whole childhood was spent walking around the town, from my parents' house to school to friends' houses. It was great, but I was getting to that age when children become aware of the possibilities of venturing further afield. Crieff is smack in the middle of Scotland, no more than a day's drive from anywhere in the country. Unless, like us, you went everywhere by bicycle. With so many beautiful places nearby, the idea of getting a motorbike was too much to resist.

Adapted from *Long Way Round* by Ewan McGregor and Charley Boorman

3 For questions 1-8, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

- 1 Why did Ewan's relationship with his first girlfriend finish?
 - A She didn't enjoy walking.
 - B She met someone with a motorbike.
 - C He was upset by her behaviour.
 - D He made her angry.
- 2 What does 'such trivialities' refer to in line 17?
 - A his mother's attitude to the bike
 - B the bike's size and colour
 - C the bike's price
 - D the bike's quality and its manufacturer
- 3 Why didn't Ewan buy the bike immediately?
 - A He couldn't afford it.
 - B He wasn't old enough to ride it.
 - C He hadn't learnt how to ride it.
 - D He didn't know if his girlfriend would like it.
- 4 The adults were frightened the first time Ewan rode a motorbike because they thought
 - A the bike was too noisy.
 - B the bike was too fast.
 - C he was going to have an accident.
 - D the bike was too big for him.
- 5 What was Ewan's main reason for buying the motorbike?
 - A It was less expensive than a car.
 - B It would help his relationship with his girlfriend.
 - C It was good for his image.
 - D It was a useful means of transport.
- 6 How did Ewan's desire for the bike affect his behaviour?
 - A He couldn't think about anything else.
 - B He spent more time talking to his mother.
 - C He invented reasons for buying the bike.
 - D He spent a lot of time riding a friend's bike.
- 7 What does Ewan mean by 'venturing further afield' in line 53?
 - A taking greater risks
 - B becoming more independent
 - C travelling to more distant places
 - D living somewhere different
- 8 Who, according to the whole passage, was most against Ewan getting a motorbike?
 - A his first girlfriend
 - B his father
 - C his mother
 - D his friends

Exam information

In Reading Part 1, you must:

- read a text of 550–700 words
- answer eight questions about it by choosing A, B, C or D.

You have about 20 minutes to do this.

Work in pairs.

Student A: You are a teenager. You want to buy a motorbike, but you need your parents to help you by lending you some money. Think of reasons why you want a motorbike and then try to persuade your mother/father to lend you the money you need.

Student B: You are one of Student A's parents. You don't want him/her to buy a motorbike. Think of reasons why he/she shouldn't buy a motorbike and try to persuade him/her not to do so.

Vocabulary

Phrasal verbs

1 Match these phrasal verbs in the text (1–7) with their definitions from the *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (a–g).

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1 take up (line 3) | a describe the important facts about something briefly |
| 2 sum up (line 4) | b go to |
| 3 go out with (line 7) | c have a romantic relationship with someone |
| 4 head off to (line 22) | d invent something, such as an excuse or a story, often in order to deceive |
| 5 shoot off (line 23) | e start doing a particular activity |
| 6 start up (line 43) | f start moving very quickly |
| 7 make up (lines 47–48) | g start the engine of a bike or car |

2 Write one of the phrasal verbs in the correct form in each space in these sentences.

- 1 After they had finished, they headed off to a café for a sandwich and a cup of coffee.
- 2 How would you her personality in just a few words?
- 3 Mark found it hard to his bike in the cold weather.
- 4 Sometimes when I arrive home late I an excuse to tell my parents why I am late.
- 5 The girl who he hopes to be a famous film star.
- 6 I need to get more exercise, so I'm thinking of jogging or aerobics.
- 7 When the meeting ended, she suddenly without saying a word to anyone.

Grammar

Adjectives with -ed and -ing

1 Look at these sentences from the reading text.

I was thrilled to hear the adults scream and elated that it had frightened them. It was my first time on a motorbike. It was exciting and I wanted more.

- 1 Which of the underlined words refer to how Ewan felt?
- 2 Which of the underlined words refer to what made him feel like that?

▶ page 170 Grammar reference: Adjectives with -ed and -ing

2 Spanish-speaking First Certificate candidates often confuse adjectives with -ed and adjectives with -ing. Circle the correct adjective in *italics* in each of these sentences.

- 1 Visiting Disneyland, Paris was an *amused* / amusing experience.
- 2 It can be very *annoyed* / *annoying* if people are rude.
- 3 You will never get *bored* / *boring* at night in Taipei because the nightlife is wonderful.
- 4 I am very *confused* / *confusing* about what you are offering in your advertisement.
- 5 The situation was very *embarrassed* / *embarrassing* for me and I felt uncomfortable.
- 6 I was really *excited* / *exciting* and wanted to see as much of the city as possible.