

## Diving for Pearls

My name is Saif and this is my story. In 1965, my job was an adventurer. I had travelled to a town on the west coast of the United Arab Emirates. I was going to go diving for a very special treasure - oyster shells which contained precious pearls.



The ancient tradition of free diving [diving without breathing apparatus] is very dangerous. It requires great skill. Divers have to stay under water for long periods of time. I wanted to see this ancient way of life.

In the early morning, I travelled out to sea on a boat with a group of pearl divers. Suddenly, the boat stopped. The divers put on nose clips and leapt over board. I watched as the figures of the divers descended to the bottom of the sea.

Once at the sea bed, the divers scooped up oyster shells into bags that hung around their necks. After a long time, they began to head back. It seemed like the divers must be out of breath. Out of the blue, I saw the dark shadow of a shark pass beneath the boat. Fortunately, about ninety seconds later, the divers' faces reappeared on the surface of the sea. The divers' mouths were wide open as they gulped in fresh air. Then, the divers swam back towards the boat. I was relieved that no one was injured by the shark.



Back on the boat, each diver opened their bag of oyster shells. Then, they opened up the oysters, putting a sharp knife into the hard shell. Some divers looked sad. They opened the shell and threw it away, finding no pearls inside. Then a cheer, as one of the divers opened up an oyster to reveal a pearl. The diver opened his hand to show me and then his friends. It was a gleaming white ball no more than two centimeters wide; a precious pearl. I'll never forget that dive to the bottom of the sea. I'll never forget the white pearl in the hand of the diver.

Today, the tradition of free diving has almost entirely disappeared. It has been replaced by scuba divers using the latest diving equipment. To me, something of the spirit of the pearl diver has been lost forever.

A1. What was Saif's job?

- A. pearl diver
- B. adventurer
- C. treasure hunter
- D. fisherman

A2. How long did it take the pearl divers to return to the surface of the sea?

.....

A3. In the text, what is the closest meaning to the word **precious**?

- A. white
- B. shiny
- C. darling
- D. valuable

A4. In the text, which part of speech is **cheer**?

- A. adjective
- B. noun
- C. adverb
- D. verb

A5. In the text, what is the meaning of the phrase, '**out of the blue**'?

- A. to happen without warning
- B. to go badly wrong
- C. to make an effort
- D. to become very angry

A6. In the final paragraph, which word best describes Saif's character?

- A. thoughtful
- B. cheerful
- C. cruel
- D. lonely

A7. What is the main purpose of the text?

- A. to provide information about pearls
- B. to explain about free diving
- C. to provide advice about adventures
- D. to describe pearl diving

## What Is the Right Age for Children to Use Mobile Devices?



In today's world of technology, parents often discuss the best age to give their children a mobile phone. Research shows the best age is eight years old. However, 92% of children aged from two to seven currently use mobile phone technology.

In 2012, Shaikha Al Shamisi set up a charitable organization called Parent Advice [[parentadvice.org.ae](http://parentadvice.org.ae)]. She is the Chief Executive Officer [CEO]. Her aim is to help parents give advice to their children about the digital world. She believes technology is a choice parents have to make based upon what they know about their own child.

'I certainly don't think you are a bad parent if you buy your child a mobile device before they are eight,' said Shaikha. 'Children grow up with technology all around them. They need to be taught how to use technology responsibly.'

'Mobile phones are how young people communicate. As parents, you want to stay in touch with your child. You want to make sure they are safe and you can get in touch if anything happens.' Shaikha added that there are now many mobile devices designed for children.

Shaikha offers many parents guidance on how to set boundaries on the use of mobile phones. She offers advice via the Parental Advice website. Here are her top four tips.



### Digital Parental Guidance



1. Try out the technology your child enjoys – download some of the games they like.
2. Make sure your child knows what is acceptable to text and what is unacceptable. Texting is a part of growing up.
3. Go online and visit some of the social media websites. Talk to your child about social media before they choose to set up an account.
4. Make mobile devices a part of everyday conversation – talk about subjects such as cyber bullying.

- B1. In the text, what is the best age for children to start using mobile phones?
- A. 2
  - B. 4
  - C. 7
  - D. 8
- B2. Who set up the Parental Advice organization?
- A. children
  - B. a digital company
  - C. Shaikha Al Shamisi
  - D. parents
- B3. What does the word **charitable** tell us about the Parent Advice organization?
- A. it is unkind
  - B. it is helpful
  - C. it is for profit
  - D. it is unreliable
- B4. ‘...how to set boundaries...’ Which word could best replace **boundaries**?
- A. rules
  - B. ringtones
  - C. voicemail
  - D. laws
- B5. In paragraph 2, what do we learn about Shaikha Al Shamisi?
- A. She wants parents to educate their children about technology use.
  - B. She believes that technology is the future for young people.
  - C. She believes parents should stop children from accessing the digital world.
  - D. She wants children to contact [parentadvice.org.ae](http://parentadvice.org.ae) for advice.
- B6. In ‘Digital Parental Guidance’ what is similar about points 1 and 3?
- A. Parents talk to their children about digital technology.
  - B. Parents highlight the dangers of digital communication.
  - C. Parents share the dos and don’ts of digital technology.
  - D. Parents experience digital technology for themselves.
- B7. Where are you most likely to find this text?
- A. in a descriptive journal
  - B. in an advertisement section of a website
  - C. in an article from a magazine
  - D. in an instructional guide



# How to Survive the Toughest Race on Earth

The Marathon des Sables is a test of fitness and emotional strength. It is an adventure, known as 'the toughest footrace on earth'. It takes place over six days in the Sahara desert. It is a marathon - a 250km endurance race.

Abu Dhabi resident Obaid Al Kaabi recently ran the marathon. He offers a 'how to guide' for surviving the most extreme race on the planet.



## Step 1: Be Physically Prepared

You must be physically well prepared. Take time to train properly before the marathon. You have to run 250km over desert sand. You have to carry all of your own back pack, including food, so this takes preparation.



## Step 2: Be Emotionally Prepared

You must prepare for the emotional side of the marathon. The mental side is much more difficult to train for. You know that the race will be difficult, so plan in advance. It is about having a plan in place for dealing with a bad situation.



## Step 3: Get Ready for the Heat

Be ready to experience extreme heat! I have lived in the Middle East all of my life but I did not prepare for temperatures as high as 52C. Running in such heat was one of the toughest challenges I have ever experienced.



## Step 4: Get Ready for the Cold

Be ready to experience extreme cold! You will be sleeping in the desert for at least six nights. The desert is very cold at night. I needed a warm jacket and sleeping bag, and a shemagh [Arabic headdress], but I was still very cold in my tent.



## Step 5: Develop a Team Spirit

Be very supportive of your friends. I was running with two other team mates. We had low points, but the atmosphere was very supportive. There was a lot of joking and laughter. As we set up our tents, the laughter would begin and continued until we fell asleep. It was really good.

C1. Where does Obaid Al Kaabi live?

- A. in Abu Dhabi
- B. in the Sahara desert
- C. in a sleeping bag
- D. in a tent

C2. What did Obaid Al Kaabi recently do?

- A. made new friends
- B. ran a marathon
- C. moved to the Middle East
- D. prepared for 52C heat

C3. What item of clothing is needed for the cold desert nights?

- A. a sleeping bag
- B. a tent
- C. a warm jacket
- D. a backpack

C4. '...the most extreme race...' Which word would best replace extreme?

- A. amusing
- B. terrifying
- C. enjoyable
- D. difficult

C5. '...the atmosphere was very supportive.' The writer mainly says this to show that

- A. team spirit is extremely important.
- B. he likes laughing and joking.
- C. he wants to forget the low points.
- D. friendship is relaxing at the end of the day.

C6. What is the main reason the text has pictures?

- A. to explain how to run a marathon
- B. to describe what the desert looks like
- C. to inform the reader how extreme the race is
- D. to persuade the reader to run in the desert



# ABU DHABI

# 1 - 5

## JUNE 2016

## INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW



**SENSATIONAL  
LUXURY YACHTS  
& LEISURE CRAFT**



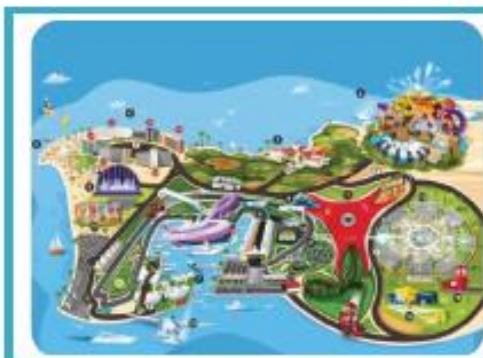
**INCREDIBLE  
SPEEDS**



**RIDE THE WAVE  
OF EXCITEMENT**



**DISCOVER THE BEST BOATING AND WATER  
SPORTS ADVENTURES**



### HOW TO GET THERE

THE INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW IS LOCATED AT YAS MARINA, YAS ISLAND, ABU DHABI.

**TICKETS AED 60**

Free parking

### YAS MARINA



**SHOW OPEN from  
3pm-9.30pm daily**

**D1.** On which dates can you visit the Abu Dhabi International Boat Show?

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**D2.** How much does it cost to park at the boat show?

- A. AED60
- B. 3pm
- C. 9.30pm
- D. Free

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**D3.** 'Discover the best boating...' Which of these words is a verb?

- A. Discover
- B. the
- C. best
- D. boating

**D4.** What is the main reason the writer says, 'Ride the wave of excitement'?

- A. To inform the reader about boating at the show.
- B. To explain how to get to the boat show.
- C. To persuade the reader the boat show is entertaining.
- D. To comment on yachts and leisure craft.