

Talking Sport

Week - 16

Chinese divers

Chinese training base



BBC
LEARNING
ENGLISH

1) Water idioms

Below are some idioms that use the word 'water':

to be/get into deep water:

to be/get into trouble

to be like a fish out of water:

to feel awkward as you are
in an unfamiliar situation

blood is thicker than water:

family relationships are
more important than any
other relationship

to take to something like a duck
to water:

to learn how to do
something very quickly

Now complete the sentences with the correct idiom. You may need to change the form of the idiom.

1. A: How is Sarah managing with the new computer system?
B: She is doing great, she has taken to it _____.
2. I don't know what I am doing! I have never done this before. I really am _____.
3. Johnny didn't do his homework again. He is in _____ with the teacher.
4. It is important to visit your parents Jill. Remember _____.

2) Spend

In the video the reporter used the word 'spend':

"They spend six days a week here, spending around three or four hours in the pool."

The word 'spend' can be used to refer to money and time.

Time:

e.g. I spend an hour every morning swimming.

Money:

e.g. I spend £50 a week on food.

Now read the sentences below and decide whether the word 'spend' is used to refer to time or money.

1. I spend a lot of my time at work. (time/money)
2. My sister spends a lot of money on clothes. (time/money)
3. I need to spend more time with my parents. (time/money)
4. I used to spend Saturday afternoons shopping, but now I don't have the money to do that. (time/money)

Answers

1) Water idioms

1. A: How is Sarah managing with the new computer system?
B: She is doing great, she has taken to it like a duck to water.
2. I don't know what I am doing! I have never done this before. I really am a fish out of water.
3. Johnny didn't do his homework again. He is in deep water with the teacher.
4. It is important to visit your parents Jill. Remember blood is thicker than water.

2) Spend

1. I spend a lot of my time at work. Answer: time
2. My sister spends a lot of money on clothes. Answer: money
3. I need to spend more time with my parents. Answer: time
4. I used to spend Saturday afternoons shopping, but now I don't have the money to do that. Answer: time

Script

Presenter

Hi I'm Natalie and welcome to Talking Sport.

Today we are talking about diving and we will be learning the words **criticism and encouragement**.

Diving is a very popular sport at the Olympics and China has some of the best divers in the world.

So what makes the Chinese divers so good?

Let's hear from BBC reporter Michael Bristow who has been to the Chinese training base.

Listen for how many days a week the divers train and listen for the words **criticism and encouragement**.

Clip

This is where China's top divers come to train. They spend six days a week here, spending around three or four hours in the pool. Now arranged around the side of the pool there are trainers, these watch every dive offering words of criticism and encouragement.

Presenter

Listen again for how many days a week the divers train for and listen once again for the words **criticism and encouragement**.

Clip

This is where China's top divers come to train. **They spend six days a week here**, spending around three or four hours in the pool. Now arranged around the side of the pool there are trainers, these watch every dive offering words of **criticism and encouragement**.

Presenter

Michael said the divers spend six days a week training.

Michael said the trainers offer words of criticism and encouragement.

criticism

Criticism is when we look at how another person performs and say whether they did well or badly.

encouragement

Encouragement is words and behaviour that we give in order to motivate another person.

Well we have learnt the nouns criticism and encouragement.

Now let's look at the verb form of these words. Criticise and encourage.

Let's listen to some people in London using these words.

Vox pops

My lecturer encourages me to read a lot of books.

My girlfriend loves to criticise me.

My family encouraged me to go to university.

I find it hard to criticise my own work.

On screen

My lecturer encourages me to read a lot of books.

My girlfriend loves to criticise me.

My family encouraged me to go to university.

I find it hard to criticise my own work.

Presenter

I'm Natalie and that's all from Talking Sport.

See you next time.