

Taking a risk

1 READING

a Which of these things scares you more?

- being shot or drowning
- mad cow disease or bacteria in the kitchen
- flying or driving
- terrorist attacks or heart disease

b Read the article once quite quickly and find out which of the things in a is riskier.

c Read the article again and answer the questions.

1 Molly's parents...

- a worry too much about their daughter.
- b are scared of the wrong thing.
- c don't take danger seriously.

2 Having bacteria in our kitchen doesn't worry us because...

- a it isn't really dangerous.
- b we can keep our kitchen clean.
- c we are too worried about mad cow disease.

3 People are more afraid of flying than driving because...

- a they are in a situation where they can't do anything.
- b more people die in plane crashes than car crashes.
- c flying is more dangerous.

4 People...

- a believe that terrorism is more of a threat than heart disease.
- b shouldn't worry so much about heart disease.
- c are less worried about dangers in the near future.

5 People tend...

- a to worry too much about danger.
- b to confuse terror with danger.
- c not to do enough to stop accidents.

The risk factor

Our daily lives are full of dangers, from driving our cars to cholesterol in our food. But how good are we really at assessing these risks?



Not very good at all, according to Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner in their best selling book *Freakonomics*. Parents, they say, take danger very seriously but they often worry about completely the wrong things. The authors give as an example the fictional case of a little girl they call 'Molly'. Her parents know that the father of one of her friends keeps a gun in their house, so they decide that Molly is not allowed to play there. **Instead**, they feel that Molly would be much safer spending time at another friend's house, where there are no guns, but there is a swimming pool. You may think this is the right choice, but according to the statistics, you would be wrong. Every year, one child per 11,000 private swimming pools is drowned in the United States. **However**, only one child is killed by a gun for every million guns. This means that a child is 100 times more likely to die in a swimming accident than because of playing with a gun.

Molly's parents are not unique. Generally people are just not very good at assessing risk. Peter Sandman, a risk consultant at Princeton University, New Jersey, says 'The risks that scare people and the risks that kill people are very different things.' He compares the dangerous bacteria in our kitchen and diseases such as mad cow disease: the first is very common, but for some reason not very frightening; the second is extremely rare, but it terrifies us. 'Risks that you can control are much less worrying than risks you can't control,' says Sandman. 'We can't tell if our meat is infected, **whereas** we can control how clean our kitchen is.'

This 'control factor' probably explains why flying tends to scare people more than driving. Levitt argues, 'Their thinking goes like this: "**since** I control the car, I am the one keeping myself safe; since I have no control of the aeroplane, I am at the mercy of external factors."' Actually, the question of which is more dangerous is not as simple as many people think. Statistics for the United States show that, **although** many more people die each year in road accidents than in plane crashes, driving isn't necessarily more dangerous. This is because generally people spend far less time flying than driving. **In fact**, statistically, the number of deaths for each hour of driving compared with each hour of flying is about the same. So flying and driving carry a very similar risk. It is just our lack of control when flying that makes it seem more scary.

Levitt also says that people tend to be much more scared of short-term dangers than long-term ones. The probability of someone being killed in a terrorist attack is infinitely smaller than the probability that this same person will eat too much fatty food and die of heart disease. 'But a terrorist attack happens now,' says Levitt. 'Death from heart disease is a distant, quiet catastrophe. Terrorist acts lie beyond our control – French fries do not.'

Finally there is what Peter Sandman calls 'the dread factor', that is how horrific we consider something to be. We are horrified by the thought of being killed in a terrorist attack, but for some reason we are not horrified by the thought of death from heart disease. Sandman uses the following equation: for most people risk = hazard (or danger) + outrage (or horror). 'When the hazard is high but the terror is low, people underreact. When the hazard is low and the outrage is high, people overreact.' Which is why so many parents will do more to protect their children from a gun accident than from a swimming pool accident. A gun horrifies us, but a swimming pool does not.

d Look at the **highlighted** words and phrases in the article and use them to complete these sentences.

- 1 Motorbikes are much cheaper than cars. _____, they are more dangerous.
- 2 _____ doctors it isn't a good idea to go swimming straight after lunch.
- 3 The open-air concert was a success, _____ it rained a bit.
- 4 People worry about terrorists, but _____ the risk of an attack is quite small.
- 5 John loves meat, _____ his wife is a strict vegetarian.
- 6 _____ the weather forecast is awful I think we should cancel the trip.
- 7 There was nothing on at the cinema, so we went out for a meal _____.

e Is there anything *you* are scared of? Do you think this is a real risk to you?

2 LISTENING

a You are going to listen to an American risk expert talking about the risks of driving in the USA. Before you listen, in pairs, predict which option you think is correct.

- 1 The most dangerous thing to be on the road is _____.
a a pedestrian
b a driver
c a motorcyclist
- 2 Most accidents happen because drivers _____.
a fall asleep at the wheel
b are drunk
c drive too fast
- 3 Driving at night is _____ as dangerous as driving during the day.
a three times
b four times
c ten times
- 4 You're most likely to have a non-fatal accident on a _____.
a Tuesday morning
b Friday afternoon
c Saturday night
- 5 Most fatal accidents happen on _____.
a motorways
b A-roads
c country roads
- 6 Kilometre for kilometre, women have more _____ than men.
a minor accidents
b serious accidents
c fatal accidents
- 7 The age at which a driver is most at risk is _____.
a over 75
b between 21 and 25
c under 25

b **3.10** Listen once and check your answers.

c Listen again for more information.

d Talk to a partner.

- 1 Would these statistics probably be similar in your country?
- 2 Do you often travel at dangerous times and on dangerous roads?
- 3 Do you think punishments for dangerous driving should be more severe?

3 VOCABULARY expressions with *take*

a Complete the questionnaire with the words in the list.

advantage after care decisions easy notice
part place seriously risks time up

The *take* questionnaire

- 1 Are you a cautious person or do you enjoy **taking** _____?
- 2 Are you a decisive person? Do you find it easy to **take** _____?
- 3 Do you **take** climate change _____? What are you doing about it?
- 4 Are you like your father or your mother? Who do you **take** _____?
- 5 Are you a busy, nervous person or do you **take** things _____?
- 6 Are you a stubborn person or do you **take** _____ of what other people tell you?
- 7 Do you worry about your health? Do you **take** _____ of yourself?
- 8 Do you get up very quickly in the morning or do you **take** your _____?
- 9 Have you ever not **taken** _____ of a good opportunity (and regretted it)?
- 10 Have you ever **taken** _____ in a demonstration?
- 11 Have you **taken** _____ a new sport or hobby recently?
- 12 Has any big sporting event ever **taken** _____ in your city?

b In pairs, take turns to ask and answer the questions. Ask for more information.

MINI GRAMMAR *likely* and *probably*

A child **is** 100 times more **likely** to die in a swimming accident than because of playing with a gun.

This 'control factor' **probably** explains why flying tends to scare people more than driving.

Likely and *probably* are very similar in meaning, but they are grammatically different. *Likely* is an adjective and *probably* is an adverb.

Use *be* + *likely* + infinitive, e.g. *She's likely to be off work for a long time.*

Use *probably* before the main verb in a $\boxed{+}$ sentence, e.g. *She'll probably be off work for a long time*, but before the auxiliary verb in a $\boxed{-}$ sentence, e.g. *He probably won't come.*

Complete the sentences with *likely* or *probably*.

- 1 I don't think the boss is very _____ to agree.
- 2 They _____ won't be here before 6.00.
- 3 That isn't _____ to happen in the near future.
- 4 I'll _____ be home late tonight.

4 GRAMMAR conditionals and future time clauses

a Check what you know. Circle the right verb form.

- 1 If *I like / I'll like* the car when I see it, I'll buy it.
- 2 I *don't go / won't go* to work tomorrow unless I feel better.
- 3 We'll carry on playing until it *gets / will get* dark.
- 4 If it rains tonight, we *won't have to / don't have to* water the garden tomorrow.
- 5 I won't take a decision before *I have / I'll have* all the information.
- 6 I'll tell you when *I hear / I'll hear* from him.

Any problems? **Workbook p.30**

b New grammar. Match the sentence halves.

Main clause

- 1 Don't walk too near the river
- 2 You are more likely to have an accident
- 3 They'll call us
- 4 You're going to be late
- 5 I'll probably be driving
- 6 I'll call back later
- 7 Take your umbrella
- 8 Please put everything away
- 9 I'll have already had lunch
- 10 I'm not starting the car

Other clause

- A in case it's raining when you finish work.
- B if you don't hurry up.
- C if you're having supper now.
- D if you've finished cooking.
- E if you come at two.
- F in case you fall in.
- G when you call me so leave a message.
- H until everybody has put their seat belt on.
- I as soon as they've landed.
- J if you drive too fast.

c Answer the questions with a partner.

- 1 Which sentence is a zero conditional and refers to something which always happens, not a future possibility?
- 2 In the other sentences, what tenses can be used in the main clause? What tenses can be used in the other clause after *if, in case, when, etc.*?
- 3 What does *in case* mean in sentences 1 and 7?

d **p.136 Grammar Bank 3C**. Read the rules and do the exercises.

e In pairs, complete each sentence to make some useful safety tips.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Don't let children play near a swimming pool unless... | 5 Always unplug electrical appliances (e.g. a hairdryer) as soon as... |
| 2 Never leave a dog locked up in a car if... | 6 Always keep medicines in a safe place in case... |
| 3 Keep a first aid kit in your house in case... | 7 Don't allow strangers into your house unless... |
| 4 You shouldn't leave children alone in the house until... | 8 If you are frying something and the oil catches fire, ... |

5 PRONUNCIATION sentence stress and rhythm

a **3.11** Dictation. Listen and write six future sentences into the dialogues.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 A If we <u>rent</u> a house in <u>Italy</u> in <u>June</u> , will you <u>come</u> and <u>stay</u> ? | 4 A <u>What time</u> did <u>Mandy say</u> she was <u>coming</u> ? |
| B <u>I'll tell you...</u> | B At 8.00. But _____ |
| 2 A Do you <u>think</u> you'll be <u>able</u> to <u>repair</u> them <u>soon</u> ? | 5 A What have you got in that bag? |
| B _____ | B _____ |
| 3 A <u>How</u> will I <u>know</u> where to <u>find</u> you? | 6 A Will it <u>be</u> a <u>problem</u> if they <u>stay</u> for <u>lunch</u> ? |
| B _____ | B _____ |

b Listen again and underline the stressed words.

c In pairs, practise the dialogues. Try to say the sentences as fast as possible with the right rhythm.

6 LISTENING

- a Look at the photo and read an extract from an article about a children's nursery in Japan. What are the main safety measures? What do you think of them?



Japan's children play safe

When Ryosuke and Taemi Suzuki take their 18-month-old daughter to Fantasy Kids Resort in Japan they are guaranteed total peace of mind. Fantasy Kids Resort is one of several similar playgrounds in Japan that provides for the growing number of parents who constantly worry about possible dangers threatening their children such as disease and accidents.

First-time visitors to the playground must provide proof of identification before they enter, and shoes must be removed at the door, because they carry germs. Even the wheels of baby buggies are sprayed with an antibacterial solution.

Inside, children are watched over by about 20 staff dressed in bright yellow uniforms and more than a dozen security cameras are mounted on the ceiling. Although pets are banned from the playground, its large sandpit contains sterilized sand which is cleaned daily to remove any potentially harmful objects. Most of the bigger toys are inflatable to reduce the risk of injury. This is to protect the resort as much as the children, because parents of a child injured while at nursery might easily sue the school.

'We've been here before and we'll definitely come again,' says Mr Suzuki. 'This place has everything under one roof, but most importantly, it puts absolute priority on safety.'

Mr and Mrs Suzuki are not alone in wanting to remove just about every element of risk from their children's lives. According to a recent government survey...

- b **3.12** Now listen to an interview with Sue Palmer, head of Farley nursery school. How is her attitude different from that of Mr and Mrs Suzuki?

- c Listen again and complete the information about the school with a word or phrase.

- The nursery is in a _____ in southern England.
- Children spend most of their time _____, even in the _____.
- They learn about the world by _____.
- Sue thinks children today don't have enough _____.
- They need to be allowed to _____ when they play.
- She thinks that schools are obsessed with eliminating risk because if children _____ their parents will sue the school.
- Parents at her school are _____ about what the school is doing.

- d Do you agree with Sue Palmer's philosophy about young children and risk?



Risk-taking nursery is a breath of fresh air

7 SPEAKING

Talk in small groups.

GET IT RIGHT comparing past and present

Cross out the wrong form. Tick (✓) if both are correct.

- I *must* / *had to* walk to school by myself when I was little.
- I *was allowed to* / *could* play in the street.
- I *used to* / *use to* go to the park alone when I was a *child* / *young*.
- Nowadays* / *Today* parents think this is too risky.
- They don't let children *go* / *to go* on the bus by themselves.

Did you use to do these things when you were younger?

Do you think it was safe?

Do you think it is safe for children to do them today?

- play in the street
- walk to school
- go to a nearby park or playground alone or with friends
- use public transport on your own or with friends
- stay at home alone
- go swimming without an adult supervising
- use the Internet
- choose what TV programmes you want to watch
- travel in a car without a seat belt

Are there any other things you used to do as a child that you think would be risky today?

➡ p.157 Phrasal verbs in context File 3.

3A passive (all forms), *it is said that...*, *he is thought to...*, etc.

the passive (all forms)

present simple	Murderers are usually sentenced to life imprisonment.
present continuous	The trial is being held at the moment.
present perfect	My car has been stolen.
past simple	Jim was arrested last month.
past continuous	The cinema was being rebuilt when it was set on fire.
past perfect	We saw that one of the windows had been broken .
future	The prisoner will be released next month. The verdict is going to be given tomorrow.
infinitive with <i>to</i>	People used to be imprisoned for stealing bread.
infinitive without <i>to</i>	You can be fined for parking on a yellow line.
gerund	He paid a fine to avoid being sent to jail.

- Use the passive when you want to talk about an action but you are not so interested in saying who or what does / did the action.
- If you also want to mention the person or thing that did the action (the agent), use *by*, e.g. *Prison sentences are decided by judges*. However, in the majority of passive sentences the agent is not mentioned.

it is said that..., *he is thought to...*, etc.

active

- 1 They say that the company may close.
People think that prices will go up.
- 2 People say the man is in his 40s.
The police believe he has left the country.

passive

- It is said that** the company may close.
It is thought that prices will go up.
The man is said to be in his 40s.
He is believed to have left the country.

- This formal structure is used especially in news reports and on TV with the verbs *know*, *tell*, *understand*, *report*, *expect*, *say* and *think*. It makes the information sound more impersonal.
- 1 You can use *It is said, believed*, etc. + *that* + clause.
- 2 You can use *He, The man*, etc. (i.e. the subject of the clause) + *is said, believed*, etc. + *to* + infinitive (e.g. *to be*) or perfect infinitive (e.g. *to have been*).

3B future perfect and future continuous

future perfect: *will have* + past participle

I'll have finished the article by Friday, so I'll email it to you then.
They'll have built the new terminal in six months' time.

- Use the future perfect to say something will be finished before a certain time in the future.
- This tense is frequently used with the time expressions *by Saturday / March / 2030*, etc. or *in two weeks / months*, etc.
- *By* + a time expression = at the latest. With *in*, you can say *in six months* or *in six months' time*.

future continuous: *will be* + verb + *-ing*

Don't phone between 7.00 and 8.00 as **we'll be having** supper then.
This time next week **I'll be lying** on the beach.

- Use the future continuous to say that an action will be in progress at a certain time in the future.

▲ We sometimes use the future continuous, like the present continuous, to talk about things which are already planned or decided, e.g. *I'll be going to the supermarket later*.

3C conditionals and future time clauses (with all present and future forms)

zero conditional

If you want to be fit, **you have to** do exercise every day.
If your muscles ache every day, **you are probably doing** too much exercise.
If you haven't been to London, **you haven't lived**.

- To talk about something which is always true or always happens as a result of something else, use *if* + present simple, and the present simple in the other clause.
- You can also use the present continuous or present perfect in either clause.

first conditional

If the photos are good, **I'll send** them to you.
If you're not going, **I'm not going to go** either.
If I haven't come back by 9.00, **start** dinner without me.
I'll have finished in an hour **if you don't** disturb me.

- You can use any present tense in the *if* clause (present simple, continuous or perfect) and any future form (*will, going to, future perfect, future continuous*) or an imperative in the other clause.

future time clauses

I'll be ready **as soon as** I've had a shower.
We'll probably be watching the Cup Final **when you arrive**.
We're not going to go out **until** the rain **has stopped**.
I'm not going to work overtime **unless** I get paid.
Take your umbrella **in case** it rains.

- When you are talking about the future, use a present tense after time expressions, e.g. *as soon as, when, until, unless, before, after*, and *in case*. This can be any present tense, e.g. present simple, present continuous, present perfect.
- We use *in case* when we do something in order to be ready for future situations / problems. Compare the use of *if* and *in case*:
I'll take a jacket if it's cold. = I won't take one if it's not cold.
I'll take a jacket in case it's cold. = I'll take a jacket anyway because it might be cold.

3A

a Rewrite the sentences in the passive (without *by...*).

The police caught the burglar immediately.
The burglar *was caught immediately*.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1 Police closed the road after the accident. | The road... |
| 2 Somebody has stolen my handbag. | My handbag... |
| 3 The painters are painting my house. | My house... |
| 4 They'll hold a meeting tomorrow. | A meeting... |
| 5 The inspector fined them for travelling without a ticket. | They... |
| 6 The police can arrest you for drink-driving. | You... |
| 7 Miranda thinks someone was following her last night. | Miranda thinks she... |
| 8 They had sold the house five years earlier. | The house... |

b Rephrase the sentences to make them more formal.

People think the murderer is a woman.
It is thought that the murderer is a woman.
The murderer is thought to be a woman.

- | | | |
|---|-------|-----------------|
| 1 Police believe the burglar is a local man. | It... | The burglar... |
| 2 People say the muggers are very dangerous. | It... | The muggers... |
| 3 Police think the robber entered through an open window. | It... | The robber... |
| 4 Police say the murderer has disappeared. | It... | The murderer... |
| 5 Lawyers expect that the trial will last three weeks. | It... | The trial... |

3B

a Complete the sentences using the future perfect or future continuous.

The film starts at 7.00. I will arrive at the cinema at 7.15.
When I arrive at the cinema, the film *will have started*. (start)

- The plane to Paris takes off at 9.00 and lands at 10.30.
At 10.00 they _____ to Paris. (fly)
- I save €200 a month.
By the end of this year, I _____ €2,400. (save)
- I leave home at 7.30. It takes an hour to drive to work.
At 8.00 tomorrow I _____ to work. (drive)
- Our meeting starts at 2.00 and finishes at 3.30.
You can't ring me at 2.30 because we _____ a meeting. (have)
- Sam is paying for his car. The last payment is in November.
By December he _____ for his car. (pay)
- Their last exam is on May 31st.
By the end of May they _____ their exams. (finish)

b Complete the dialogue with verbs in the future continuous or future perfect.

A Well, it looks like the weather's going to be different in the 22nd century.

B What do you mean?

A Well, they say we *'ll be having* _____ much higher temperatures here in London, as high as 30°. And remember, we ¹ _____ on the beach, we ² _____ in 30°, which is quite different. And islands like the Maldives ³ _____ by 2150 because of the rise in the sea level. They say the number of storms and tsunamis ⁴ _____ by the middle of the century too, so even more people ⁵ _____ to the cities looking for work. Big cities ⁶ _____ even bigger by then. Can you imagine the traffic?

B I don't think there will be a problem with the traffic. Petrol ⁷ _____ by then anyway, so nobody will have a car. Someone ⁸ _____ a new method of transport, so we ⁹ _____ around in solar powered cars or something.

- have
- not lie
- work
- disappear
- double
- move
- grow
- run out
- invent
- drive

3C

a Circle the correct form.

Don't worry. Rob will have passed / *has passed* the exam if he's studied enough.

- If *I'm not feeling* / *I won't be feeling* better tomorrow, I'm going to go to the doctor's.
- Kerry *won't be going* / *doesn't go* to work next week if her children are still ill.
- Don't call Chloe now. If it's eight o'clock, she'll *bath* / *will be bathing* the baby.
- You can be fined if you *aren't wearing* / *won't be wearing* a seat belt in your car.
- If we're lucky, *we'll have sold* / *we've sold* our house by Christmas.
- If plants aren't watered, they *die* / *will have died*.

b Complete the sentence with a time expression from the list.

after ~~as soon as~~ as before if in case (x 2) unless until when

I'll call you as soon as I get back from my holiday.

- He's going to pack his suitcase _____ he goes to bed.
- They're setting off early _____ there's a lot of traffic.
- Sophie will be leaving work early tomorrow _____ her boss needs her.
- I'm meeting an old friend _____ I go to London.
- I'll call you _____ I find out my results.
- _____ I'm late tomorrow, start the meeting without me.
- Lily will have packed some sandwiches _____ we get hungry.
- They'll be playing in the park _____ it gets dark.

Phrasal verbs in context

FILE 1

Complete the phrasal verbs from File 1 with the correct particle.

back down (x2) up (x3)

- 1 My brother and his girlfriend **broke** _____ last month.
- 2 I can't talk now, I'm driving. I'll **call** you _____ in fifteen minutes.
- 3 This club isn't a very good place to **chat** _____ girls. The music is too loud.
- 4 The doctor said that I had to **cut** _____ to one cup of coffee a day.
- 5 Don't **give** _____. If you keep trying, I'm sure find a good job soon.
- 6 **Slow** _____! There are speed cameras on this road.

FILE 2

Complete the phrasal verbs from File 2 with a verb in the correct form.

burst knock leave put turn

- 1 Everyone _____ **out** laughing when Jimmy arrived wearing a large, white hat.
- 2 Can you _____ the TV **up**? I can't hear it with the children shouting in the kitchen.
- 3 Don't _____ anything **behind** when you get off the plane.
- 4 What a pity! They're going to _____ **down** our local cinema and build a car park.
- 5 If you take any of my things, please _____ them **back** when you've finished with them.

FILE 3

Match the phrasal verbs from File 3 with a definition A–E.

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Watch out , there are often pickpockets on this station. | <input type="checkbox"/> | A continue |
| 2 The company has been going through a bad period recently. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B leave |
| 3 The police told us to get out because the building wasn't safe. | <input type="checkbox"/> | C stop operating |
| 4 If we carry on polluting the planet, we're going to destroy it. | <input type="checkbox"/> | D be careful |
| 5 The restaurant wasn't popular and it closed down last year. | <input type="checkbox"/> | E experience or suffer |

FILE 4

Complete the phrasal verbs from File 4 with the correct particle.

down off (x2) on out

- 1 If there is an emergency, all passengers must **get** _____ of the plane as fast as they can.
- 2 It was an eight-hour journey so we **set** _____ early in the morning.
- 3 Jessica was getting really angry with Tom so I told her to **calm** _____.
- 4 **Hold** _____ to me. It's very slippery and you might fall.
- 5 The teacher **told** me _____ because I hadn't done my homework.

FILE 5

Complete the phrasal verbs from File 5 with the correct particle.

catch eat fall fill lie put

- 1 I'm exhausted. I'm going to _____ **down** for half an hour.
- 2 I'm not very good at ice skating. I always _____ **over** at least twenty times!
- 3 We stopped at a petrol station to _____ **up** with petrol.
- 4 Let's meet for lunch next week and we can _____ **up on** all our news.
- 5 It's very easy to _____ **on** weight if you _____ **out** several times a week.

FILE 6

Match the phrasal verbs from File 6 with a definition A–E.

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| 1 The teacher hurried through the last part of the class. | <input type="checkbox"/> | A collide with |
| 2 I'll only call you if something interesting comes up in the meeting. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B hit and knocked to the ground by a vehicle |
| 3 James has thought up a brilliant new idea for our new product. | <input type="checkbox"/> | C invent |
| 4 An old man was run over on the pedestrian crossing. | <input type="checkbox"/> | D complete quickly |
| 5 A lorry crashed into my car when it was parked outside my house. | <input type="checkbox"/> | E occurs or appears unexpectedly |

FILE 7

Complete the phrasal verbs with the correct form of the verb.

end go pick take

- 1 I don't know what's _____ **on**. Can anyone tell me what's happening?
- 2 We got completely lost and we _____ **up** miles away from where we wanted to go.
- 3 I'll _____ you **up** at the station if you tell me what time your train arrives.
- 4 I've decided to _____ **up** a new hobby – I'm going to learn to dance salsa.