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**Level 2 – 15th January 2026**

## **Risk-taking in young chimps and teens is similar**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260115-risky-behaviour-2.html>

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**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260115-risky-behaviour-2.html>

Teenagers often do crazy things. Once a child becomes a teenager, they take more risks. Some of these are dangerous and lead to injury, or worse. A study of chimpanzees may explain risky behaviour in children. The study is from researchers in the USA. They studied over 100 chimpanzees in a park in Uganda. The chimps were between 2 and 65 years old. The researchers looked at how the animals moved through trees. The youngest chimps did more dangerous things, like letting go of branches and letting themselves fall. Older chimps took fewer risks.

The lead researcher suggested why children and young chimpanzees take risks. They are at an age when people control them less. Parents often stop young children from doing risky things. However, young teens have more freedom and want to try risky things. The researcher said the risk-taking was the same for male and female chimps and humans. A website said some researchers want children to have "access to thrill-seeking play, including the old-fashioned monkey bars, as a way to help them develop motor skills and skeletal strength".

Sources: <https://www.sciencealert.com/chimps-reveal-why-teenagers-are-notorious-for-risky-behaviors>  
<https://www.earth.com/news/young-chimpanzees-take-more-risks-similar-to-human-behavior/>  
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/chimpanzees-thrill-seeking-toddlerd>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260115-risky-behaviour-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Teenagers often do crazy | a. dangerous        |
| 2. Once a child becomes a   | b. of branches      |
| 3. Some of these are        | c. from researchers |
| 4. chimpanzees may explain  | d. teenager         |
| 5. The study is             | e. took fewer risks |
| 6. how the animals moved    | f. risky behaviour  |
| 7. letting go               | g. through trees    |
| 8. Older chimps             | h. things           |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                  |                        |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. The lead researcher           | a. doing risky things  |
| 2. at an age when people control | b. skills              |
| 3. stop young children from      | c. suggested why       |
| 4. young teens have              | d. taking was the same |
| 5. the risk-                     | e. them less           |
| 6. access to thrill-             | f. strength            |
| 7. help them develop motor       | g. more freedom        |
| 8. skeletal                      | h. seeking play        |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260115-risky-behaviour-2.html>

Teenagers (1) \_\_\_\_\_ things. Once a child becomes a teenager, they (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Some of these are dangerous and lead to injury, or worse. A study of chimpanzees (3) \_\_\_\_\_ behaviour in children. The study is from researchers in the USA. They studied over 100 chimpanzees in (4) \_\_\_\_\_ Uganda. The chimps were between 2 and 65 years old. The researchers looked at how the animals (5) \_\_\_\_\_. The youngest chimps did more dangerous things, like letting go of branches and letting themselves fall. Older chimps (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

(7) \_\_\_\_\_ suggested why children and young chimpanzees take risks. They are at an age when people (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Parents often stop young children from doing risky things. However, young teens (9) \_\_\_\_\_ and want to try risky things. The researcher said the risk-taking was the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ and female chimps and humans. A website said some researchers want children to (11) \_\_\_\_\_ thrill-seeking play, including the old-fashioned monkey bars, as a way to help them develop (12) \_\_\_\_\_ skeletal strength".

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260115-risky-behaviour-2.html>

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# RISKS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260115-risky-behaviour-2.html>

Write five GOOD questions about risks in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.  
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_

## WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260115-risky-behaviour-2.html>

Write about **risks** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

[illegible]