

Skateboarding



"I consider skateboarding an art form, a lifestyle, and a sport."

—Tony Hawk

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Which sports are similar to skateboarding?
2. Why is skateboarding a risky sport?
3. Where do you think skateboarding was invented?
4. How can a sport also be a "culture"?
5. Who is Tony Hawk?

Quick Facts

- Sport:** Skateboarding
- Place of origin:** _____
- Equipment:** _____
- Famous skateboarder:** _____

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. hobby | a) a short-term interest or fashion |
| _____ 2. cement | b) something that you do for fun |
| _____ 3. two-by-four | c) building material used to create a hard, smooth surface |
| _____ 4. cross-training | d) a standard-sized piece of wood, two inches by four inches |
| _____ 5. crop up | e) different types of exercise for overall skill enhancement |
| _____ 6. wobbly | f) the thing that makes or made a person or thing famous |
| _____ 7. fad | g) to get high off the ground |
| _____ 8. graphics | h) against the social, political, or economic norms |
| _____ 9. antiestablishment | i) to change over time |
| _____ 10. get air | j) illustration and design |
| _____ 11. evolve | k) to suddenly appear |
| _____ 12. signature | l) not stable |

Reading

1. Skateboarding started out as a **hobby** for surfers. In the 1950s, surfers who loved to ride the powerful, Californian waves became interested in riding **cement**. Surfers nailed roller skate wheels to a **two-by-four** deck and rode on the sidewalks and streets. Sidewalk surfing was a form of **cross-training**. Like surfing, they skated in bare feet!
2. In the 1960s, skateboard companies began to **crop up**, and skateboarding competitions became popular attractions. Skateboarding companies built boards with **wobbly**, clay wheels, and boarders wore surfer shoes. The popularity of the sport did not last long, however. By 1964, many of the skateboard companies had closed down.
3. Many thought skateboarding was just a **fad**. In the early '70s, however, Frank Nasworthy invented urethane skateboard wheels. These new wheels gave boarders a better grip and allowed them to have a smooth, stable ride. Nasworthy called his company "Cadillac Wheels" and skateboarding was reborn.
4. New competitions cropped up around the US. The Zephyr team (Z-Boys) were the skateboarders to watch. These were talented, hip boarders who loved to ride downhill around obstacles (slalom). They also loved to skate in empty swimming pools. The culture of skateboarding began to develop. The **graphics** on the decks and clothing represented the riders' **antiestablishment** views and musical interests.
5. In 1978, Alan Gelfand invented a new skateboarding trick. By slamming his back foot down while lifting his front foot up, he was able to **get** more **air**. His friends called this trick the "Ollie" because this was Alan's nickname. Many other skating tricks **evolved** from the Ollie.
6. It was in the late '70s at the age of nine when Tony Hawk received his first skateboard. By the time he was 17, Hawk had won 70 skateboarding contests. After competing in the first Extreme Games (later called the X Games), Hawk became the world's top skateboarder. His **signature** trick, the "900," requires skateboarders to do two-and-a-half spins in midair. Tony Hawk retired from professional skateboarding, but he continues to skate. He has inspired many new skateboarders to take up this sport.



Comprehension

A. True, False, or Not Mentioned?

Read the statements below. Write T if the statement is true. Write F if the statement is false and correct the information. Write NM if the fact is not mentioned.

- _____ 1. Surfing evolved from skateboarding.
- _____ 2. The first skateboards were made from planks of wood and old roller skates.
- _____ 3. Frank Nasworthy was part of the Zephyr team.
- _____ 4. The invention of urethane wheels played an important part in the rebirth of skateboarding in the '70s.
- _____ 5. Skateboarders are often associated with having political and social views outside "the norm."
- _____ 6. The "Ollie" was invented by Tony Hawk.
- _____ 7. A "900" is a trick involving more than two full rotations in the air.
- _____ 8. No skateboarder has ever landed a successful "900" besides Tony Hawk.

B. Timeline

Place the following in chronological order (1-9). One item is not mentioned in the reading. Place a star beside it and guess where it belongs.

- _____ The Zephyr team helped popularize skateboarding in the US.
- _____ Californian surfers invented a board with roller skate wheels.
- _____ The sport of skateboarding seemed short-lived.
- _____ A trick called the "Ollie" was invented.
- _____ Frank Nasworthy invented urethane skateboard wheels.
- _____ Tony Hawk received his first skateboard.
- _____ The first skateboard companies cropped up in California.
- _____ The "900" was invented.
- _____ After retirement, Tony Hawk helped open new skateboard parks.

Adjective Review

A. Sorting

Sort the following adjectives into the correct categories in the chart below.

Adjectives

- wobbly
- urethane
- Californian
- square
- orange
- late
- massive
- maroon
- old
- round
- powerful
- wooden
- mauve
- Asian
- itty-bitty
- young
- turquoise
- beige
- early
- popular
- cool
- cloth
- global
- circular
- American
- medium
- clay
- triangular
- new
- wide

Opinion	Size	Age	Shape	Color	Origin	Material

B. Multiple Adjectives

Think of some adjectives that describe skateboarders, skateboards, and skateboarding, and write them in your notebook.

Then try writing some sentences with two or more adjectives. Use a comma to separate the adjectives if they come before the noun.

Check your sentences. Did you put your adjectives in the right order?

Multiple adjectives in a sentence usually appear in this order:

1. Opinion (*cool, hip*)
2. Size (*small, big*)
3. Age (*young, old, new*)
4. Shape (*round, diamond*)
5. Color (*black, blue*) – shade before color, with no comma (*light blue*)
6. Origin (*Californian, American*)
7. Material (*wooden, metal*)

If the adjectives are of the same type, you can use any order:

- This **cool, hip** skateboarder is going to win!
- This **hip, cool** skateboarder is going to win!

- His **slick, new** board had **small, round, urethane** wheels.

Skater Slang

Skateboarding comes with a language of its own.
Try to guess the meaning of these words that skaters often use.

1. newbie _____
2. sketchy _____
3. sick _____
4. stoked _____
5. nose/tail _____
6. chill _____
7. clean _____
8. bail _____

Discussion

1. Why is skateboarding banned in some parks?
2. Should there be a law requiring people to wear a helmet when skateboarding?
3. Should skateboarding be an Olympic sport?
4. Do you prefer individual sports, such as skateboarding or golf, or team sports?