

## Sidewalk Surfing

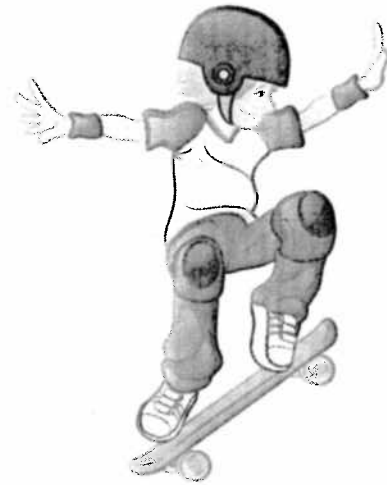
If you ever listen to skateboarders talk, you might think they're **conversing** in a new language! They talk about tricks with names like "ollie" and "grind." If they say a skateboarder is "goofy," they don't mean she's silly! "Goofy" means that she rides her skateboard with her right foot in front instead of her left.

### How Skateboarding Began

Skateboarding was started by California surfers in the 1950s. They wanted something to do when the waves weren't good for surfing, so they **attached** roller-skate wheels to flat boards and rode the boards down hills. Riders said it felt like surfing on the sidewalk! These early skateboards had wheels made of clay or steel that were slippery and dangerous. Rubber wheels were an improvement, but the skateboards were still hard to steer. Finally, people developed plastic wheels, raised noses and tails, and new *trucks* (the parts that connect the wheels to the board) to make boards better. As skateboards got safer, skateboarding gained popularity all over the country.

### Jumps and Tricks

In the late 1970s, a skateboarder named Alan Gelfand invented a new trick. He kicked down on the tail of his skateboard and **propelled** it into the air! Gelfand's nickname was "Ollie," so that's what people called his jump. Soon, other skateboarders were doing ollies and inventing thrilling new tricks, too. They tried sliding down railings, curbs, or other edges on the skateboard's trucks instead of on its wheels. This trick was named a "grind." Some riders tried skateboarding in empty swimming pools. Going up and down the steep sides gave them more speed and let them do higher jumps. Skateboarders called this "vert" skating. ("Vert" is short for "vertical.") Many cities opened skateboard parks with steep curves, bowls, and **ramps**.



Skateboarders wear helmets, knee pads, and wrist guards for safety.

### Skateboarding Today

Today, people all over the world enjoy skateboarding. Skateboarders go to parks or construct their own ramps for vert skating. Other riders enjoy *freestyling*, or riding on flat ground. Millions of people watch skateboarders in sports contests like the X Games. Some people even **propose** that skateboarding become an Olympic sport!

## MONDAY

Use the words from the passage to fill in the blanks.

attached

conversing

propelled

propose

ramps

- The space shuttle was \_\_\_\_\_ into space by booster rockets.
- A skateboard's wheels are \_\_\_\_\_ to parts called trucks.
- Our teacher told us to stop \_\_\_\_\_ with each other during class.
- It's easier to push objects up \_\_\_\_\_ than it is to lift them.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ that we have a class party this Friday.

# TUESDAY

Write a heading for the first paragraph of the passage.

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# WEDNESDAY

Choose the correct answer.

1. What was the author's purpose in writing this passage?  
Ⓐ to inform  
Ⓑ to tell a story  
Ⓒ to entertain  
Ⓓ to persuade
2. What is the structure of this nonfiction article?  
Ⓐ chronological (order of events)  
Ⓑ compare/contrast  
Ⓒ cause/effect  
Ⓓ problem/solution
3. Who invented the sport of skateboarding?  
Ⓐ Alan Gelfand  
Ⓑ Goofy and Ollie  
Ⓒ California surfers  
Ⓓ Mr. X

# THURSDAY

Write the letter of each cause next to its matching effect.

## Causes

- A Surfers wanted something to do when the waves weren't good for surfing.
- B Plastic wheels and better trucks were developed.
- C People rode skateboards in empty swimming pools.
- D Vert skating became popular.
- E Alan Gelfand discovered how to do a jump.

## Effects

- \_\_\_\_\_ Skateboards were safer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ They invented skateboards.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Many cities opened skateboard parks.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other skateboarders invented more tricks.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The steep sides let skateboarders go faster and jump higher.

# FRIDAY

Do you think skateboarding should become an Olympic sport? Why or why not?

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