

## Introduction

You can improve your ability to talk with native English speakers if you start a conversation about a common topic. **Outdoor sports** is a very popular topic with native English speakers. Not everyone loves outdoor sports like scuba diving, snow boarding, mountain biking, and surfing but everyone has an opinion. It is also a great opportunity for you to share your opinions and stories about outdoor sports. If you have something in common with someone, you can invite them to join you the next time you go waterskiing, backpacking, sailing, whichever outdoor sport is your favorite.

## Survey

### Have you ever been scuba diving?

- What is scuba diving? I've never heard of it.
- Nope, I've never been and I don't want to.
- Nope, I've never been but I'd love to.
- Yeah, I've been once.
- Yeah, I've been a couple of times.
- Yeah, I'm really into it. I go all the time.

### Have you ever been camping?

- What is camping? I've never heard of it.
- Nope, I've never been and I don't want to.
- Nope, I've never been but I'd love to.
- Yeah, I've been once.
- Yeah, I've been a couple of times.
- Yeah, I'm really into it. I go all the time.

### Have you ever been skiing?

- What is skiing? I've never heard of it.
- Nope, I've never been and I don't want to.
- Nope, I've never been but I'd love to.
- Yeah, I've been once.
- Yeah, I've been a couple of times.
- Yeah, I'm really into it. I go all the time.

### Have you ever been caving?

- What is caving? I've never heard of it.
- Nope, I've never been and I don't want to.
- Nope, I've never been but I'd love to.
- Yeah, I've been once.
- Yeah, I've been a couple of times.
- Yeah, I'm really into it. I go all the time.

### Have you ever tried free running?

- What is free running? I've never heard of it.
- Nope, I've never been and I don't want to.
- Nope, I've never been but I'd love to.
- Yeah, I've been once.
- Yeah, I've been a couple of times.
- Yeah, I'm really into it. I go all the time.

### Have you ever tried storm chasing?

- What is storm chasing? I've never heard of it.
- Nope, I've never been and I don't want to.
- Nope, I've never been but I'd love to.
- Yeah, I've been once.
- Yeah, I've been a couple of times.
- Yeah, I'm really into it. I go all the time.

### Have you ever tried bungee jumping?

- What is bungee jumping? I've never heard of it.
- Nope, I've never been and I don't want to.
- Nope, I've never been but I'd love to.
- Yeah, I've been once.
- Yeah, I've been a couple of times.
- Yeah, I'm really into it. I go all the time.

### Have you ever tried skydiving?

- What is camping? I've never heard of it.
- Nope, I've never been and I don't want to.
- Nope, I've never been but I'd love to.
- Yeah, I've been once.
- Yeah, I've been a couple of times.
- Yeah, I'm really into it. I go all the time.

# Reef World

Rebecca talks about the Great Barrier Reef and scuba diving.



**Todd:** So, Rebecca, in Australia you have the Great Barrier Reef. Now have you been to the Great Barrier Reef?

**Rebecca:** Yes, I have once, probably about two years ago. There's the main part of the Great Barrier Reef and then there's a little island, and we went to the island because I don't like scuba diving, so I didn't go to the main part.

**Todd:** So, you don't like scuba diving. Why?

**Rebecca:** I think it's the unknown, under the water, and just being confined and having this breathing apparatus on you.



**Todd:** Right. Well, you know what, I can relate because I was certified to be a diver because all my friends were divers and I didn't enjoy it that much either.

**Rebecca:** Yeah. Like, it looks great underwater when you see it on TV and it would be awesome to see it, but yeah, I

just can't get past the going underwater and not being able to breathe properly.

**Todd:** Right. Right. Actually, I think for me was I went with my friends and they were so excited about it and then when you would go under water, you're in pairs. You have a buddy and it seemed like you were kind of in line in an amusement park or something, you know.

**Rebecca:** Really.

**Todd:** Yeah, like everybody kind of has to go around and you look around and you see all these

other divers and... but I was the only person that felt this way. Everybody else loves diving and the photography so. But actually, is it true the Barrier Reef is being damaged? It's actually not as beautiful as used to be?

**Rebecca:** Yeah. It's... The name of it is coral bleaching,

and the coral is actually turning white, now rather than having the colors it has, so that's been happening for a few years I think and it's getting worse and worse.

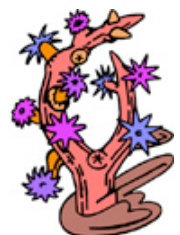
**Todd:** Oh, so basically the coral is losing its beautiful color?

**Rebecca:** Yeah, yeah, basically, just dies and can't be brought back.

**Todd:** Well, what about, like you know, the marine life, like you know fish and stuff like that? Is that still abundant?

**Rebecca:** I assume that would probably go down as well once the coral starts to die off because that is the food source and their housing for the fish so with the loss of the Great Barrier Reef you also lose all the beautiful fish and marine life down there too.

**Todd:** That's too bad.



## Practice makes Perfect

**Main Points:** Answer the following questions about the interview.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) What does she say about the Great Barrier Reef?  | 3) The Great Barrier Reef is suffering from coral _____. |
| a) She's been there often.                          | a) breaking  |
| b) She scuba dived there twice.                     | b) stealing  |
| c) She has been there once.                         | c) bleaching   |
| 2) How do Todd and Rebecca feel about scuba diving? | 4) What is also suffering?                               |
| a) They both love it.                               | a) The tourism industry                                  |
| b) They both dislike it.                            | b) The marine life                                       |
| c) They disagree about it.                          | c) The merchant marines                                  |

**Phrase Match:** Match the phrases on the left with the example on the right.

- |                                      |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. the unknown                       | ___ it will never return          |
| 2. breathing apparatus               | ___ oxygen machine                |
| 3. I can relate                      | ___ space; the jungle; the ocean  |
| 4. I can't get past going underwater | ___ I've had a similar experience |
| 5. it can't be brought back          | ___ I'm too afraid                |

**Unscramble:** Put the mixed up sentences in the correct order.

1. the Great Barrier Reef | have | to | been | you ever | ?
- 

2. like | why don't | you | so | scuba diving?
- 

3. is | true | that the Great Barrier Reef | is it | being damaged?
- 

4. life | marine | still | is there | a lot of | ?
- 

**Discussion:** Can you remember how Rebecca answered the above questions?

## Bits and Pieces

*Put the PHRASES in the spaces  
(Some will be used more than once)*

that is the  
rather than having  
you also lose  
probably about  
not being able  
I was certified  
so I didn't  
just being confined  
everybody else  
I went with my

**Todd:** So, Rebecca, in Australia you have the Great Barrier Reef. Now have you been to the Great Barrier Reef?

**Rebecca:** Yes, I have once, \_\_\_\_\_ two years ago. There's the main part of the Great Barrier Reef and then there's a little island, and we went to the island because I don't like scuba diving, \_\_\_\_\_ go to the main part.

**Todd:** So, you don't like scuba diving. Why?

**Rebecca:** I think it's the unknown, under the water, and \_\_\_\_\_ and having this breathing apparatus on you.

**Todd:** Right. Well, you know what, I can relate because \_\_\_\_\_ to be a diver because all my friends were divers and I didn't enjoy it that much either.

**Rebecca:** Yeah. Like, it looks great underwater when you see it on TV and it would be awesome to see it, but yeah, I just

can't get past the going underwater and \_\_\_\_\_ to breathe properly.

**Todd:** Right. Right. Actually, I think for me was \_\_\_\_\_ friends and they were so excited about it and then when you would go under water, you're in pairs. You have a buddy and it seemed like you were kind of in line in an amusement park or something, you know.

**Rebecca:** Really.

**Todd:** Yeah, like everybody kind of has to go around and you look around and you see all these other divers and... but I was the only person that felt this way. \_\_\_\_\_ loves diving and the photography so. But actually, is it true the Barrier Reef is being damaged? It's actually not as beautiful as used to be?

**Rebecca:** Yeah. It's... The name of it is coral bleaching, and the coral is actually turning white, now \_\_\_\_\_ the colors it has, so that's been happening for a few years I think and it's getting worse and worse.

**Todd:** Oh, so basically the coral is losing it's beautiful color?

**Rebecca:** Yeah, yeah, basically, just dies and can't be brought back.

**Todd:** Well, what about, like you know, the marine life, like you know fish and stuff like that? Is that still abundant?

**Rebecca:** I assume that would probably go down as well once the coral starts to die off because \_\_\_\_\_ food source and their housing for the fish so with the loss of the Great Barrier Reef \_\_\_\_\_ all the beautiful fish and marine life down there too.

**Todd:** That's too bad.





## Practice Makes Perfect: ANSWER KEY

**Main Points:** Answer the following questions about the interview.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) What does she say about the Great Barrier Reef?  | 3) The Great Barrier Reef is suffering from coral _____. |
| a) She's been there often.                          | a) breaking  |
| b) She scuba dived there twice.                     | b) stealing  |
| <b>c) She has been there once.</b>                  | <b>c) bleaching</b>                                      |
| 2) How do Todd and Rebecca feel about scuba diving? | 4) What is also suffering?                               |
| a) They both love it.                               | a) The tourism industry                                  |
| <b>b) They both dislike it.</b>                     | <b>b) The marine life</b>                                |
| c) They disagree about it.                          | c) The merchant marines                                  |

**Phrase Match:** Match the phrases on the left with the example on the right.

- |                                      |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. the unknown                       | 5 it will never return          |
| 2. breathing apparatus               | 2 oxygen machine                |
| 3. I can relate                      | 1 space; the jungle; the ocean  |
| 4. I can't get past going underwater | 3 I've had a similar experience |
| 5. it can't be brought back          | 4 I'm too afraid                |

**Unscramble:** Put the mixed up sentences in the correct order.  
Sometimes more than one answer is possible.


- the Great Barrier Reef | have | to | been | you ever | ?  
**Have you ever been to the Great Barrier Reef?**
- like | why don't | you | so | scuba diving?  
**So why don't you like scuba diving?**
- is | true | that the Great Barrier Reef | is it | being damaged?  
**Is it true that the Great Barrier Reef is being damaged?**
- life | marine | still | is there | a lot of | ?  
**Is there still a lot of marine life?**

**Discussion:** Can you remember how Shibika answered the above questions?

## Bits and Pieces: ANSWER KEY

*Put the PHRASES in the spaces  
(Some will be used more than once)*

that is the  
rather than having  
you also lose  
probably about  
not being able  
I was certified  
so I didn't  
just being confined  
everybody else  
I went with my



**Todd:** So, Rebecca, in Australia you have the Great Barrier Reef. Now have you been to the Great Barrier Reef?

**Rebecca:** Yes, I have once, **probably about** two years ago. There's the main part of the Great Barrier Reef and then there's a little island, and we went to the island because I don't like scuba diving, **so I didn't** go to the main part.

**Todd:** So, you don't like scuba diving. Why?

**Rebecca:** I think it's the unknown, under the water, and **just being confined** and having this breathing apparatus on you.

**Todd:** Right. Well, you know what, I can relate because **I was certified** to be a diver because all my friends were divers and I didn't enjoy it that much either.

**Rebecca:** Yeah. Like, it looks great underwater when you see it on TV and it would be awesome to see it, but yeah, I just

can't get past the going underwater and **not being able** to breathe properly.

**Todd:** Right. Right. Actually, I think for me was **I went with my** friends and they were so excited about it and then when you would go under water, you're in pairs. You have a buddy and it seemed like you were kind of in line in an amusement park or something, you know.

**Rebecca:** Really.

**Todd:** Yeah, like everybody kind of has to go around and you look around and you see all these other divers and... but I was the only person that felt this way. **Everybody else** loves diving and the photography so. But actually, is it true the Barrier Reef is being damaged? It's actually not as beautiful as used to be?

**Rebecca:** Yeah. It's... The name of it is coral bleaching, and the coral is actually turning white, now **rather than having** the colors it has, so that's been happening for a few years I think and it's getting worse and worse.

**Todd:** Oh, so basically the coral is losing its beautiful color?

**Rebecca:** Yeah, yeah, basically, just dies and can't be brought back.

**Todd:** Well, what about, like you know, the marine life, like you know fish and stuff like that? Is that still abundant?

**Rebecca:** I assume that would probably go down as well once the coral starts to die off because **that is the** food source and their housing for the fish so with the loss of the Great Barrier Reef **you also lose** all the beautiful fish and marine life down there too.

**Todd:** That's too bad.

