

Select Readings, Second Edition
Elementary, Chapter 7 Test

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

World's Coolest Marathon¹

To run a marathon, a person needs to be very strong and have a lot of energy. Imagine what it is like to run a marathon at the North Pole².

The North Pole Marathon is one of the world's most difficult races. Runners from around the world race 26.2 miles across the ice and snow in temperatures as low as -25.6°F / 32°C .

The marathon is organized by Richard Donovan, who was the winner of the world's first South Pole Marathon in Antarctica in 2002. People call the North Pole Marathon the 'world's coolest marathon.'

Richard Donovan completed many marathons himself, such as the Everest Challenge Marathon, the Himalayan 100-Mile Stage, and the Trans 333 across the Sahara Desert.

Before he started the North Pole Marathon in 2003, Donovan ran across the North Pole to see if a marathon was even possible. At the time, he was the first person to complete marathons on both of the Earth's poles.

At the first North Pole Marathon, there were only 10 runners. But each year, more and more people joined the race. In 2011, there were more than 50 runners from all over the world in the race.

The race does not take place on land. The runners race on the ice of the Arctic Ocean. The ice is 6 to 12 meters deep. The ice is always moving. Runners must wear heavy clothing because of the cold, which makes the running very difficult. It takes much longer to complete the marathon than other marathons.

Anyone can join the North Pole Marathon. However, if you decide to join the world's coolest marathon, you should ask yourself a few questions: Do you like the cold? Are you healthy enough? Do you enjoy running? If you answer 'yes' to all of these questions, then the North Pole Marathon might be for you.

1. The North Pole Marathon takes place _____.
A. on Mount Everest
B. in the Himalayas
C. in Antarctica
D. on the Arctic Ocean
2. All of these are true about the North Pole Marathon EXCEPT: _____.
A. It is 26.2 miles long
B. It is sometimes -32°C
C. It is one of the world's most difficult races
D. It is the world's only polar marathon
3. The passage says Richard Donovan completed all these marathons EXCEPT _____.

¹ **marathon** a long race of 26.2 miles (42.2 kilometers)

² **North Pole** the most northern place on the Earth

- A. South Pole Marathon
 - B. Trans 333
 - C. Boston Marathon
 - D. Everest Challenge Marathon
4. The first year of the North Pole Marathon had _____ runners.
- A. 10
 - B. 50
 - C. 100
 - D. 333
5. The North Pole Marathon started in _____.
- A. 2002
 - B. 2003
 - C. 2005
 - D. 2011
6. Runners in the North Pole Marathon run _____.
- A. on ice
 - B. all over the world
 - C. on land
 - D. on both poles
7. Richard Donovan was the first person to _____.
- A. win the South Pole Marathon
 - B. run to the Arctic
 - C. run a marathon on both poles
 - D. run a marathon in heavy clothes
8. Runners in the North Pole Marathon must _____.
- A. find deep ice
 - B. wear heavy clothing
 - C. always keep moving
 - D. find land under the ice
9. The writer says that a person needs _____ to run a marathon.
- A. a lot of energy
 - B. to complete many races
 - C. heavy clothes
 - D. to imagine what it is like
10. Who can join the North Pole Marathon?
- A. only people who like the cold
 - B. only people who like running
 - C. only people who are healthy enough
 - D. anyone