Great Wall, Great Jump

Daredevil skateboarder Danny Way knows how to jump into the record books. When Way rode his skateboard over a 70-foot-wide section of the Great Wall of China\(^1\), he became the first human to leap over the 2,000-year-old wall. Several people have tried to jump the wall using bicycles, but all have failed. The Chinese built the wall to keep invaders out.

Way made the jump using a Mega Ramp, a 65-foot-high ramp. Way, who is one of the most famous skateboarders in the world, sped down the ramp and over the wall at a blistering speed of about 55 miles an hour.

"I was aware of the dangers, and my heart was pumping in my chest the whole time," Way told The New York Times. "But I managed to pull it off."

Way soared over the Great Wall and landed on a 100-foot-long curved ramp. Although Way botched\(^2\) the landing on his first attempt, he went on to successfully complete the jump four times. To thrill the cheering crowd, which included Chinese dignitaries\(^3\), thousands of spectators, and his own family, Way tossed in several gravity-defying spins on his last three attempts.

After the jump, the Chinese Minister of Culture presented Way with a small chunk of the wall.

"I came to China with a goal and that was to jump over the Great Wall," Way told reporters. "I have accomplished that and I feel like my job is done. I am honored to have my visions embraced by the people of China."

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\(^1\)Great Wall of China: a system of fortified walls with a roadway along the top, built as a defense for China

\(^2\)botched: made a mess of; ruined

\(^3\)dignitary: a person of high position or honor
“Great Wall, Great Jump” Questions

1. The decision that probably helped Danny succeed where others failed was
   a. the use of a bicycle.
   b. the use of a high ramp and skateboard.
   c. the gravity-defying spins in the air.
   d. all of the above.

2. The arrangement of ramps on both sides of the Great Wall must have looked somewhat like a
   a. bridge.
   b. railroad crossing.
   c. roller coaster.
   d. parking lot.

3. When Way says “I managed to pull it off” he means he
   a. pulled a muscle while making the jump.
   b. was successful at completing the jump.
   c. tricked everyone into believing that he actually made the jump.
   d. was able to pull the skateboard off the wall.

4. Danny has a lot of determination. That is clear from the fact(s) that
   a. he performed the jump in spite of fear.
   b. he tried something everyone else had failed at.
   c. he kept at it in spite of an imperfect first attempt.
   d. all of the above.

5. Why does Way say that he is “honored” by the people of China?