

# GET FIT FOR YOUR FIRST ENGLISH TEST



## P. Diddy runs the NYC Marathon

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Sean (P. Diddy) Combs is a superstar. He was one of the first who has pushed hip-hop culture into the mainstream. Diddy is a record producer, entertainment mogul, writer, designer, actor, singer and three-time Grammy Award-winning rapper. Diddy has always pushed himself. He always wants to be on top. But in 2006, on Sunday November 2<sup>nd</sup>, he finished as number 11,359 in the New York City Marathon.

A

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Born in Harlem, he was raised outside New York City by his mother after his father's murder. Diddy hasn't forgotten his roots. He created a series of educational initiatives for inner-city youth. In 2006 he ran the New York City marathon in order to raise money for New York's public schools, children suffering from HIV and AIDS and his own social programs.

B

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There were more than 30,000 runners, half of them from outside the US who wanted to run the famous New York City Marathon. P. Diddy was one of these people. He was the most famous runner and it was his first and probably last marathon. "I was really looking forward to it, but I trained for less than two months because I had a serious knee injury", he said. "Although I was not perfectly trained I really felt good in the days before the race. But on the day when I got to the start of the marathon on Staten Island, it was so hot I couldn't believe it. It was one of the worst days you could have to run a marathon," said P. Diddy. He hoped to be tough enough to finish the race.

C

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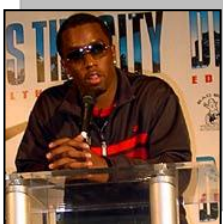
The atmosphere was great. As he and the other runners crossed the bridge into Brooklyn, they had a wonderful view of the skyscrapers of Manhattan. Then they went through Brooklyn. There were people from all the different communities on the sidewalks – Hispanics, Asians, black Americans, Jews - and they shouted at us and cheered us. "As I was doing the race, I lost my security men. I was like a kid in a department store, looking around like, Where are they? The crowds were so loud, I was telling people, please help me. They thought I was saying hello to them!", he said.

D

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After Brooklyn the route goes through a part of Manhattan, into the Bronx and then back into Manhattan. The marathon finishes in Central Park. "I was feeling pretty bad after about 20 miles", said Diddy. "But I kept going, because I was trying to raise a million dollars for the kids. I was running for them, and they wouldn't let me stop. That made me feel good."

E

35

The last two miles were really hard because when you get into the park, you have to go up and down all these little hills. It kills you. At the end of the race, Diddy learned that his time was four hours 14 minutes 54 seconds. He was very exhausted but happy.

F

## I. Reading

### 1. Decide whether the following statements are true or false.

	True	False
1. P. Diddy's father was a murderer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The NYC Marathon was his first one.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. More than 30,000 runners from all over the USA came to New York.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. He only trained two months.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. The weather was bad because it was raining.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. He was happy when he reached Brooklyn Bridge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 2. The text has six paragraphs. Decide which of the following headlines goes with which paragraph. Write the correct letter (A - F) into the boxes.

7. Running for the kids.
8. The time of his life.
9. Not first, not second but not a loser.
10. The social program man!
11. Ready to go!
12. Crowded streets.


### 3. Answer the following questions on the text. You don't have to write complete sentences.

13. Where did Sean Combs live in his youth?

\_\_\_\_\_

14. What did the runners see as they came into Brooklyn (two items)?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

15. Why was it a bad day for a marathon?

\_\_\_\_\_

16. Why didn't P. Diddy stop running?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## II. Vocabulary

### 1. Find words with a similar meaning of the words in brackets.

17. Diddy had the **(chance)** \_\_\_\_\_ to collect money for the children.
18. **(Although)** \_\_\_\_\_ he was injured, he ran the marathon.
19. After the event he **(went back)** \_\_\_\_\_ to his luxury apartment.

## 2. Find the opposites for the words in brackets.

20. The streets of New York were **(empty)** \_\_\_\_\_ on the day of the marathon.
21. The spectators were **(quiet)** \_\_\_\_\_ when they saw the runners.
22. Bruce Willis also wanted to run the marathon, but he **(passed)** \_\_\_\_\_ the medical check.
23. P. Diddy said that it was the **(false)** \_\_\_\_\_ decision to run the 26 miles.

## 3. Explain the following in your own words. Write complete sentences.

24. a skyscraper

\_\_\_\_\_

25. a district

\_\_\_\_\_

## 4. P. Diddy is an American. What does he say for the underlined English words?

26. Londoners walk on pavements. New Yorkers call them \_\_\_\_\_.
27. The British form a queue at a bus stop. Americans always wait in a \_\_\_\_\_.
28. Londoners take the underground to get from one place to another quickly. New Yorkers like to go by \_\_\_\_\_.
29. The English have lifts in skyscrapers. In the U.S.A. there are lots of \_\_\_\_\_.
30. The British live in flats. Americans live in \_\_\_\_\_.

## III. Grammar

### 1. Put in substitutes for the *modal auxiliaries* in brackets.

31. Diddy \_\_\_\_\_ speak French well. **(can)**
32. Friday afternoon his bodyguards \_\_\_\_\_ clean his car. **(must)**
33. Every Saturday Diddy's friends \_\_\_\_\_ join him at the disco. **(may)**
34. But they \_\_\_\_\_ **(should)** be home again by midnight.

### 2. Fill in the missing English words.

35. In New York the people **(sollten)** \_\_\_\_\_ go by bus whenever possible.
36. The passengers **(müssen)** \_\_\_\_\_ buy a ticket first.
37. They **(dürfen nicht)** \_\_\_\_\_ smoke or drink on the bus.
38. Many old people **(nicht in der Lage sein)** \_\_\_\_\_ drive a car any more.

**When you visit New York, perhaps you want to see one of the football games of the Giants. Here are some pieces of advice.**

***Put in be able, can/could, be allowed, have to.***

If you want to watch a game of the Giants, you (must) \_\_\_\_\_ buy the tickets a month before the game. You (mustn't) \_\_\_\_\_

smoke in the stadium, the Americans are very strict about that. You (?) \_\_\_\_\_ get drinks there, but they are not sold in glasses, because angry fans (?) \_\_\_\_\_ throw them at the players. You never know!

In front of the stadium there are a lot of security men who check the people coming in. Last month they (could) \_\_\_\_\_ find fifteen knives and two guns with their metal detector.

**Complete the sentences and use the correct form of "be able" .  
Watch the tense! Sometimes you must use a "not" in your sentence.**

1. Dad \_\_\_\_\_ to get into the house because he couldn't find his key.
2. I can take my brother's camera, so I \_\_\_\_\_ to take some pictures next weekend.
3. (you) \_\_\_\_\_ to do last week's homework in maths?
4. My sister hasn't got enough money so she \_\_\_\_\_ to pay for my ticket.
5. My friends arrived in time because they \_\_\_\_\_ to find their way round the city very easily..

**Think of a good negative question and write it down.**

a) "I can ride my bike without my hands, look". " \_\_\_\_\_?"

b) "I'm so tired. I want to sleep right now."

" Why \_\_\_\_\_ earlier?"

c) "I want to watch 'Titanic' on TV tonight."

\_\_\_\_\_ before?

„Yes, about four times. But it is such a fantastic film!“