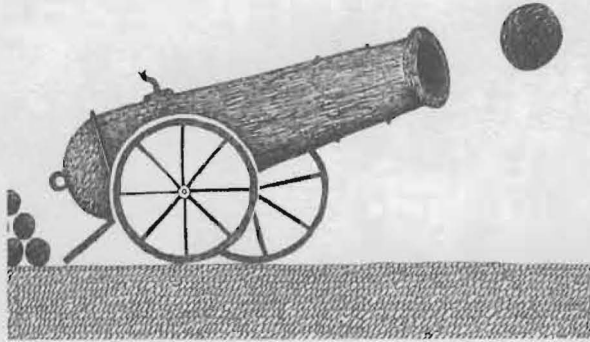


Reading

10 Fired from his job!

- 1 Look at the picture of a cannon and cannonball.
What are they called in your language?



- 2 Look at the photo of a human cannonball.
Where does a human cannonball work?
- 3 Read the newspaper article and mark the sentences true (✓), false (✗), or don't know (?).
- ✗ 1. Todd is scared of his job.
 - ✓ 2. The circus wanted him to go on a training course in South America.
 - ✓ 3. He was worried about flying there.
 - ✗ 4. The circus said he didn't have to go on the course.
 - ? 5. Todd doesn't think the training course is necessary.
 - ? 6. Diego Zeman is a friend of Todd's.
 - ✓ 7. Marnie Dock advised Todd to do the course.
 - ? 8. Todd has decided to take the job as a clown.
- 4 Find words in the text that mean:
- 1. really scared **terrified**
 - 2. very big, huge **enormous**
 - 3. hurt (a part of your body) **injure**
 - 4. a show **performance**
 - 5. feel really nervous and scared **panic**
 - 6. unhappy **upset**



TODD CHRISTIAN, the Human Cannonball, has lost his job because he is terrified of flying. But it isn't the enormous cannon that scares him, it's airplanes! He is quite happy to fly 30 meters above the circus at 80 km/h, but he won't get on a plane.

When Todd, 26, injured his leg during a performance, the circus said he should go to Brazil for a special training course. But Todd refused to go. He said, "I know it sounds crazy, because I'm a human cannonball, but I don't like long flights. If I'm on a plane for a long time, I start to panic."

So the circus told him he had to leave his job. Todd said he was very upset. He is now discussing the situation with his lawyer. He thinks he doesn't have to do the course.

Meanwhile, Brazilian Diego Zeman, the Human Rocket, has arrived at the circus to take Todd's job. Mr. Zeman has already done the special training course. "I feel sorry for Todd, but this is my dream job, and I'm very happy," said the Human Rocket.

Marnie Dock, who became the world's first female human cannonball at the age of 16, is now the circus's cannon trainer. She thought that Todd should do the training course. She explained that the circus had to be very strict, as the human cannonball performance could be very dangerous. "We did it for his own safety," she said.

Meanwhile, the circus has offered him another job—as a clown.