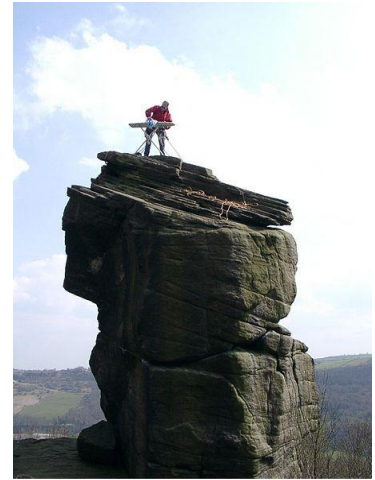


The craziest sports in the world

What do you think of when you hear the word “sports”? Perhaps you think of basketball, jogging or cycling. But have you ever heard of Extreme Ironing, chess boxing, underwater hockey, kitesurfing or elephant polo?

About 1,000 people around the world do **Extreme Ironing**. For this sport you need an iron (*Bügeleisen*), a board and safety equipment, for example a helmet or a rope. Now you iron your clothes – but not, as usual, inside your house. You do it on top of a mountain, under water, or while bungee-jumping.

Chess boxing combines the sport of boxing with games of chess. Iebe Rubingh, a Dutch artist, read a description of this sport in a comic book and was so fascinated that he brought it to life in 2001. A game starts with a four minute chess round, then there’s a two minute boxing round and so on.



Picture by theredrocket at en.wikipedia



picture by DavidUnderwater - en.wikipedia

Underwater hockey, which is also called “Octopush”, is played in a swimming pool. There are six players on a team. They wear diving masks, fins and a snorkel. Usually they also wear gloves and swimming hats to protect their hands and ears. The players use a short stick to push a puck – a small piece of metal – across the bottom of the pool. The aim of the game is to push the puck into the other team’s goal.

A **kitesurfer** needs a surfboard and a kite (*Lenkdrache*). The kite pulls the surfer through the water. Thanks to the kite, the surfer can soar through the air. Also, the kites allow surfers to go really fast and to travel great distances. Some kitesurfers have covered more than 200km in about 9 hours.



picture by Krish Dulal - ne.wikipedia

Elephant polo is a like regular polo – apart from the fact that it is played on elephants instead of horses. Two people ride one elephant. The first is the mahout, who steers (*steuern*) the elephant. The second holds a long stick with which he must drive a ball into a goal. The sport was invented in Nepal, but today it is also played in India, Thailand and Sri Lanka.

EXERCISE 1 Match the words and the five sports. Sometimes one word matches more than one sport:

puck – wind – mahout – water – goal – board – snorkel – clothes – swimming pool – Nepal – ball

EXERCISE 2 These sentences are wrong; try to correct them.

- a) A “puck” is the leather ball used in elephant polo.
- b) Iebe Rubingh brought chess boxing to life because he had seen it in a film.
- c) Kitesurfing takes place in swimming pools.
- d) You can do Extreme Ironing in your living room.
- e) Elephant polo is played all around the world.
- f) Kite surfers can travel up to 20km in a day.
- g) Octopush players wear wet suits (*Taucheranzüge*).

EXERCISE 3 Writing. How do you like these sports? Would you do one of them if you could? If so, which one?

EXERCISE 1
Extreme Ironing: board, clothes; Chess Boxing: board; Octopush: puck, water, goal, snorkel, swimming pool; Kitesurfing: wind, water, board; Elephant polo: mahout, Nepal, Ball

EXERCISE 2 a) No, it's a piece of metal used in Underwater Hockey; b) He had read about it in a comic book; c) It takes place at the beach; d) No, you can't - Extreme Ironing is an outdoor sport; e) No, it's only played in a few Asian countries; f) No, they can travel more than 200km; g) No, they only wear diving masks, fins and a snorkel.