

Finding out with Fender

Surf's Up!



Let's go Surfing with Dan...



I love going surfing!

The swell in the ocean comes from the winds blowing across large areas of water. When the swell reaches the coast and there is wind blowing off the shore, onto the front of the waves, it makes hollow waves that are very good for surfing on.

Polynesian people started surfing on big, heavy wooden planks about 4,000 years ago. People in America started surfing about 125 years ago. Now, people surf all over the world using surfboards made from hard foam and fiberglass, which makes them much lighter. They have one, two or three fins underneath to stop the board going sideways.

I always use a leash with my board - this is a stretchy rope that ties onto the back end of the board and has a velcro cuff that fixes around my ankle. This means that when I fall off my board (and surfers do that very often!) my board can't be swept away. I can easily grab it and climb back on.

I usually wear a wetsuit as the sea is quite cold where I live, even in the summer. Wetsuits also help you to float on the water. I have a shorty wetsuit and one with long arms and legs.



Before I go into the water, I have to put wax on the top of my board (called the deck), to stop me slipping.

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When I'm ready, I run down to the sea with the board under my arm. Then I wade through the water until it is deep enough for me to jump on my board. I **paddle** with my arms and float out to where the waves are.

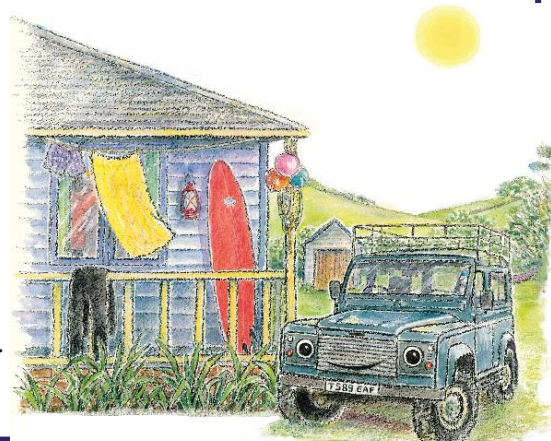
Once I am quite far out, where the big **swell** is, I wait for a good wave. When I see the start of one coming, I turn my board to face the beach and paddle like mad to get to the top of it, just as it starts breaking.

Really cool! I **stand up** quickly and ride the wave, **balancing** on my board so I don't fall off. If I'm lucky, I can get inside the wave and it's like a water tunnel as it breaks over my head! It's called a **barrel** or **tube**.

Surfing is my favourite sea water sport, but there are many other types like kite-surfing, bodyboarding, kayaking, paddle boarding, windsurfing, gig rowing and lots more to find out about.

In the summer I teach surfing to children on the beach and we have lots of fun!

Can you see my wetsuit, surfboard and towel in this picture of my home? →



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Some of the words surfers use!



Bail out - to jump off your surfboard when paddling out and coming up to a wave too big to go over or through the middle of it.

Bomb - a large wave compared to other waves during that session.

Cooking - very good surfing conditions, good waves.

Drilling - to get a 'drilling' is when you fall off and receive a good battering from the wave!

Drop in - the surfer closest to the peak, or where the wave is breaking is always allowed to go first. A 'drop in' is where another surfer barges in and catches the same wave. Big crime!!

Goofy foot - if you stand with your right foot forward you are a goofy footer!

Hang ten - when where the surfer puts all ten toes of his feet over the end of a long surfboard.

Stoked - to be happy.

Brah - what a brother, friend, fellow surfer is called.

Ding - when your board has been damaged.

Glassy - very clean, smooth waves that aren't choppy.

Gnarly - dangerous surf conditions.



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Can you find the right words to finish these sentences?



gnarly	deck	stoked	ding	goofy	brah
barrel	leash	cooking	shorty	bail	glassy

- 1) "Oh dear," said Dan, looking at his surfboard. "I'll have to fix this board as it's got a d _ _ _ in it".
- 2) "Hi b _ _ _! I'm going surfing, it's c _ _ _ _ _!" said Matt.
- 3) It was a hot summer's day, so Dan put on his s _ _ _ _ _ wetsuit, ran down the beach, attached his l _ _ _ _ to his ankle and waded in.
- 4) Yesterday the waves were choppy, but today there was an off shore wind they were g _ _ _ _ _.
- 5) As Dan paddled out, a huge wave came towards him and he realised he would have to b _ _ _ out.
- 6) Dan caught a hollow wave and went into the b _ _ _ _ _ . It was amazing and he was s _ _ _ _ _!
- 7) When Annie stood on the d _ _ _ she always surfed with her right foot forward so she is g _ _ _ y footer.
- 8) The wind got stronger and the surfing conditions were becoming g _ _ _ _ _ . It was time to get out the water.

Answers



- 1) "Oh dear," said Dan, looking at his surfboard. "I must fix this board as it's got a **ding** in it".
- 2) "Hi **brah**! I'm going surfing, it's **cooking**!" said Matt.
- 3) It was a hot summer's day, so Dan put on his **shorty** wetsuit, ran down the beach, attached his **leash** to his ankle and waded in.
- 4) Yesterday the waves were choppy, but today there was an off shore wind they were **glassy**.
- 5) As Dan paddled out, a huge wave came towards him and he realised he would have to **bail** out.
- 6) Dan caught a hollow wave and went into the **barrel**. It was amazing and he was **stoked**!
- 7) When Annie stood on the **deck** she always surfed with her right foot forward so she is **goofy** footer.
- 8) The wind got stronger and the surfing conditions were becoming **gnarly**. It was time to get out the water.