

## Woman gains gurning title



**The Female World Gurning Champion has finally been accepted into the Guinness Book of World Records as the planet's ugliest woman.**

1

Anne Woods, who has been (1) ..... winner of the Egremont Crab Fair, in Cumbria, 27 times, had previously failed to get a (2) .....in the famous book. This was despite male champion Tommy Mattinson being named in the annual for triumphing just 11 times. But after Mrs Woods' latest success in September she will now join the (3) ..... of other high achievers – as the woman able to pull the ugliest face in the world.

2

3

Gurning involves (4) ..... the facial features into ugly positions while (5)..... in a horse collar and it is thought that the competition at Egremont (6)..... to the Middle Ages.

4

Mrs Woods said: "It feels absolutely wonderful to have been accepted. But this is not before time. I've won the competition 27 times now. I am considering retiring, but I know what I'm like. Come next year's competition I'll be (7) ..... to get on stage again. Whatever happens, I doubt my record will be broken."

5

Anne started gurning when she was 30 after her brothers entered her into the competition without her permission. She won and 33 years later Anne is still (8)..... her famous face. But there was drama at this year's event when Anne collapsed and was (9) ..... to hospital after leaving the stage. Her daughter Brenda said: "I think this year gave her a bit of a shock, but she's known for gurning and that's what she'll do. "It's a big part of her life."

6

Mrs Woods has only missed the competition once and that was because she was heavily pregnant. The following year, she was back up on the stage to (10) ..... her crown – just two weeks after giving birth to Brenda.

**Language work:** Choose the correct option for each gap:

- |                  |               |               |               |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1: a) reinstated | b) honoured   | c) crowned    | d) elected    |
| 2: a) quote      | b) reference  | c) entry      | d) mention    |
| 3: a) division   | b) ranks      | c) class      | d) caste      |
| 4: a) adjusting  | b) adapting   | c) distorting | d) contorting |
| 5: a) covered    | b) surrounded | c) draped     | d) wrapped    |
| 6: a) originates | b) stems from | c) belongs    | d) dates back |
| 7: a) scraping   | b) rubbing    | c) itching    | d) scratching |
| 8: a) pulling    | b) doing      | c) twisting   | d) saving     |
| 9: a) rushed     | b) hurrying   | c) introduced | d) invited    |
| 10: a) retrieve  | b) rediscover | c) recover    | d) reclaim    |

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**Ex. 1: Articles.** Together with an enthusiastic partner, explain the use of the definite articles in *bold*.

### **The Female World Gurning Champion has finally been accepted into the Guinness Book of World Records as the planet's ugliest woman.**

Anne Woods, who has been crowned winner of **the** Egremont Crab Fair, in Cumbria, 27 times, had previously failed to get a mention in **the** famous book. This was despite male champion Tommy Mattinson being named in **the** annual for triumphing just 11 times. But after Mrs Woods' latest success in September she will now join **the** ranks of other high achievers – as **the** woman able to pull the ugliest face in **the** world.

**Ex. 2: Articles** (a/the) have been cunningly removed from or even more cunningly and sadistically added to this paragraph. Put them back in or take them out:

Gurning involves contorting facial features into the ugly positions while draped in horse collar and it is thought that competition at Egremont dates back to Middle Ages.

Mrs Woods said: "It feels absolutely wonderful to have been accepted. But this is not before time! I've won a competition 27 times now. I am considering retiring, but I know what I'm like. Come the next year's competition I'll be itching to get on a stage again. Whatever happens, I doubt my record will be broken."

Anne started gurning when she was 30 after her brothers entered her into competition without the her permission. She won and 33 years later Anne is still pulling her famous face. But there was a drama at this year's event when Anne collapsed and was rushed to a hospital after leaving stage. Her daughter Brenda said: "I think this year gave her a bit of shock, but she's known for gurning and that's what she'll do. It's big part of her life."

Mrs Woods has only missed the competition once and that was because she was heavily pregnant. Following year, she was back up on the stage to reclaim her crown – just the two weeks after giving birth to Brenda.

### **Lexical chains:**

In paragraph 1 - "the Guinness Book of World Records". Look for references to the same noun later in the text using a synonym or a related term.

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## KEY

### The Female World Gurning Champion has finally been accepted into the Guinness Book of World Records as the planet's ugliest woman.

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Gurning involves (4) ..... the facial features into ugly positions while (5)..... in a horse collar and it is thought that the competition at Egremont (6)..... to the Middle Ages.

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- |                         |                      |                      |                      |
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