

Circus Performers

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Circus Performers

The Circus and Its Performers

A circus is a group of strong, athletic performers who use their special skills to amaze and entertain people.

Some circuses travel from place to place and perform in large tents. Other circuses stay in one place and perform in halls and theatres.



Each time it arrives at a new place, this circus sets up a tent.

Circus performers are trained in one, or more, of the four main types of circus skills.

These skills are juggling, balancing, **acrobatics** and performing magic tricks. Circus performers often go to special classes to help them learn these skills.

Circus performers need to be very fit to do their jobs.



This performer is part of a circus that performs on a theatre stage.

Magicians

Circus magicians amaze their audiences with magic tricks. They use special equipment when they perform, including hats, scarves, cards and magic wands.



A magician can pick out the card you chose without having seen it before!

Some circus magicians invite people from the audience to help them with their tricks during a performance.

A person may be given a magic wand to hold, only to find that the wand becomes floppy!

Or they may be invited to pull a single silk scarf from a hat, then find the scarf has become joined onto a long line of other scarves, as if by magic.



A magician pretends to pull a scarf out of a boy's sleeve.

Jugglers

Juggling is the skill of keeping three or more objects moving through the air without dropping them.

There are two main types of juggling: toss and bounce.

In toss juggling, the juggler tosses several objects up into the air before catching them.

They do this again and again.

In bounce juggling, the juggler bounces several unbreakable objects off a hard surface and catches them over and over.



toss juggling with rings



bounce juggling with balls

Jugglers often include other circus skills in their acts. They may ride a unicycle or walk along a low **cable** as they juggle.

A juggler uses different parts of their body to toss, bounce and catch. They may toss a plate into the air with their foot, and catch it on their back, or bounce a ball off their knee and catch it under their chin.

For Review Only

Juggling while riding a unicycle makes the trick more difficult.

