



Have you ever swum with a crocodile?

A swimming coach in Darwin, Australia, has found a new method to encourage his pupils to swim faster. He puts a crocodile in the pool with them.

Mark Davies, from the Casuarinas Crocs Swimming Club, has regularly used a crocodile to motivate his senior swimming squad*. "They've become much better swimmers ... and much quicker!"

"Swimming up and down a pool can be quite boring," says a member of the squad. "But it's not boring when there is a crocodile in the water!"

"I've noticed a different atmosphere in the club. The children have become a lot closer and they're enjoying life a lot more," says Mr Davies.

The crocodile is big; he's over a meter long. The swimmers, who are between the ages of 13 and 21, can see it under the water. The swimmers don't normally have the courage to race the crocodile but they enjoyed being with it.

Some people don't think it's a good idea. They think it's cruel and dangerous so they've phoned the manager of the swimming pool to complain about this. The Australian Institute of Sport -AIS- has criticized Mr. Davies, so has the RSPCA*. Moreover, one of Australia's top swimming coaches, Forbes Carlile, said "it's bizarre, really bizarre. You don't always swim faster when you're frightened". Parents too have been worried and they say it's extremely dangerous.

On the other hand, Mr. Davies is sure that his swimming lessons are safe for both the animal and the swimmers. "The crocodile has come from a tourist park, so it's really friendly. However, we put a tape around the crocodile's mouth and cut its claws, just to be sure and safe. He confirmed that they have never had any problems.

*squad: *team*

* RSPCA: *Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals*

I. COMPREHENSION

1- Answer the following questions from the text: (4PNTS)

a- Who is Mark Davies?

.....

b- Why does he put a crocodile with the pupils in the pool?

.....

c- How old are the swimmers?

.....

d- Why is the crocodile quite friendly?

.....

II. LANGUAGE

1- Circle the correct verb forms: (2PNTS)

a- Samantha **went** / **has gone** to Australia to finish her studies *3 months ago.*

b- Miss Victoria **worked** / **has worked** as a teacher since 2002.

c- Jack **has applied** / **applied** for many jobs last year.

d- Mary **didn't see** / **didn't saw** the last show.

2- Put the verbs between brackets in the future use (be going to) (2PNTS)

a- I (not buy) a new computer; I'll use the old one.

b- The high school students (take) the final exam next June.

3- Put the verbs between brackets in the future simple use (will): (2PNTS)

a- you (go) abroad to finish your studies?

b- In the future, the number of internet users (increase).

