



The blade runner

Markus Rehm is one of the best long jumpers in the world. He is from Germany and competes in the **Paralympic Games**, which are international sports events for athletes with disabilities.

When he was 14 years old, Markus had a serious accident while wakeboarding. Doctors had to remove part of his right leg. Instead of giving up on sport, Markus got a **carbon-fibre blade** — a special prosthetic leg made for running and jumping.

He trained every day and became a top athlete. He won gold medals at the Paralympics and jumped even farther than some non-disabled athletes. In one competition, he jumped over **8 metres** — an amazing distance!

Markus asked to join the **World Championships** with able-bodied athletes. But some people said the blade might give him an **unfair advantage**. Others believe that he earned his place through hard work and dedication.

Scientists are still studying how blades affect jumping.

But Markus keeps competing and says, "Disability doesn't mean you can't achieve something great."



Glossary

- **Paralympic Games** - global sports competition for athletes with disabilities.
- **Carbon-fibre blade** - a strong, light prosthetic leg used in sport
- **Advantage** - something that helps you do better than others.
- **Prosthetic** - a man-made body part used to replace a missing one.
- **Able-bodied** - someone who does not have a disability.

1. What sport does Markus Rehm do?

👉 *Markus Rehm is a ...*

2. What is his blade made of?

👉 *His blade is made of ...*

3. What record has he broken?

👉 *Markus has broken ...*

4. Why do some people think his blade is unfair?

👉 *Some people think the blade is unfair because...*

5. Do you think Markus should compete with all athletes? Why?

👉 *I think Markus should/should not be allowed to compete because...*