

## French climber banned from scaling UK buildings

30th October, 2018



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Via Paul Robertson on flickr.com

A French stuntman who specializes in scaling skyscrapers has been banned from climbing any building in the UK. Alain Robert, 56, was handed a 20-week prison sentence on Friday, suspended for two years, for scrambling up London's 201-metre Heron Tower. Mr Robert, dubbed "the French Spiderman," was also

handed a \$7,000 fine for disruption and for causing a "large scale" emergency response. Hundreds of people stopped in the street to watch him climb the building and a number of emergency services were called. Using his usual climbing method, Mr Robert ascended the London tower using only his bare hands. He never uses ropes or other safety equipment.

The judge who presided over Mr Robert's case told the climber: "You are demonstrably an accomplished climber, but there is always the danger that your actions could be imitated by those less proficient, with potentially fatal consequences." Another judge described the incident as a "publicity stunt". He pointed out that it appeared Robert had been sponsored to climb the building because he was wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with the logo of a company. Robert was prepared for his arrest. When London Police apprehended him at the foot of the tower on Thursday, he immediately handed officers his passport and the telephone number of his lawyer.

Sources: [metro.co.uk](http://metro.co.uk) / [dailymail.co.uk](http://dailymail.co.uk) / [foxnews.com](http://foxnews.com)

## Writing

People who do publicity stunts should go to prison. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

stuntman / skyscrapers / climbing / prison sentence / Spiderman / emergency / bare / judge / danger / proficient / fatal / publicity stunt / sponsored / logo / arrest / lawyer

## True / False

- a) The UK has banned a 20-year-old stuntman climber. T / F
- b) The stuntman has to go to prison. T / F
- c) The stuntman was responsible for emergency services being called out. T / F
- d) The stuntman used a special type of rope to climb the building. T / F
- e) A judge recognized the stuntman as being a good climber. T / F
- f) Another judge said the stuntman took part in a publicity stunt. T / F
- g) The stuntman wore a T-shirt with a company's logo on it. T / F
- h) Police arrested the man at passport control at a London airport. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| 1. <b>banned</b>       | a. decorated |
| 2. <b>scaling</b>      | b. several   |
| 3. <b>response</b>     | c. gear      |
| 4. <b>a number of</b>  | d. copied    |
| 5. <b>equipment</b>    | e. climbing  |
| 6. <b>accomplished</b> | f. deadly    |
| 7. <b>imitated</b>     | g. barred    |
| 8. <b>fatal</b>        | h. gave      |
| 9. <b>emblazoned</b>   | i. reaction  |
| 10. <b>handed</b>      | j. expert    |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of skyscrapers?
- b) Should Mr Robert have been given a prison sentence?
- c) How dangerous is it to climb up buildings?
- d) What things have you climbed?
- e) What skills do you need to climb tall buildings?
- f) Would you have stopped to watch Mr Robert climb the building?
- g) What do you think of Mr Robert for causing an emergency response?
- h) What advice do you have for Mr Robert?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. A French stuntman who specializes       | a. to climb the building   |
| 2. Robert, 56, was handed a                | b. for disruption          |
| 3. a \$7,000 fine                          | c. safety equipment        |
| 4. a number of emergency services          | d. consequences            |
| 5. He never uses ropes or other            | e. 20-week prison sentence |
| 6. your actions could be imitated by those | f. the logo of a company   |
| 7. potentially fatal                       | g. in scaling skyscrapers  |
| 8. Robert had been sponsored               | h. the foot of the tower   |
| 9. wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with       | i. were called             |
| 10. Police apprehended him at              | j. less proficient         |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How responsible do you think Mr Robert is?
- Should Mr Robert tell other people not to copy him?
- What publicity stunts do you know of?
- Should Mr Robert's sponsor also be prosecuted?
- What three adjectives best describe this story?
- Why did Mr Robert give police officers his lawyer's phone number?
- What questions would you like to ask Mr Robert?

## Spelling

- ciieelasspz in scaling skyscrapers
- a 20-week prison etcsenne
- a \$7,000 fine for uiondrtsip
- a "large scale" emergency essernop
- Mr Robert cdensade the London tower
- safety quienpetm
- an saecipmodchl climber
- your actions could be ttiadeim
- those less itpoencrfi
- as a "yuctlbiip stunt"
- a T-shirt boezmledna with the logo
- London Police hpedanpered him

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. i	4. b	5. c
6. j	7. d	8. f	9. a	10. h

## Role Play

### Role A – Climbing Skyscrapers

You think climbing skyscrapers is the most dangerous stunt. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their stunts. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): standing on airplanes, wrestling tigers or the high wire.

### Role B – Standing on Airplanes

You think standing on airplanes is the most dangerous stunt. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their stunts. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): climbing skyscrapers, wrestling tigers or the high wire.

### Role C – Wrestling Tigers

You think wrestling tigers is the most dangerous stunt. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their stunts. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): standing on airplanes, climbing skyscrapers or the high wire.

### Role D – The High Wire

You think the high wire is the most dangerous stunt. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their stunts. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): standing on airplanes, wrestling tigers or climbing skyscrapers.

## Speaking – Stunts

Rank these with your partner. Put the most dangerous at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| • wrestling tigers      | • climbing skyscrapers  |
| • high wire             | • standing on airplanes |
| • land speed record     | • fast food for a month |
| • freefall onto air bag | • swimming the Atlantic |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.