

Five sentences have been removed from the text. Choose from the sentences A-F the one which best fits each gap (1-5). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Can you believe it?



Ripley's Believe it or Not! is an entertainment franchise started in 1918 by Robert Ripley. The line 'believe it or not' comes from the doubt that people had when they first saw Ripley's strange collections. 1. ____ He loved travelling all over the world and finding strange things. He took a lot of photos and made many notes and drawings to remember the strange things he saw. Common topics in *Ripley's!* were amazing sports records, little known facts about far away destinations and other items that readers of the comic had sent in to Ripley to read about. 2. ____ Typically, it might be something like an odd looking vegetable, a strange trick a person could do, or an animal with odd markings on its fur. Ripley even managed to find strange and unbelievable creatures, like a 'mermaid' or a farm animal with an extra leg or two heads.

Ripley took these descriptions and pictures and drew his own images and printed them in his comic. 3. ____ After that, he also started a cartoon for children and several TV programmes that had famous hosts who presented a variety of the strange material that Ripley loved to talk about so much. He even was the first person to publish a very early drawing of the dog that inspired the comic character 'Snoopy' created by the cartoonist, Charles Schulz, who wrote the *Peanuts* Comics. 4. ____

Today, the *Ripley's* company owns 35 museums in cities all over the world, called 'odditoriums'. 5. ____ One of the most impressive is the museum in Panama City Beach, Florida, which is shaped like a giant boat that's sinking into the water! *Ripley's* also owns cinemas, and many other entertainment venues. They even own several aquariums, and, in fact, the *Ripley's* aquarium in Gatlinburg, Tennessee has the longest underwater tunnel in the world.



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| A. | He told Ripley about his amazing dog that did strange things, like eating pieces of glass without getting hurt. |
| B. | Several of the museums look as though they are breaking into pieces because of an earthquake. |
| C. | Ripley would be very happy to see that his company, Ripley Entertainment has done so well. |
| D. | The comic was so popular that, eventually, he started a radio show of the same name. |
| E. | These could be any sort of strange or interesting item from all over the U.S. |
| F. | Ripley started the company by creating a comic book where he talked about and showed pictures of odd artefacts. |