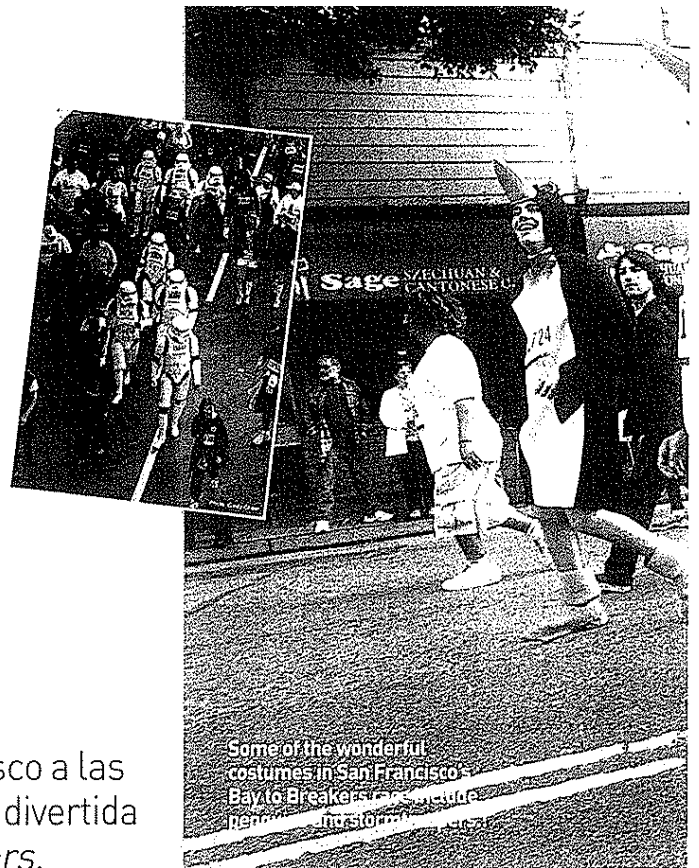


LANGUAGE LEVEL: A2-PRE-INTERMEDIATE

# BAY TO BREAKERS

## DRESS UP AND GO!

De las plácidas aguas de la bahía de San Francisco a las rompientes del Pacífico: este es el recorrido de la divertida y para nada competitiva carrera *Bay to Breakers*.



Is it a race<sup>1</sup>? Is it a party? San Francisco's Bay to Breakers is both: it's one of the world's biggest foot races, and an incredible celebration. This year Bay to Breakers brings its colorful excitement to the city streets on May 16th.

### PARTY ANIMALS

Why is this race so unique? It attracts more than 65,000 racers, but

for most people the objective is certainly not winning. Charlie Held, a San Francisco resident, explains: "If it takes you longer<sup>2</sup> to arrive at the finish, you have more fun along the way<sup>3</sup>!" The streets are full of wonderful costumes, incredible floats<sup>4</sup> and a team of naked racers<sup>5</sup>, the Bare-2-Breakers. There are street parties with rock bands along the route<sup>6</sup>. We mustn't forget the centipedes<sup>7</sup>, groups of 13 rac-

ers tied together<sup>8</sup>, and the salmons, in their fish-shaped hats<sup>9</sup>, who start at the finish and run upstream<sup>10</sup>. The race is an example of what makes San Francisco one of the USA's greatest cities. It demonstrates its tolerance for minorities and their right to self-expression.

### ART OF TRADITION

Bay to Breakers first took place in 1912, when San Francisco was recovering from the trauma of the 1906 earthquake<sup>11</sup>. The race's name comes from the itinerary: it starts at San Francisco Bay, runs west across the city and finishes at Ocean Beach and the Pacific Ocean – you can hear the breakers, or waves, as they roll up onto the beach<sup>12</sup>. Well, that isn't really possible because the race finishes with Footstock, a festival of food and loud rock music, in the Golden Gate Park.

### POPULAR PROTEST

In recent years, the festive nature of the event has exploded, so in January the local authorities decided to prohibit nudity, alcohol and floats for this year's race.

### Speak Up EXPLAINS

**Breakers** - son las grandes olas del mar que rompen (*break*) en la orilla.

**Bare-2-Breakers** - significa 'desnudos hacia las olas' y es un juego de palabras que hace referencia a la carrera *Bay to Breakers*. En el lenguaje de los SMS, la preposición *to* a menudo se reemplaza

por un número 2, ya que *to* y *two* se pronuncian de la misma manera.

◦ En el artículo hay otros dos adjetivos que quieren decir 'desnudo': *naked* y *nude*. ¿Por qué en inglés hay más de una palabra para un mismo concepto? Por razones históricas. El inglés es el resultado de la fusión de varias lenguas: el anglosajón, el antiguo escandinavo, el

francés de los normandos y el latín. De hecho, *bare* proviene de una palabra escandinava, *naked* de una palabra anglosajona y *nude* del latín.

◦ Atención con la palabra *unique*. Significa 'único' en el sentido de 'singular' o 'único en su especie', pero la traducción de frases como 'la única persona en la habitación' sería *only: the only person in the room*.