

Do the preparation exercise first. Then read the text and do the exercises to check your understanding.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–j next to the numbers 1–10.

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|---------|--------------------------|----|--|
| 1..... | choking | a. | to speak with difficulty because you often repeat sounds at the beginning of words |
| 2..... | to get stuck | b. | Forget about it! |
| 3..... | evil | c. | having difficulty in breathing |
| 4..... | to hang up | d. | to end a telephone connection |
| 5..... | Get over it! | e. | morally bad |
| 6..... | to take part | f. | to know about or be conscious of something |
| 7..... | a speech therapist | g. | to be unable to continue or make progress |
| 8..... | to stutter | h. | a person who works with people who have difficulties with speaking |
| 9..... | cheer | i. | to participate |
| 10..... | to be aware of something | j. | to shout encouragement or congratulations |

1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

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|----|---|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | Tom has difficulty saying certain sounds. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | Tom doesn't care what Luke Williams thinks about him. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. | Tom agrees with his dad that his stutter is not entirely a bad thing. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. | Tom's performance in the science fair goes exactly according to plan. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. | The audience at the science fair like Tom's performance. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. | Luke Williams wasn't calling to laugh at Tom when he phoned that morning. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 7. | Luke was friends with Ryan Colby until the science fair. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 8. | After the dinner with Luke and his dad, Tom's stutter gets worse. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

2. Check your understanding: gap fill

Complete the sentences with a word from the box.

panicked	part	choking	stuck	background
therapist	rapping	stutter	evil	on

1. I'm afraid of the letter 'W'. ... Yes, I _____. Get over it!
2. When Luke Williams came up to me yesterday, I just _____. He makes me so nervous!
3. So, trying to say 'hello' was my second bad idea. Of course my throat just closed up completely and all that came out was that _____ sound I talked about in last week's blog.
4. Some people are just _____. It's like they're not happy unless they're making someone else's life miserable.
5. The speech _____ told Dad about a new drug that stops you stuttering.
6. When I have music on my headphones in the _____ I can speak without stuttering!
7. ... and without thinking, I said 'What?' Or rather, I didn't say 'What?' I got _____ on the 'W' and you can guess what happened then.
8. I wasn't going to take _____ in the presentation but then I got a text from Dad wishing me luck ...
9. ... when I have dance music on the headphones, I can't stop myself talking in the same rhythm as the music. So it just sounds like I'm _____.
10. Dad asked him to stay for dinner. They got _____ really well and they talked about all sorts of things.

Discussion

What did you think of the story?

Do you think that writing a blog or a diary is a good way to help you organise your thoughts?