Evelyn Glennie

Evelyn was very young when she lost her hearing; this, however, did not stop her communicating. In fact, it led her to a whole new career, and a global audience, which she may otherwise not have had.

Watch the interview with Evelyn Glennie available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=BuJk-r8GZF4

Check your understanding

1. Why does Evelyn go on stage without any shoes?
2. How many concerts does she perform each year?
3. How many instruments does she have? Where are they from?
4. How old was Evelyn when she started to play the drums?
5. What does she say it is important for every child to be involved in?
6. Give an example of groups of people you think could be inspired by Evelyn Glennie.

Sign language

We have already read about people who have been able to communicate while overcoming physical problems. However, they still use words to do so, even if those words have to go through a third party before being communicated to the world.

However, there are people who can freely communicate without using speech at all.

Study tips

Listening to responses that include follow-on information

The opening section of your Listening test asks you to listen to a short recording and to answer two questions relating to it. The second question will usually ask for more precise detail than the first, but both details will be connected. The second detail, therefore, follows on from the first detail.

The key skill, therefore, is making sure that you understand the first detail clearly, so that you can then suggest a suitable response for the follow-on.

Let’s practise it first.

Ramirez is trying to find out where the nearest bicycle parts store is, so he decides to ask a passer-by on the street:

"Excuse me, I need to repair my bike. I think I have a puncture. Do you know where I can get this done, or buy a new inner tube?"

From this dialogue, and with a partner’s help, can you come up with two questions, one that follows on from the other?

(At the end of this section you can see the two that we came up with.)

Track 11.4 Listen to Sonia Hollis, a British Sign Language Interpreter give a talk about her job, teaching people to communicate using their hands. Think about the questions she was asked afterwards.

Here are some further questions that give you more practice at this skill.
Hint: Try to use as few words as you can when responding; ideally, use three words or fewer.

1a. What do all sign languages have in common?
1b. In what main way does British sign language differ from others?
2a. How long does it usually take to qualify?
2b. Name one other career that Sonia mentions.
3a. How have you made your knowledge about signing available to others?
3b. What are you likely to be working on in the next few months?
4a. What has inspired you most since doing this job?
4b. What would you like to change in the world of sign language if you could?

Sample student responses
Let’s have a look at how three students answered Questions 3a and 3b:

**Student A**
3a) By a DVD
3b) greater access to all people who need sign language

**Student B**
3a) DVD and a book
3b) using the Internet to spread the message

**Student C**
3a) By being qualified
3b) a website project

Which student provides the best responses to Questions 3a and 3b? Is it the same student? Consider the other responses that were quite close. Why would they not be given the marks, though?

(Our questions were: 1. Why does the cyclist need help? and 2. Why is it his lucky day?)

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**Check your understanding**

Match the first half of each sentence to the second half as you listen to Sonia Hollis:

1 Sonja is a fully qualified Sonja felt a bit shy.
2 Sonja started to learn sign British Sign Language language interpreter.
3 When learning the signs, a set of DVDs.
   at first
4 Sonja feels sign language is to communicate with a small nursery incredibly important.
   child.
5 Sonja has just produced