

Everybody is Good at Something **1**

Activity 1 *Act out*

Malith and Pubudu are talking about a TV programme.



Malith : Hello Pubudu, did you watch the finals of “Children Can Sing” on TV yesterday?

Pubudu : Yes, I did. You know, all my family are music lovers. So, we watched it all together.

Malith: There was quite a large audience at the show, wasn't there?

Pubudu: Yes, the hall was full. And what about the boy who came first? He had a great voice.

Malith: He sure did. The audience were already clapping their hands when his name was announced.

Pubudu: Yes, they must have guessed all along that he was going to be the winner.

Malith: What about the orchestra? It was quite big. There were nearly thirty members in it.

Pubudu: Yes, the orchestra were all talented. They did a wonderful job.

Malith: Yes, you took the words right out of my mouth!

Activity 2 *Reading*

Answer the following questions.

1. What is the TV programme mentioned in the dialogue?
2. Did Pubudu watch it alone?
3. Who had a great voice?
4. How many members did the orchestra consist of?
5. 'You took the words right out of my mouth.' What does this mean?
 - a) I didn't understand what you said.
 - b) I was going to say the same thing.
 - c) I don't agree with you.
5. Find words in the conversation which mean much the same as the following.
 - i.) said officially or in public:
 - ii.) almost:
 - iii) a group of listeners or spectators:

Learning point

Collective Nouns

When we use a collective noun, we can use either a singular or a plural verb. The choice depends on whether we see the group as a whole or as a number of individual members.

We use a singular verb if the group acts as a single unit, and a plural verb when the members of the group act as a number of individuals.

e.g. :- 1) There was quite a large audience.

(The audience seen as a unit)

2) The audience were already clapping their hands.

(The audience seen as a group of people acting individually)

Here is a list of common collective nouns

army	committee	orchestra
audience	crew	public
board	family	staff
band	jury	team

Activity 3 *Vocabulary*

Fill in the blanks with the words given in the box.

crew, team, there, has, are

- 1) A cricket consists of eleven players.
- 2) The medical team discussing how they can tackle the dengue problem.
- 3)was a TV crew at the ceremony.
- 4) The ship'swere all saved by the Navy.
- 5) The band only one guitarist.

Activity 4 Vocabulary

Fill in the blanks with the correct verb.

- 1) Their family (is/are) smaller than ours.
- 2) The crowd (was/were) cheering at the top of their voices.
- 3) There..... (is/are) a small crowd outside the gate.
- 4) All her family.....(is/are) vegetarians.
- 5) The cricket team..... (has/have) just finished their warm-up exercises.

Activity 5 Reading

Read the text and answer the questions.

Abilities and Talents

Different people have different abilities and talents. **For** example, **among** us there are people who are artistically inclined. They may have a host **of** talents such as music, dancing or painting - to name but a few. Then there are those who have a natural ability **for** technical activities such as working with electronic gadgets.

Many **of** us are usually fortunate enough to find out early in life what we are really good at and make a success **of** it. However, as implied by the popular saying, 'You do not know what you can do till you try,' some people fail to discover their true potential. A child, **for** example, may just sit somewhere with a box **of** crayons **beside** him, but he will never be able to find out if he has the makings **of** an artist until he starts working with crayons.

What really lies **beneath** someone's success in any field is dedication and hard work. James Watt or the Wright brothers, **for** example, did not make their inventions overnight. They were driven by true interest in what they were trying to achieve. So, we should all aim **at** deriving the maximum benefit and satisfaction **from** our abilities and talents.

- 1) Name two things that artistically inclined people are good at.
- 2) What is the popular saying quoted in the passage?
- 3) Who are the inventors mentioned?
- 4) What helped them to be successful in their work?
- 5) Find words from the text which mean much the same as the following:
 - i) by the side of:
 - ii) find for the first time:
 - iii) lucky:
 - iv) highest:

Learning point

Prepositions

Prepositions link words. They are used before nouns, pronouns and the -ing form of verbs to show place, position, time, direction, purpose etc.

- e.g. :-*
- 1) Fish live in **water**. (noun)
 - 2) My best friend is Suresh. I often borrow story books from **him**. (pronoun)
 - 3) My brother is good at **solving** crossword puzzles. (-ing form of verb)

Activity 6 Grammar

Study the prepositions highlighted in the text 'Abilities and Talents'
among, for, of, beside, beneath, from

Now complete the following sentences, using the above prepositions.

- 1) The little girl was sitting _____ her mother.
- 2) Some _____ the mangoes in the bag aren't ripe enough.
- 3) I received this picture postcard _____ my uncle in Canada.
- 4) Most children have a liking _____ chocolate.
- 5) The river flows very fast _____ the bridge.
- 6) The cottage is hidden _____ the trees.

Activity 7 Writing

Supun, a grade nine student, wants to write a paragraph about his best friend for the class wall newspaper. Imagine you are Supun and write the paragraph using the following details.

- Name - Ranuka
- good at English
 - reads a lot
 - fond of learning new words
 - loves solving crossword puzzles
 - writes stories and simple poems in English
 - can sing English songs
 - president of the Junior English Literary Association
 - helps me with my English
 - always encourages me to speak in English

You may start like this.

My best friend Ranuka is

Activity 8 *Speaking*

Describe what you see in the picture.

Use the words given in the box when describing the picture.

in	beside	balloons
on	among	stage
beneath		drummer
		guitarist
		keyboardist

You may begin like this:

This is a scene from a school concert.....



Activity 9 *Listening*

Listen to the announcement and choose the correct answer.

- 1) The event mentioned is a ...
 - a) debate
 - b) talent show
 - c) prize giving

- 2) It was held at a ...
 - a) theatre
 - b) town hall
 - c) school

- 3) The third place in the singing competition was won by ...
 - a) Malith Weerakoon
 - b) Sujan Kuruppu
 - c) Kevin Cabral

- 4) Tharusha Padminidu did a mime of a...
 - a) tightrope walker
 - b) motorcyclist
 - c) traffic policeman