READING

1 Look at the photos. What do you learn about Kevin Pearce from the fact file?



2 Read the fact file to check your ideas from Exercise 1.

FACT FILE **Kevin Pearce**

Born: New Hampshire, 1st November 1987
January 1997: entered first snowboarding competition
2002: moved to California with brother Adam
August 2006: won Slopestyle event in New Zealand
January 2008: won open halfpipe in Switzerland.
December 2009: received serious brain injury training in Utah
2010: had to relearn how to walk, talk and swallow
2010: his brother Adam left work to help look after Kevin
2013: the Sundance Film Festival showed documentary film about his life, *The Crash Reel*
2014: Adam and Kevin set up *Love Your Brain Foundation*
2014 – today: giving talks at schools and hospitals
2017: moved back to Vermont

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 Read the fact file again and complete Kevin's biography.

KEVIN PEARCE was born in **(1)** _____ on 1st November 1987. He grew up where there was plenty of snow in the winter and loved snowboarding from when he was young. He entered his first snowboarding competition when he was **(2)** _____ years old. He moved to California with his brother in **(3)** _____ and started training full-time at Mammoth Mountain. Over the next **(4)** _____ years, he travelled a lot and won events in New Zealand and Switzerland. He was a star of the snowboarding world.

In December 2009, when Kevin was training in Utah, he crashed and was very badly **(5)** _____. He spent three months in hospital and it took him a year to learn basic skills like **(6)** _____, talking and swallowing again. His brother Adam left work to help look after Kevin.

Kevin slowly got better, but he was not able to take part in snowboarding competitions any more. In 2013, a documentary film about his life called The Crash Reel was **(7)** _____. A year later, a foundation called **(8)** _____ was started by Kevin and his brother Adam. This helps people who have had brain injuries and teaches activities like yoga and meditation.

(9) _____ 2014, Kevin has been busy visiting schools and hospitals. He talks about how important it is for people to look after their brains and to wear helmets. In 2017, he moved to **(10)** _____ in Vermont.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 Answer the questions about Kevin.

1 What sport did he start doing when he was a small boy?

He started doing _____ .

2 Who did he go to California with?

He went with his _____ .

3 What did he do at Mammoth Mountain?

He _____ full-time.

4 How well known was he in the sport of snowboarding before his accident?

He _____ : he was _____ .

5 Which part of his body did he hurt worst in the crash?

He hurt _____ .

TALKING POINTS

How has Kevin's life changed from when he was a teenager?
In pairs, discuss what you think he learned from the accident.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 **Read the biography and number the paragraphs in the correct order.**

A Biography of my Father

a ___

After he left school, he went to Exeter University to study history. He did very well at university, and when his course finished, he moved to Durham and got a job at the university there. He taught history. He really enjoyed helping the students learn, and while he was doing this job, he became a writer. He wrote two books about the history of twentieth-century Europe. Unfortunately, he also stopped playing the piano.

b ___

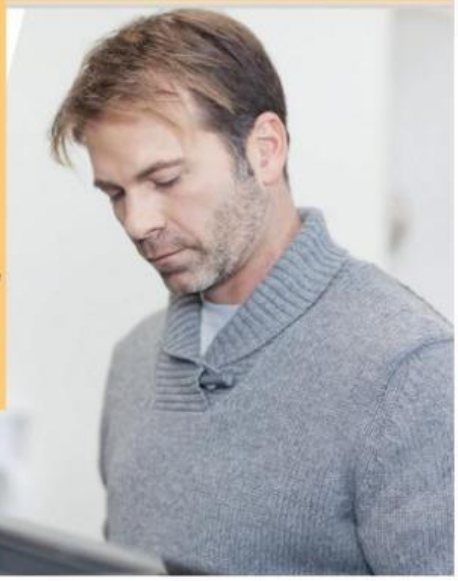
Six months after that life-changing evening, he started his own jazz band with friends who were a singer, a drummer and a guitar player. People couldn't believe it when he left his good job at the university, but Dad has worked as a piano player in the band for 20 years now, and it still makes him very happy. He says, 'You have to do what you love'.

c ___

My father was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on 5th January 1970. When he was a boy, his grandmother gave Dad her beautiful old piano. He quickly learned to play it, and he practised every day. He soon became very good at it. When he grew up, he took this piano with him every time he moved house.

d ___

One evening, before I was born, he went with my mother to a piano concert. This concert changed his life. While he was watching the woman playing the piano, he remembered how much he loved playing it. That night he sat down at the piano that he was given as a child and began playing again.





2 **Read *A Biography of my Father* again and number the changes in his life in the order they happened.**

a He went to live and work in Durham. .....
b He changed his job. .....
c He started to play the piano very well. .....
d He started writing books. .....
e He was born. *1*
f He studied at Exeter University. .....
g He went to a concert which changed his life. .....
h He was given a piano. .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS