

1. Read and answer

A SPECIAL MUSICIAN

Meet Evelyn Glennie, the most famous solo percussion player in the world. She's a top musician, although she's deaf – she can't hear; she was born like this.

HOW DO YOU "HEAR" MUSIC?

Evelyn: Well, I can't hear classical or pop music, but I can feel it, see it, and touch it. It's difficult to describe. I use all my senses, not just hearing. A lot of different things are important – the instrument I'm playing and the room I'm playing in, for example.

DO YOU HAVE A LARGE COLLECTION OF PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS?

Evelyn: I've got about 300 – everything from a marimba (an African xylophone which is 3 metres long) to a very small egg-shaped instrument from Latin America. When I travel, I buy new instruments for my collection. Three months ago, while I was visiting a friend in Peru, I bought a very strange tambourine in a street market and my friend, who plays in a pop band there, taught me how to play it. I always learn a lot from musicians in the countries I visit and I love playing music with them.

DO YOU PRACTISE EVERY DAY?

Evelyn: Well, it's difficult. I travel a lot and I'm never in one place for a long time. Although I usually study music when I'm travelling, I don't often practise with my instruments. I can't play my drums on a plane or a train, can I? Before a concert I always have three hours' rehearsal time. However, when I'm at home I do from one to six hours' practice every day.

DO YOU HAVE TIME FOR ANY HOBBIES?

Evelyn: Well, I read a lot when I'm travelling. When I'm in different countries I like going to other people's concerts, too. I like cycling and hill walking, but it's not something I do very often because I don't have the time. I don't even spend enough time playing my instruments.



1. What's special about Evelyn?

2. How long has she been deaf?

3. When did she buy the Peruvian tambourine?

4. Why was she in Peru?

5. Evelyn doesn't have any free time activities.

TRUE

FALSE