EMBRACE THE SHAKE

1. Read the title. The word "embrace" has two meanings.

1. hold someone in your arms (usually with love or affection)
2. accept or support something enthusiastically

Now read the information about the TED speaker. Which of the two meanings do you think is used in the title? What is a *shake*? What do you think the title means?

PHIL HANSEN Multimedia Artist

When Phil Hansen was attending art school, he developed a very bad shake in his hand, which made it impossible for him to draw. He quit art school, stopped making art, and, for a time, lost his way in life. However, Hansen finally visited a doctor about his condition. The doctor asked him a question that would change his life, "Why not embrace the shake?"

Since then, Hansen has returned to a career in art and has devoted himself to teaching new ways of looking at creativity. Hansen is now a well-known artist who produces highly unusual pieces of art.

2. Read and listen to the quotes and rephrased information from the edited TED talk. Guess the meanings of the words in bold. Writte T for True and F for False in each statement that follows. Then change each false statements to make them true.

1. After many years of drawing, Hansen developed a shake in his hand. When his hand shook, he tried to **compensate** by holding the pen more tightly. This didn't help. In fact, it made things worse.

   _____ When you **compensate** for something that you can't do or are not very good at doing, you try to fix the problem by doing something in a different way.

2. The shake in Hansen's hand was so bad that he couldn't draw a straight line. **Ultimately**, he had to find new ways to make art.

   _____ **Ultimately** means at first, in the beginning.

3. "And more importantly, once I embraced the shake, I realized I could still make art. I just had to find a different **approach** to making the art that I wanted."

   _____ When we find a different **approach** to something, we find a different way of handling it.

4. In his art, Hansen likes to **fragment** images. When you look at the image up close, you see individual dots of ink. But when you look at the image from farther away, you see that the dots make up an entire image, for example, a face.

   _____ When you **fragment** something, you break it up into small pieces.

5. "This was the first time I'd **encountered** this idea that embracing a limitation could actually drive creativity."

   _____ When you **encounter** an idea, you experience or hear about it.

6. He didn't even have the basic things that most artists have to work with, so when he got a job and his first paycheck, he was excited to finally be able to buy the **supplies** he needed.

   _____ Some examples of art **supplies** are clothing and food.

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7. "And I was in a dark place for a long time, unable to create. And it didn't make any sense, because I was finally able to support my art, and yet I was creatively **blank**."

_____ When you feel **blank**, you have no ideas. Your mind is empty.

8. "Or what if instead of making art to **display**, I had to destroy it?"

_____ When you **display** your art, you usually destroy it.

9. To an artist, creativity is an important **resource**.

_____ A **resource** is something that is both available for you and helpful to you.

10. "Learning to be creative within the confines of our limitations is the best hope we have to transform ourselves and, **collectively**, transform our world."

_____ When we do things **collectively**, we are usually working alone.

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