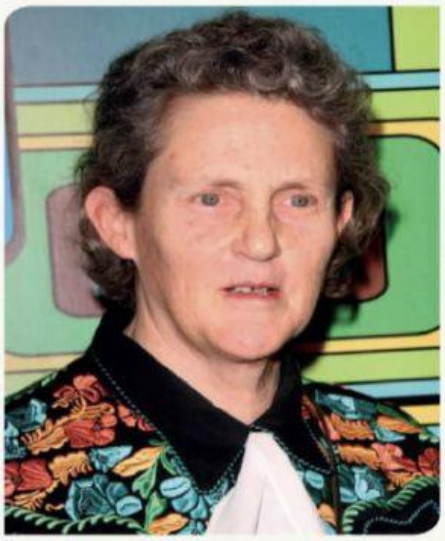
Many people have learning disorders. They suffer in school: other children bully them or *make fun of them and call them 'slow'*. However, people can get over their learning disorders and have successful careers with the help and support of family, teachers and doctors, as these examples prove.

At school, **Michael Phelps** could not sit still and found it difficult to concentrate. His teachers said he couldn't *focus on anything*. But then he found his passion for sport. His mother encouraged him and *helped him to develop his swimming ability*. His reading improved when he read books about sport. And his Maths improved when the problems reflected his interests, for example, 'How long will it take to swim 500 metres if you swim three metres per second?' Through hard work and never missing a day's practice, Michael became an Olympic champion, winning twenty-eight medals, twenty-three of them gold.



In the world of autism, **Dr Temple Grandin** is an important voice. Autistic herself, she is an expert on how to teach people with autism, and she *has written six books about the condition*. She describes herself as a visual thinker and says that *her mind is like Google Images*. School was difficult for her because she didn't think in the same way as other children. But one summer, she worked on a farm and discovered that she 'understood animals'. At school, her science teacher became her mentor. With *his help and support*, Grandin became interested in animal science. She later became a professor of animal science at Colorado State University.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Keira Knightley found out she had dyslexia at the age of six and she remembers other children calling her stupid. She believes that her *problems with reading and writing* made her strong. Knightley struggled with reading and writing, but she dreamt of being an actress, so she had to read scripts. She had to *work harder than other children* to improve her literacy, but she finished school with top grades.





Richard Branson is one of the most successful entrepreneurs in the world. He says that because of his dyslexia, he has learnt to keep things simple, ignore difficulties and focus on what he is good at. However, he grew up at a time when dyslexia was misunderstood – his teachers *made the mistake of thinking* that he was lazy or 'not very clever'. His head teacher at secondary school told him: 'I predict that you will either go to prison or become a millionaire.' He was right.

So don't worry if you are different – you never know where your differences could lead you.

Task 1

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Read the text again. Match questions 1–6 with the people described in the text. Write MP, TG, KK or RB.

1 Which person's teacher changed his/her life in a positive way? _____
2 Who is able to concentrate on his/her strengths because of his/her learning disorder? _____
3 Who became better at something when learning about his/her favourite subject? _____
4 Who changed in a positive way thanks to getting over his/her learning difficulties? _____
5 Who did something to help others understand a learning disorder? _____
6 Which person got over his/her difficulties to have a job of his/her dreams? _____

Task 2

2.34 Look at the words in blue in the text and note how the phrases in italics can help you understand their meaning. Match the words with the definitions. Then listen, check and repeat.

1 try to hurt or frighten someone who is weaker = *bully*
2 a very experienced person who helps a less experienced person = _____
3 think very carefully about something you are doing = _____
4 someone who has special knowledge of a subject = _____
5 to give someone the confidence to do something = _____
6 try very hard to achieve something that is difficult = _____
7 not liked by other people in a way that is unfair = _____
8 someone who imagines words as pictures = _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS