

Read the text attentively:

Hugh Herr

The youngest of five siblings of a family from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Hugh Herr (born October 25, 1964) was a prodigy rock climber: by age eight, he had scaled the face of the 3,544 m Mount Temple in the Canadian Rockies, and by 17 he was acknowledged to be one of the best climbers in the United States.

In January 1982, after having ascended a difficult technical ice route on Mount Washington in New Hampshire, Herr and a fellow climber Jeff Batzer were caught in a blizzard, became disoriented and passed three nights in -29°C temperatures. By the time they were rescued, the climbers had suffered severe frostbite. Both of Herr's legs had to be amputated below the knees.



Following months of surgeries and rehabilitation, Herr was doing what doctors told him was unthinkable: climbing again. Using specialized prostheses that he designed, he created prosthetic feet that made it possible to stand on small rock edges, and titanium-spiked feet that assisted him in ascending steep ice walls. As a result of using the prostheses, Herr climbed at an advanced level as he had before the accident, making him the first person with a major amputation to perform in a sport on par with elite-level, able-bodied persons.

After his climbing career, Herr began to focus on academics, previously an area of little interest to him. He earned an undergraduate degree in physics at his local college and a master's degree in mechanical engineering at MIT, followed by a PhD in biophysics from Harvard University.

After this, at MIT, he began working on advanced leg prostheses that imitate the functionality of the human leg.

Currently, Herr is an associate professor in MIT's Program in Media Arts and Sciences and in the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology. As head of the Biomechatronics research group at the MIT Media Lab, he focuses on developing wearable robotic systems that serve to augment human physical capability.

Hugh's invention is already making an enormous difference to the lives of people with disabilities. "Once you get used to it, it feels like you have your leg back," said Garth Stewart, a pleased soldier who lost a leg in the Iraq war. Thanks to Hugh, people like Garth can overcome their disabilities and enjoy a better quality of life.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugh_Herr (adapted)

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A. True or false? Quote from the text to support your answer:

1. Hugh was an only child.
2. Hugh was a teenager when he lost his legs.
3. He continued rock climbing with his artificial legs.
4. Garth Stewart is not happy with his artificial leg.

B. Answer the following questions about the text:

1. How did Hugh lose his legs?
2. Mention a big achievement in his sport life after the accident.
3. What do you think about Hugh's work nowadays?

C. Find words in the text which mean the same as the following:

1. recognized
2. climbed
3. course
4. impossible
5. sharp
6. consequence

II - A - Fill in the gaps with the words in the box:

21	big bang	diagnosis	disabled	Einstein	motor
	paralyzed	physical	support	survive	

Stephen Hawking



Stephen Hawking (born 8 January 1942) is a British theoretical physicist, whose world-renowned scientific career lasts over 40 years. This famous scientist is considered as the greatest scientist of the twentieth century after _____1_____. Hawking's _____2_____ theory and black hole theory have turned the attention of the world.

He is the professor of Mathematics of the University of Cambridge. His most notorious book is "A Brief History of Time". Stephen Hawking is severely _____3_____ by _____4_____ neuron disease, probably a variant of the disease known as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. The _____5_____ of that disease came when Hawking was _____6_____, shortly before his first marriage, and doctors said he would not _____7_____ more than two or three years. Hawking gradually lost the use of his arms, legs, and voice, and in 2009 was almost completely _____8_____. His _____9_____ condition did not make him stop his research. He feels lucky and pleased because he has a family who loves him, and gives him _____10_____ with his severe disease.

B - Match the words with their meanings.

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| 1. teasing | a. laughing at someone and calling them names |
| 2. sign language | b. a kind of writing that blind people can read with their fingers ... |
| 3. disabled | c. a ball sport for people in wheel-chairs |
| 4. deaf | d. people who come from China, Japan and other Eastern countries |
| 5. culture | e. someone who cannot hear |
| 6. Braille | f. someone with a physical or mental incapacity |
| 7. Boccia | g. the way deaf people manage to speak by using their hands |
| 8. Asian | h. traditions and customs of different countries and groups |