

**AL-REYYADA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
MAHASEN ARAMCO, AL-AHSA, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

ENGLISH 7 – Comprehension Worksheet

Exercise 1

Read the article about two brothers who set up a sportswear company called Castore, and then complete the notes.

Brothers in Business

Tom and Phil Beahon, two brothers from Liverpool who founded the sportswear brand Castore, originally knew nothing at all about making clothes and they didn't know anyone in the fashion industry. They did have a dream, however – to create their very own luxury sportswear company.

In 2013, they both moved to London, found good office jobs and spent their weekdays working at their desks. However, at weekends they interviewed people in top gyms about their sportswear requirements. Tom and Phil both agree that this played a key role in making Castore such a popular brand. Another factor that helped the brand to take off was that, at that time, although there was high-quality sportswear available for women, no-one was making luxury sportswear for men.

In 2016, the brothers' company Castore was born, taking its name from Castor and Pollux, who were famous twin brothers in ancient Greek myths. The business started to grow, helped by significant investment from famous business people. Today, the company has a multi-million pound income and the brothers have an ambition to expand overseas, but they haven't always known such a high level of success. When they were younger, they both played sport: Tom was a professional football player for a while and Phil played cricket semi-professionally. However, each of them knew they would never get to the top of their sport, so they decided to give up their sports careers. It was a hard decision for both of them, but not one that they regret.

Usually, it's the big sportswear brands that have to ask famous sportspeople to wear their clothes. But in the case of Castore, it's the other way round – a number of well-known sports professionals are keen to promote the brand. Tom and Phil aren't satisfied with supplying individuals, however, and are aiming to supply professional teams with official sports kits. They're also looking to launch new clothes collections for specific sports. Phil emphasises that Castore's success is due to the unique products it develops. One of these is the Fusion jacket. This high-tech item is silver in the daytime to absorb sunlight; it becomes bright green at night to make the wearer visible enough to continue training after dark.

Like many companies, they operate online. When it comes to real shops, they made the business decision early on to sell their clothes only in the best stores. Tom and Phil believe that this decision has really paid off. They've also tried other methods of selling, like opening a series of temporary shops for a few weeks each, to see if these might be popular or not. In fact, they're intending to open more 'pop-up' stores overseas in the coming months. The Head Office is in Liverpool, where they grew up, and the brothers want to increase the number of staff they employ. 'It's important for us to do this,' says Tom.

So far, Castore has been a real success story. Who knows where they'll go in the future?

You are going to give a talk about the sportswear company Castore to your class at school.

Make short notes under each heading.

1. Reasons for the success of the brothers' sportswear company:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

2. The brothers' future plans for the sportswear company:

- _____
- _____
- _____

Exercise 2

Read the article about an eighteenth-century scientist called Laura Bassi, and then complete the notes.

Laura Bassi

You may well not be familiar with the name Laura Bassi, unless of course you live on Via Laura Bassi Veratti, a street in Bologna, Italy. However, in the second half of the eighteenth century, she was very famous indeed.

Laura Bassi was born in Bologna, in 1711. When she was a young child, her mother was frequently ill, so the family's doctor would often be called to their home. He quickly observed how interested Laura was in learning, and he offered to be her tutor in the subject of philosophy – which in those days was a subject that all doctors learned as part of their medical education. It soon became apparent that she was incredibly intelligent – so much so that eventually, in her later life, she became a physics professor at a European university – something that no woman had ever done previously. Her name is often associated with a passion for learning, and in fact there is now a high school in Bologna called after her.

By the time Laura Bassi was in her early twenties, virtually everyone in Bologna knew of her. People would crowd into the family's house to listen to her discussing a wide range of topics, especially physics. In 1732, she took part in a public debate with four professors from the University of Bologna, and it was shortly after this that she became a member of the Bologna Academy of Sciences. That was another first for a woman. Soon afterwards, she received a doctorate (PhD) in science – the earliest record of a woman doing so. However, she was not the first woman to receive a doctorate – records show that a woman called Elena Cornaro Piscopia had earned a doctorate in philosophy 54 years earlier, in 1678.

After Laura Bassi was awarded her doctorate, she received the offer of a paid teaching position at the university, which was again unheard of for a woman at that time. However, due to university regulations, women were not allowed to teach publicly, so instead she went on to open a school in her own home. She set up a private physics laboratory there, something which had never been done before.

During her career, Laura Bassi was inspired to research topics that were not very fashionable at the time, including electricity. This is why an organisation recently set up the Laura Bassi scholarship. This is a sum of money intended for postgraduate students studying topics that are largely ignored by other academics.

Laura Bassi married another scientist, Giuseppe Veratti, in 1738, and the couple had several children. However, she did not stop working, and she is considered to be the first woman to have an entire career in science. Although she is not particularly well known among the general public, she is recognised across the scientific community. For example, when the British Antarctic Survey sold their research ship to the Italian organisation, the National Institute of Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics, it was renamed Laura Bassi. There is also a crater on the surface of the planet Venus that is known as Bassi. The International Astronomical Union gave it this name in 1991.

Laura Bassi died in 1778, at the age of 66, just two years after taking up her position as a professor.

You are going to give a talk about Laura Bassi to your class at school.

Make short notes under each heading.

What Laura Bassi was the first female to do:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

10. Things that have been named after Laura Bassi:

- _____
- _____
- _____