

Vocabulary

Accidents

1 Circle the correct option to complete each sentence.

- 1 He *ripped* / *broke* his jacket on a sharp rock while he was climbing.
- 2 Three people fell out of the boat, but no one was *clumsy* / *seriously injured*.
- 3 She drank some hot tea and her tongue got *a few scratches* / *a bit burned*.
- 4 I was not seriously injured after I fell down, but I *did get a few bruises* / *was in pretty bad shape*.
- 5 He *spilled* / *tripped* coffee over his laptop, and now it doesn't work.
- 6 The whole group walked through some very sharp bushes and got *a few scratches* / *ripped*.
- 7 I *seriously injured* / *ruined* my phone when I accidentally dropped it in the bath.
- 8 Amazingly, no one was hurt in the accident, but the car *was in pretty bad shape* / *got a bit burned*.
- 9 Someone accidentally hit the window with a ball and *broke* / *spilled* it.
- 10 He felt silly when he *injured* / *tripped* going up the stairs.
- 11 I can be a bit *clumsy* / *get bruises*, so I try to be extra careful when I'm carrying something breakable.

2 Complete the article with these words and phrases.

ruins	burned	clumsy	rip	trips
bruises	seriously injured	breaks	spills	

Why some people have more accidents

Everyone occasionally ¹_____ over their own feet, ²_____ a hot drink on their desk, ³_____ a new white shirt by getting chocolate on it, or drops their phone and ⁴_____ the screen. However, psychologist Donald Broadbent believed that some people who appear ⁵_____ and have more accidents than others have a psychological condition that makes them less aware of their immediate environment, and therefore more likely to bump into things and get ⁶_____, touch a hot stove without thinking and get ⁷_____, or ⁸_____ a shirt sleeve while walking too close to a wire fence. The focus of Broadbent's studies was accidents in potentially dangerous job environments where a worker might get ⁹_____ and require medical care as the result of not paying attention. Further research by psychologist Andrea J. Day found that stress decreased the ability of workers to pay attention, and therefore increased the chances of injury.