



INTERACTIVE WORKSHEET

READING AND GRAMMAR

GRADE : 4th High School

AREA : ENGLISH

Finding *your* talent!

Do you have a secret talent? Some people find their talent at school. Other people have a hidden talent which they discover later – often by accident!

When James Whinnery left school, he didn't know what to do, and his family were worried about his future. He wanted a job, but then he saw an advert for some talent tests. James believed he didn't have any talents, but he wanted to find out.

Nine hundred people went to the test centre and took part in various talent tests, such as opera singing, diving and remembering faces. Was James good at anything? A small group of people, including James, did well in the language test. James was surprised because he didn't

In fact, James was the best Turkish speaker in the group. So, did he win a prize? Yes, he won an Arabic course and a five-week trip to Jordan. James didn't believe it! 'You never can tell,' he said. It was a fantastic chance to change his life. James moved to London to study Arabic – a very difficult language for most learners. The teachers were helpful, but strict. The alphabet and pronunciation weren't easy to understand, but James learned one hundred new words each day!

Life away from home was also strange, and James found it hard to study. When he had an interview on an Arabic radio station in London, he couldn't answer the interviewer's questions. James was cross with himself, but he carried on with his studies and travelled to

study any languages at school. The testers wanted people with a good ear for sounds. 'Languages are like music,' explained one tester.

Next, James and his new friends learnt some Turkish. What can you learn in one day? First, they said greetings: 'Merhaba' and 'Hosh geldiniz'. Then, they repeated lists of food words because their next challenge was to work in a Turkish restaurant! The language learners greeted customers and took food orders in Turkish. It was difficult to remember all the new words, but James was confident.

Jordan.



'Languages are like music'



James lived with a family in Jordan, so he spoke the language every day. On his last day, James was on TV for a twenty-minute interview in Arabic! At first, he was nervous because he remembered his terrible radio interview. The interviewer asked James lots of questions, and soon he was confident again. The interview was a success! 'If I can do that, I can do anything!' laughed James.

Back at home, James' family were all proud of him, and his life started to change. He is now studying to be an English teacher, and he wants to work in Japan so he can learn another difficult language!



READING AND GRAMMAR

I. READ THE TEXT AGAIN. ARE THE SENTENCES (1 – 10) TRUE (T) OR FALSE (F)?

- 1 James didn't have a job when he left school. *T*
- 2 On the talent day people did a number of different tests.
- 3 The testers wanted to find people who were good at music.
- 4 James cooked food in a Turkish restaurant.
- 5 The winner of the prize was James.
- 6 Part of the prize was a trip abroad.
- 7 Arabic is not an easy language for most people.
- 8 James didn't learn many new words.
- 9 James' family were with him in Jordan.
- 10 James' TV interview was not very good.

Grammar : Past Progressive vs Past Simple

I. CHOOSE THE CORRECT VERB FORM IN EACH SENTENCE.

- a) While I **was doing** / **did** my homework, I had a good idea.
- b) Jim **was breaking** / **broke** his leg when he was playing golf.
- c) When I arrived, I **was going** / **went** into the kitchen.
- d) We **were finding** / **found** an old box while we were digging in the garden.
- e) I **was seeing** / **saw** an old friend while I was waiting for the train.



II. COMPLETE EACH SENTENCE. USE THE VERBS IN BRACKETS. USE PAST SIMPLE OR PAST PROGRESSIVE.



GRAMMAR :

Past simple vs Past progressive

- 1) Fabrizio **(eat)** _____ spaghetti every day last week.
- 2) When I **(come)** _____ into the room, two boys **(play)** _____ football.
- 3) Peter **(turn on)** _____ the TV, but nothing **(happen)** _____.
- 4) While we **(run)** _____ in the park. Mary **(fall over)** _____.
- 5) While I **(listen)** _____ to music, I **(hear)** _____ the doorbell.



Always
remember how
brilliant you are!

Present simple vs Present progressive

