
CHAPTER 4 – A YOUNG BLIND WHIZ

PART A: Vocabulary

Create a compound noun using two nouns from the box below to complete each sentence.

net key	top shooter	work computer	science lap	voice synthesizer	trouble board
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Example: Many people who study computer science in college become computer programmers.

1. I use a desktop computer at home, but when I travel I bring a _____ with me.
2. When you type a message on your _____, you can see it appear on your computer screen.
3. The Internet is the largest _____ of computers in the world.
4. Suleyman is a _____ because he solves computer problems for his company.
5. A _____ reads computer messages aloud so that blind people can understand them.

PART B: Language Focus

Rewrite each of the following sentences to create reduced clauses.

Example: Dr. Jones, who is a professor of economics, has written an excellent new book.

→ Dr. Jones, a professor of economics, has written an excellent new book.

1. My mother, who is an eye doctor, works at General Hospital.
2. Sao Paulo, which is the biggest city in Brazil, has a population of ten million people.
3. Our computer software that was designed for programmers in Asia is now used in Europe, too.
4. My favorite restaurant that was closed for two months is now open again.
5. Tina and Marc, who are law students, work during the day and go to school at night.

PART C: Comprehension

1. What does Suleyman use to read the video display on his computer monitor?

- A. Voice-synthesizer
- B. Braille screen display
- C. Narrator

2. What problems can Suleyman solve?

- A. Hardware
- B. Software
- C. Both hardware and Software

PART D: Reading comprehension

Inspiring Musicians

Ludwig van Beethoven was one of the world's most famous and influential composers of classical music. His music has been played all over the world for nearly 200 years. But did you know that Beethoven, who composed a total of nine symphonies during his lifetime, actually lost his hearing while still in his 20s? He went on to write *Symphony No. 2, op. 36 (D Major)*, *Symphony No. 3 Eroica, op. 55 (E flat Major)*, *Symphony No. 4, op. 60 (B flat Major)*, and other great masterpieces after he became deaf!

In fact, many of the world's most famous musicians, composers, and performers have overcome physical limitations and various obstacles. Here's a short list of some of the most well-known musicians and popular performers who are physically challenged.

Itzhak Perlman is a violin virtuoso¹ born in 1945. He received his training at the Academy of Music in Tel Aviv before continuing his studies at Juilliard School in the United States. In 1964, he won the prestigious Leventritt Competition; he has also won several Grammy Awards and appeared on various television shows. Perlman had polio² when he was four years old, resulting in the permanent paralysis³ of his legs.

Ray Charles, who died in 2004, was one of America's most beloved singers, composers, and pianists. He has won dozens of Grammy Awards, is in the Georgia Music Hall of Fame, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and the Jazz Hall of Fame. He also helped racially integrate country and pop music during the 1960s, and a movie of his life was made in 2004. Charles was completely blind from the age of seven due to glaucoma⁴.

Shawn Dale Barnett, despite being deaf since his birth in 1963, was a drummer who owned his own recording company, and performed at both deaf and hearing functions. Among his many accomplishments, Barnett wrote a song for Gallaudet University⁵ students when one of the students was murdered in the fall of 2000. Barnett passed away in February 2003.

Evelyn Glennie, a virtuoso percussionist⁶ from Scotland, has been hearing-impaired since she was 12. She was the first full-time solo percussionist in 20th-century western society. Glennie tours extensively and performs with a wide variety of orchestras and contemporary musicians, giving over 100 concerts a year, as well as master classes and 'music in schools' performances. She received a Grammy Award for Best Chamber Music Performance in 1989.

1. The reading is primarily about _____.
 - A. the different types of awards musicians can receive
 - B. how Beethoven impacted the lives of many other musicians
 - C. a number of musicians who have had different disabilities
 - D. what has inspired many musicians to follow their dreams
2. How many symphonies did Ludwig van Beethoven compose?
 - A. Three
 - B. Nine
 - C. About 20
 - D. 200
3. Which of the following is not mentioned in the reading about Itzhak Perlman?
 - A. He studied at the Academy of Music in Tel Aviv.
 - B. He studied music at Juilliard in the United States.
 - C. He won the Leventritt Competition.
 - D. He has released several violin albums over his career.
4. In paragraph 3, "prestigious" is closest in meaning to _____.
 - A. highly respected
 - B. very expensive
 - C. intelligent
 - D. musical
5. Which of the following is not listed as one of Ray Charles' occupations?
 - A. Singer
 - B. Pianist
 - C. Movie producer
 - D. Composer