

## An inspiring sportsperson

Read about the sportspeople, then do the exercises to practise writing in English.

### Preparation

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

#### Vocabulary

1. ~~g~~... inspiring
2. .... the Paralympic Games
3. .... a medical condition
4. .... professional
5. .... a role model
6. .... an achievement
7. .... a skill
8. .... a victory

#### Definition

- a. a health problem
- b. a person who someone admires and whose behaviour they try to copy
- c. when you win a game or competition
- d. a competition like the Olympics for athletes with disabilities
- e. something very good and difficult that you have succeeded in doing
- f. an ability to do something well, especially because you have practised it
- ~~g. making you feel hopeful or encouraged~~
- h. doing something as a job that is usually done as a hobby

## Reading text

### An inspiring swimmer

I love swimming and I love Ellie Simmonds because she's such a good swimmer! She was the youngest ever British swimmer to compete in the Paralympic Games, aged 13 – and she even won a medal. She went on to win eight Olympic medals, and five of them were gold! Ellie Simmonds has a medical condition called achondroplasia, which affects your height and the length of your arms and legs. Ellie is inspiring because she shows that it doesn't matter what size you are – everyone can achieve great things if they work hard.

### Amazing tennis players

My favourite sport is tennis, and the Williams sisters were amazing tennis players. They started playing when they were four and became professional by the age of 14. They often played matches against each other. Serena has won more tournaments than Venus. She won 23 women's singles titles in Grand Slam tournaments (the four major tennis tournaments worldwide), which is an amazing achievement! Serena and Venus Williams have been role models for many young players. Venus once said 'Just believe in yourself. Even if you don't, just pretend that you do and, at some point, you will.' I love that!

### The greatest footballer of all time

If you're a football fan like me, you're sure to know Lionel Messi! Some people say it's Ronaldo, but for me Messi is the greatest of all time! I like him because of his amazing skills – dribbling, passing and, of course, scoring goals! I was so happy when he led Argentina to victory in the 2022 World Cup final. Messi is inspiring for young people. He's a good friend to his teammates and he said it's more important 'to be a good person than the best player in the world'.

### Top tips

To write about someone you admire, you can write about:

1. why you like them: *I love Ellie Simmonds because she's such a good swimmer*
2. their life: *They started playing when they were four*
3. their achievements: *She won eight Olympic medals*
4. why they are inspiring: *She shows that everyone can achieve great things if they work hard.*

## Tasks

## Task 1


Complete the sentences with words from the box.

role models	professional	medals	greatest
achieve	<del>youngest ever</del>	believe	inspiring

1. Ellie Simmonds was the ..... ~~youngest ever~~ ..... British swimmer to compete in the Paralympic Games.
2. She went on to win eight Olympic .....
3. She shows that everyone can ..... great things if they work hard.
4. Serena and Venus became ..... by the time they were 14.
5. They have been ..... for many young players.
6. Venus said 'Just ..... in yourself.'
7. Lots of people think Messi is the ..... of all time.
8. He's ..... for young people.

**Write and draw**

Which sportsperson do you like? What are their achievements and why are they so inspiring? Write about them and draw a picture!



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## Answers

### Preparation task

1. g
2. d
3. a
4. h
5. b
6. e
7. f
8. c

### Task 1

1. youngest ever
2. medals
3. achieve
4. professional
5. role models
6. believe
7. greatest
8. inspiring