

# 6

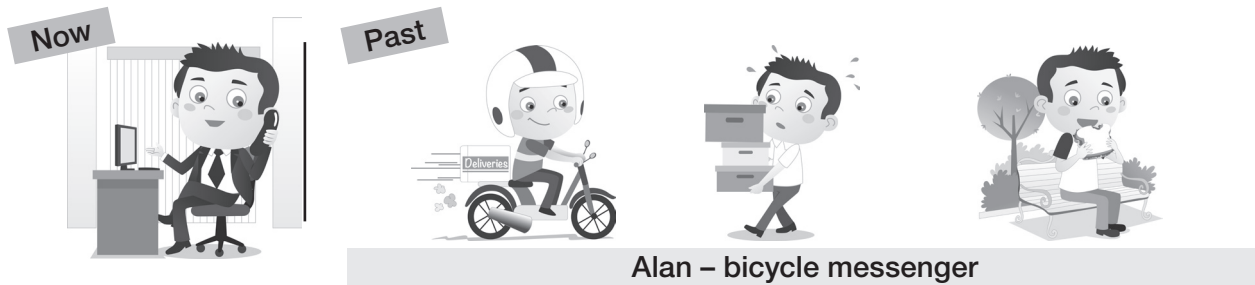
## Achievements and Regrets

- A. Look at the photo albums. The first picture shows the people now, and the other pictures in the row show them in the past. Write about the people in the past.



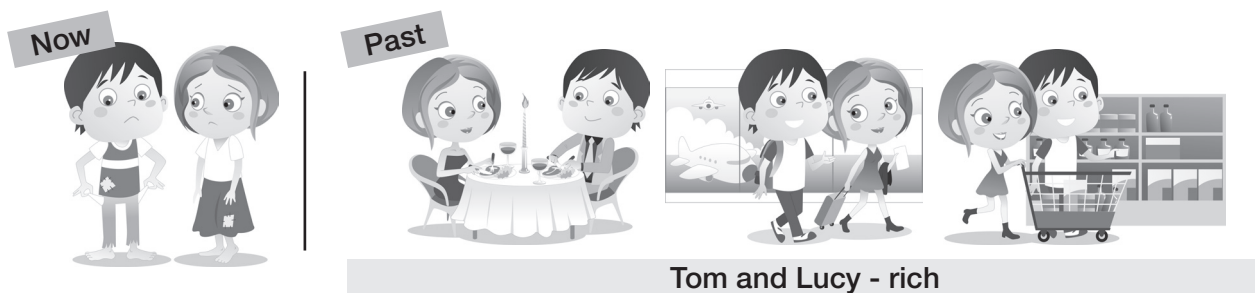
*Gaby used to live in Acapulco. She would . . .*

*She would go to the beach, ride boats and go to the local market.*



*Alan used to be a bicycle messenger. He would ride his bicycle, deliver packages*

*and have lunch in the park.*



*Tom and Lucy used to be rich. They would have dinners in fancy restaurants, travel*

*around the world and go shopping.*

- B. Write about yourself. *Answers will vary.*

When I was little, I used to \_\_\_\_\_ . I would \_\_\_\_\_ .

When my parents were young, they used to \_\_\_\_\_ . They would \_\_\_\_\_ .

C. Write two sentences for each of the following situations.

1. Sandra didn't study for the examination.

She copied from one of her classmates and was caught by her teacher.

*Sandra should have studied for the exam.*

*Sandra shouldn't have copied from her classmate.*

2. Julia and Max went camping. They didn't tell anybody where they were going.

Unfortunately, they got lost. Max had left his cell phone in the tent.

*Julia and Max should have told someone where they were going.*

*Max should have brought his cell phone with him*

3. Phil was caught stealing a digital camera from a girl at school. He was expelled by the principal.

*Phil shouldn't have stolen a digital camera from a girl at school.*

*Phil should have worked hard to buy himself a digital camera.*

4. Danny and Jen love each other very much. They went to a party last night.

Danny caught Jen flirting with another boy. They have broken up.

*Danny and Jen shouldn't have loved each other that much.*

*Jen shouldn't have flirted with another boy.*

5. Harry finished work late. He was exhausted. He began the journey back to his house, but was in an accident on his way home. His car wasn't insured.

*Harry shouldn't have worked until he felt exhausted.*

*Harry shouldn't have driven his car.*

D. What do you regret? Complete the sentences about yourself using *should have* and *shouldn't have*. *Answers will vary.*

1. When I was at elementary school, I \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. A few years ago, I \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. A year ago, I \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. A month ago, I \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. Yesterday, I \_\_\_\_\_ .
6. This morning, I \_\_\_\_\_ .

E. Look at the pictures. Write sentences using *be able to*, *not be able to*, and *be unable to* in the past tense.

*Patty / pass the test*



1. *Patty was not able to pass the test.*

*Sylvia / go to the party*



3. *Sylvia was unable to go to the party.*

*Ralph / get Smarte's autograph*



5. *Ralph was able to get Smarte's autograph.*

*The firefighter / help Mrs Green's cat*



2. *The firefighter was able to help Mrs. Green's cat.*

*Jim and Dave / buy tickets for the concert*



4. *Jim and Dave were not able to buy tickets for the concert.*

*The mechanic / repair the car*



6. *The mechanic was unable to repair the car.*

F. Rewrite the sentences using *be able*, *not be able*, or *be unable* in the past tense.

1. They managed to find the lost keys.  
*They were able to find the lost keys.*
2. Three years ago I couldn't speak a word of English.  
*Three years ago I was unable to speak a word of English.*
3. Martha managed to make friends in her new school quickly.  
*Martha was able to make friends in her new school quickly.*
4. We couldn't solve the problem.  
*We were unable to solve the problem.*



**G.** Read the article and find the information asked for below.

There have been many child prodigies—children who show an amazing talent at an early age. The talent is usually in music, mathematics, or athletics. For example, there are stories of babies who play nursery songs on the piano on their own.

One of the factors in prodigies is hereditary. But there is also a clear connection between parents' involvement and the development of their children's talent. This can be from simple encouragement to obsessive pushing. Cellist Janos Starker's mother used to make tiny sandwiches and leave them on his music stand so that he wouldn't have to stop playing for a snack. She even taught a parrot to repeat these three words: "Practice, Janos, practice." Starker went on to have a distinguished musical career. More disturbing is the story of pianist Ruth Slezynska, who made her debut at the age of four. In her autobiography, she told how her father made her practice nine hours a day. He would beat her if she played a single wrong note. At fifteen, she suffered a major breakdown that ended her career.

Not all parents of prodigies are as controlling. Kit Armstrong showed amazing talent for both music and mathematics. By age 9, he had started college. His mother encouraged him. She moved them to London so that Kit could pursue a musical career. However, she said that she would have preferred he had studied mathematics because it was an easier life. But she supported his choice, and getting an M.A. in mathematics became just a hobby for Kit.

A spark of genius, intense study, and parental support seem to create a prodigy, though success can come at a high cost.

1. Names of three musical prodigies: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Janos Starker, Ruth Slezynska, Kit Armstrong.*
2. Two circumstances that can contribute to creating a child prodigy:  
*An innate talent or genius, intense study and parental support.*
3. A bad aspect of being a child prodigy: \_\_\_\_\_  
*It may come at a high cost in the genius' personal life.*

**H. Writing Corner**

Imagine you have an extraordinary talent that sets you apart from others. What talent would you choose? What steps would you have to take in order to fulfill your potential? What price would you have to pay for success? Write your ideas.

*Answers will vary.*