

A day in the life of Matías



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Hello! My name's Matías. I'm 10 years old and I'm in 5th form. I'm from a small city in the province of Buenos Aires. I live in a house with my mum, dad and my brother, Valentín. Valentín is 15 years old. We've got four pets: three dogs and a **tortoise**.

From Monday to Friday, I get up at seven o'clock, I put on my jeans, trainers, T-shirt and **hoodie**, and I have breakfast. I usually have coffee with milk and some **toast**. My mum prepares it for me. Then I take my backpack and go to school. The school isn't **far** but my mum takes me in her car.

Lessons start at about eight o'clock. In the classroom, I sit at the front, next to Vicentino, and very near the teacher's desk. As I can't see the board, the teacher dictates all the activities to me and I write them in my notebook with a marker. All the materials that I use are adapted. For example, all my texts are **in large print** or recorded, and I usually study by listening to the audios. My favourite subject at school is physical education and my best friends are Lautaro and Joaquín. At about **half past twelve**, I go back home and have lunch.



Subject Hello from Argentina!

On Monday afternoons, I go to another school. There I learn to use some **maths instruments**, like the ruler or **compass**, the **screen reader** or the **text magnifier**. Tuesdays are busy days too. In the afternoons, I have extra English and music lessons. In music lessons, I learn to play many instruments but my favourite is the drums. On Wednesday afternoons, I have an online meeting with Natalia and other children. Natalia is a **therapist** at 'Grupo CRE', an Educational Resource Centre for Visually Impaired People, located in Buenos Aires City. We usually talk about school while I have some chocolate milk or yoghurt. On Friday afternoons, I have information and communication technology lessons. I learn to use the computer, especially the **keyboard**, some software, how to send emails, open **files** and write.

In my free time, I like playing football with my dad. I use an audible ball. It has got a **rattle** so I can hear it. Sometimes, I have an online meeting with 'Los Murciélagos', the national football team for blind people. They teach me how to play football better. In the evenings, I have a shower. Then, I have dinner, brush my teeth and go to sleep at about half past ten.



SOCIAL SKILLS

Develop awareness of people with disabilities and their needs.

Think, share and play!

1 Some people have got a disability. Underline the disabilities you know. Then match and answer.

- 1 autism
- 2 blindness
- 3 deafness
- 4 low vision
- 5 hard of hearing
- 6 paraplegia
- 7 Down syndrome
- 8 quadriplegia

disability: a physical or mental condition that limits a person's movements, senses or activities



Which disability has Matías got?

2 As Matías has got a physical disability, there are things he can do and things he can't do. Underline all the correct options.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 He can see very little. | 5 He can listen to dictations. |
| 2 He can see from a long distance. | 6 He can read any text. |
| 3 He can play football. | 7 He can copy from the board. |
| 4 He can use a computer. | |

3 Write *T* (for True) or *F* (for False).

- 1 Matías lives in a house in a big city.
- 2 He lives with his mum, dad and brothers.
- 3 He has got four dogs.
- 4 He usually gets up an hour before school.
- 5 His mum prepares breakfast.
- 6 He goes to school by car.
- 7 He plays football with his dad.
- 8 'Los Murciélagos' teach him to use the computer.

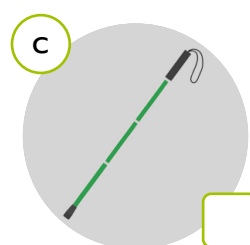
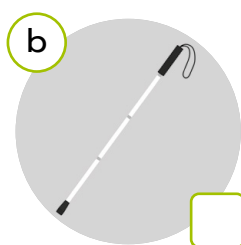
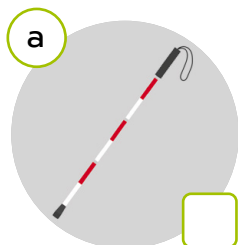


4 Read, match and learn. Then discuss: Why is it important to know about the different canes? 


Did you know?

There are different types of visual impairment. Some people have got low vision (they see very little and from a short distance), some are blind (they can't see) and some are deafblind (they can't see or hear). These people usually use a cane. These canes are of different colours and mean different things.

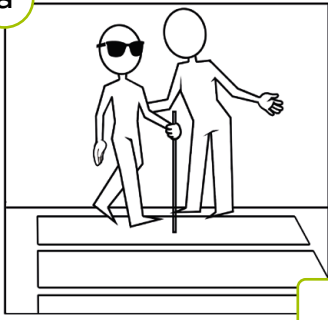
- 1 This cane is white and it is for blind people.
- 2 This cane is green and it is for people with low vision.
- 3 This cane is red and white and it is for deafblind people.

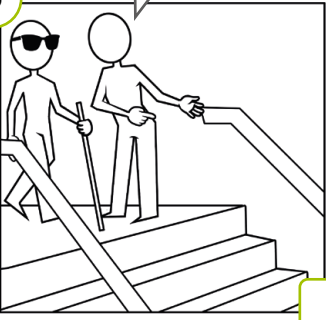


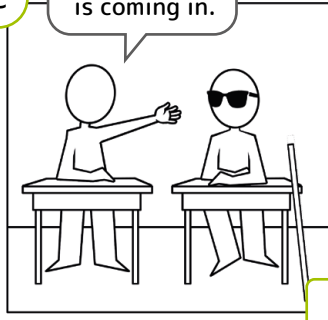


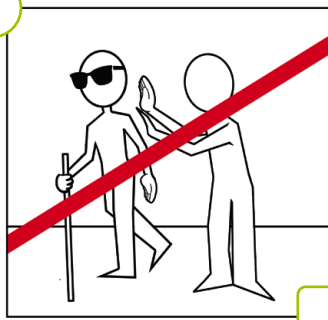
5 Read, match and learn how you can help a person with visual impairment. Then discuss: Can you think of other ideas? 


- 1 Don't push them or grab their clothes.
- 2 Don't touch or grab their cane.
- 3 Offer them help to cross the street.
- 4 Give them directions.
- 5 Take obstacles off their way.
- 6 Tell them what's happening (for example, 'The teacher is entering the classroom.')

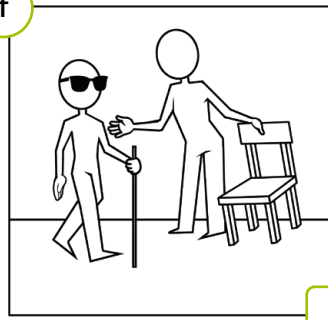
a 

b 

c 

d 

e 

f 



6 Let's raise awareness! What do you think other people should know about visual impairment? Make a poster.