

# Unit 7 Childhood memories

KEY READING SKILL INFERRING MEANING

KEY VOCABULARY SKILL WORDS WITH DIFFERENT MEANINGS

## Focus

- 1 Look at these pictures and read the information.

**childhood** *noun*  
the time of your life when you are a child



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Did you know ...?  
Most people can remember experiences from three or four years of age.

- Learning a musical instrument can improve your memory.
- Some research has suggested that women have earlier memories than men!

- 2 Do you have a good memory? What's your earliest memory?

## Think about it

- 1 Check (✓) the things you remember from your childhood.

From your childhood, do you remember ...

- |   |                          |                    |   |                          |                        |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------|---|--------------------------|------------------------|
| a | <input type="checkbox"/> | a song you liked?  | e | <input type="checkbox"/> | a hobby you enjoyed?   |
| b | <input type="checkbox"/> | a good friend?     | f | <input type="checkbox"/> | food you liked to eat? |
| c | <input type="checkbox"/> | your grandparents? | g | <input type="checkbox"/> | a toy you played with? |
| d | <input type="checkbox"/> | a pet you had?     | h | <input type="checkbox"/> | clothes you wore?      |

- 2 Make a group and share your memories.



**1 Read this text. Choose the correct meaning of each word in *italics*.**

**Tom and I**

My best friend in elementary school was Tom. When we met, he was six and so was I. We were in the same <sup>a</sup> *class* in school. We sat together and always <sup>b</sup> *played* together in the <sup>c</sup> *break*. His family lived near my family, so we <sup>d</sup> *saw* each other after school most days. In the summer, we went swimming in the ocean when the weather was <sup>e</sup> *hot*. In the winter, we played video games a lot. When his family moved to another city, I was very sad. I'll never forget the times we <sup>f</sup> *spent* together.



- |   |                  |                     |
|---|------------------|---------------------|
| a | 1 social group   | 2 group of students |
| b | 1 had fun        | 2 made music        |
| c | 1 short vacation | 2 time for rest     |
| d | 1 visited        | 2 looked at         |
| e | 1 very warm      | 2 spicy             |
| f | 1 paid out       | 2 had               |

**2 Complete each pair of sentences with the same word.**

- a When I \_\_\_\_\_ my eyes, I can still see all my childhood friends. Anne and I were very \_\_\_\_\_ when we were younger.
- b I remember my uncle \_\_\_\_\_ . He was always very helpful and \_\_\_\_\_ . What \_\_\_\_\_ of music did you like when you were younger?
- c For my first date, I decided to \_\_\_\_\_ a table in an expensive restaurant. The most interesting \_\_\_\_\_ I read as a teenager was *The Catcher in the Rye*.
- d Can you see that house on the \_\_\_\_\_ ? I lived there as a child. My grandfather \_\_\_\_\_ school at 14 and got a job.

## Predicting

You're going to read some messages on a blog. Look at these names, and guess where each person is from.

- |   |         |   |           |
|---|---------|---|-----------|
| a | Carla   | 1 | Hong Kong |
| b | Daisuke | 2 | Mexico    |
| c | Ricardo | 3 | Japan     |
| d | Terri   | 4 | Canada    |
| e | Leung   | 5 | Italy     |

## Reading fluently



Read the text quickly. Time yourself, and record your time in the chart on page 6.

# Welcome to my blog

**Stephen Williams** Friday, June 21



Today I went to the beach. It was my first day at the ocean for many years. The sound and smell of the ocean brought back memories of the great family vacations when I was a child. We always went to the beach for a week in the summer. I remembered playing for hours in the sand with my sister and crying when I couldn't have any ice cream. Oh, and I remembered finding a huge jellyfish on the beach, and running away because I was scared! Amazing, really, the things you remember from your childhood ...



## Comments

➤ Yeah, I remember going for long walks in the countryside. I guess I was only eight or nine. In the winter, my mom made soup, and I can still remember the wonderful smell! When we got home, I always went straight to sleep ...

**Carla, Mexico**

➤ What a great story! I remember going to the beach, too – on Christmas Day! My family lived in Australia when I was young. I remember waking up early. After we opened our presents, we always went to the beach and had a barbecue.

**Leung, Hong Kong**

➤ The best memory I have is playing my first video game, *Super Mario*. I remember thinking that it was amazing. It was my tenth birthday and I still remember opening the box.

**Daisuke, Japan**

➤ I like your story about Christmas, Leung. When I read it, I remembered Halloween one year when I was a child. I wore a Superwoman costume and went to a barbecue with my brothers ... I can remember eating my first kebab! I didn't know what it was, but I liked the spicy sauce!

**Terri, Canada**

➤ I remember playing soccer on the beach. I was nine. I fell and hurt my leg, so my sister took me home.

**Ricardo, Italy**

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**jellyfish** *noun*  
a soft, transparent sea animal that can sting you

**costume** *noun*  
clothes that the actors wear in a play or a film

**kebab** *noun*  
a food that consists of small pieces of meat and vegetables cooked on a stick

## Understanding the text

### 1 Read these questions and write your answers.

- a Where did Stephen's family go on vacation in the summer? \_\_\_\_\_
- b Who does he remember playing with on the beach? \_\_\_\_\_
- c How often does Stephen go to the beach these days? \_\_\_\_\_
- d What did he see that made him scared? \_\_\_\_\_
- e How did he feel when he saw the jellyfish? \_\_\_\_\_

### 2 Complete each sentence with one word.

- a Ricardo's memory is from when he was \_\_\_\_\_ years old.
- b Terri remembers wearing a \_\_\_\_\_ costume.
- c Daisuke remembers the present he received on his \_\_\_\_\_ birthday.
- d Carla says her mom made soup in the \_\_\_\_\_ .
- e Leung's family always had a \_\_\_\_\_ on Christmas Day.

### 3 How many people have memories connected with ...

- a food? \_\_\_\_\_
- b the beach? \_\_\_\_\_
- c a time they felt unhappy? \_\_\_\_\_
- d a time they felt happy? \_\_\_\_\_
- e a special day or event? \_\_\_\_\_

### 4 With a partner, write three questions about the text. Then ask your questions to your classmates.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### 5 Think of a special memory from your childhood connected with one of the following. Write notes.

food   friends   a vacation   a birthday   the beach   a party

### 6 Make a group and share your memories.



**1 Look again at the blog. Circle the correct words to complete the sentences.**

- a Stephen *enjoyed* / *didn't enjoy* family vacations when he was young.
- b He was *surprised* / *wasn't surprised* by the memories from his childhood.
- c Carla found the family walks very *easy* / *tiring*.
- d Carla *liked* / *didn't like* the soup her mother made.
- e Ricardo's sister is probably *younger* / *older* than him.
- f The weather in Australia is *hot and sunny* / *cold and wet* in December.

**2 Read this text. Then check (✓) which statements you can infer.**

**Zeynep**

I remember when I was seven years old. There was a girl named Zeynep in my English class. I often sat next to her because I wanted to speak to her, but I was too nervous. I remember one day she asked to use my pen. I gave her my pen and said she could keep it. Then she held my hand. It was the happiest moment of my life!



**Aslan, Turkey**

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- a  Zeynep was about the same age as Aslan.
- b  Zeynep and Aslan are friends today.
- c  Aslan was shy when he was seven.
- d  Zeynep was good at English.
- e  Aslan liked Zeynep.

**3 Look at these common sayings about childhood. What do you think each saying means? Discuss your ideas with a partner.**

“ Children should be seen and not heard. ”

“ Spare the rod and spoil the child. ”

“ Youth is wasted on the young. ”

## Spotlight on grammar: Articles

Study the examples, and then choose the best answer to complete each sentence.

- (definite *the*) I remember going for long walks in **the** countryside.  
(indefinite *a/an*) They had **a** barbecue on Christmas Day every year.  
(zero) We always went on vacation for two weeks in August.

1 Tim remembers \_\_\_\_\_ best music teacher in high school.

- a the
- b a
- c —
- d an

5 We all enjoyed our trip to Europe. It was \_\_\_\_\_ great experience.

- a the
- b —
- c an
- d a

2 I really liked to play \_\_\_\_\_ soccer when I was young.

- a a
- b —
- c the
- d an

6 My family lived in \_\_\_\_\_ Thailand until 2002, so I grew up there.

- a an
- b a
- c —
- d the

3 Johan can never forget learning to play \_\_\_\_\_ violin as a child. He hated it!

- a —
- b a
- c an
- d the

7 I thought Bangkok was \_\_\_\_\_ interesting city to live in.

- a the
- b a
- c —
- d an

4 We always went swimming in \_\_\_\_\_ ocean before we went to bed.

- a a
- b the
- c —
- d an

8 Probably \_\_\_\_\_ happiest time in my life was when I was in elementary school.

- a —
- b a
- c the
- d an

## Talk about it

1 Think about a special place you remember from your childhood. Write notes.

- Where do you remember? → How old were you when you went there? →  
What did you do there? → Why do you remember this place? →  
Do you still go there now?

2 Interview a partner.