

Reading Sheet 1



An acrobat is someone who does daring tumbling and balancing tricks like somersaults and walking on a tightrope.

Acrobats often work in a circus and travel around to different places where they entertain the audience with their tricks.

An acrobat is one type of entertainer. Entertainers provide the opportunity for people to relax and have fun. They put on a show to which people come to watch.

Most circuses are in a big tent where many different acts keep the people laughing and wondering how they manage to do such clever things.

This acrobat has been learning to balance and tumble ever since he was a baby. Both of his parents are acrobats in the circus and so are his two sisters.

Every day he works at his routine with the rest of his family. He works hard to make every movement look easy. It often takes months to work out and practice a routine that will thrill the audience and that everyone in his family can do.

This boy is still at school and so has to fit school work around his work too. It is not easy to do this especially as the circus is often travelling from place to place. He has to do his schoolwork in a special caravan with the other children who belong to the circus. Their school is a very long way away. The school sends out the work for the children to do and one of the parents helps them. They also have lessons over the telephone and computer. Then the children are able to speak to their teachers.

Most of the children enjoy working in the circus and love the excitement of the music and the crowds of people watching them.

It can be very tiring though as often there are two performances every day and schoolwork has to be fitted in too. The children also have to help to set up the circus tents and to pack them away again when they move on to a new town.

Much of the time is spent living in a caravan and practicing, practicing and practicing, so although it would be fun to live and work in a circus it is also very hard work.

Comprehension sheet 1



1. What does this boy do?

2. Where does the boy live?

3. How many other people work with him?

4. What does the boy need to do every day to make the act work well?

5. How does the boy manage to do his schoolwork?

6. What work did the boy do to help at the circus?

7. What act would you like to do in a circus?

Extension

List all the acts that you know would be performed in a circus.

Level 8

Activity sheet 1

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

1. Put these words into alphabetical order.

Circus perform entertain acrobat practice work

acrobat

2. Look at these words. They have a letter missing. Write the words again and put in the missing letter.

acr bat _____

ent rtain _____

cir us _____

perfo m _____

3. See if you can unjumble these words. The first letter is underlined to help you.

uirccs

tarbaoc

fomeprr

4. Look at these words and see if you can match them with their meanings

- (a) acrobat
- (b) perform
- (c) circus
- (d) practice
- (e) tent

- A shelter held up by poles
- A show in a big tent
- something that you do many times to get better
- to do something in front of a group of people
- someone who does daring tumbles and balancing tricks.