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The World of Limitless Possibilities



Reflect and Respond



I This is a picture of Sheetal Devi, a para-archer who was honoured with the Arjuna Award in January 2024.

1. Look at the picture carefully and share your observations with your classmates and teacher.
2. Does this personality inspire you? Explain how.
3. Give a caption for this picture.



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II Complete the table given below about Paralympics. Share your responses with your classmates and teacher.

What I know	What I want to know



Reading for Meaning

I

Ever wondered what happens when incredible athletes defy the odds and showcase their exceptional skills on a global stage? Well, enter the world of Paralympic Games, a thrilling celebration of **resilience**, and extraordinary talent of athletes with **locomotor**, sensory, or intellectual disabilities. Paralympics go beyond competition, to **quell** stereotypes and redefine possibilities.

resilience:
ability to recover quickly from difficult circumstances

locomotor:
related to bones, joints, or muscles

quell:
to overcome



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Bharat's debut in the Paralympics dates back to 1968, and the first medal was clinched in swimming in 1972. Since then, many Indian Paralympians have brought incredible honour to our country. One such Paralympian, Dr. Deepa Malik, a Khel Ratna, Arjuna, and Padma Shri Awardee, has left an **indelible** mark on innumerable aspiring athletes.

indelible:
enduring or permanent

Read the following interview.

INTERVIEWER: Namaste, ma'am! It is my privilege to have this opportunity to meet a famous personality in the world of Paralympics, such as you.

DR. MALIK: Namaste! Believe me, I'm truly honoured.

INTERVIEWER: You've been listed as one of the 10 most inspirational women para-athletes globally by the International Paralympic Committee. How did you brave the odds to be who you are today?

DR. MALIK: I was 29, an awful tragedy struck me when I was diagnosed with spine tumour. I underwent a surgery, but misfortune raised its ugly head again. The doctors declared that I would be bound to a wheelchair for the rest of my life, as I was paralysed waist down. I had two choices—**squander** my life in **remorse** or transform it to a world of limitless possibilities.



squander:
waste

remorse:
regret

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trailblazer:
pioneer or leader

coveted:
strongly desired by many

accolades:
praise and honours

proponent:
a person who speaks in support of a particular idea or action

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I love sports and had been a swimmer too, so I decided to switch to para-athletics. This is how my Paralympics journey began. My breakthrough moment came in the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games, when I secured the silver medal in the shot-put event. In hindsight, I feel it was a moment of personal victory and a step forward in changing perceptions.

INTERVIEWER: You're a **trailblazer**—the first ever Indian female para-athlete to win an Asian Games medal in athletics. You're also India's first ever female Paralympics medallist across any sport and the list of 'firsts' is never ending. You've been bestowed with several **coveted** awards too. What do these accomplishments mean to you?

DR. MALIK: I truly appreciate these **accolades** that have been showered on me. These achievements are a testimony to my belief that physical limitations don't define one's potential. Moreover, I'm a **proponent** of the school of thought, 'ability beyond disability'.

INTERVIEWER: That's incredible. Could you share something about the challenges you faced in your journey and how you overcame them?

DR. MALIK: One of the significant challenges for me was societal perceptions.

People often underestimated my abilities. Overcoming this required not only physical strength but also mental resilience. I embraced challenges as opportunities to prove my capabilities. The support of my family, coupled with my **fortitude**, allowed me to turn obstacles into stepping stones.

INTERVIEWER: Your story is indeed a **testament** to the power of determination. How do you believe sports and Paralympics can contribute to challenging societal stereotypes? What has been the impact of Paralympics in your life?

DR. MALIK: Honestly, I feel sports, especially Paralympics, have the extraordinary ability to challenge stereotypes and change attitudes towards disability. When people witness the strength, skill, and competitive spirit of para-athletes, it breaks down **preconceived notions**. Paralympics has given me a new lease of life and helped me push boundaries. It has made me what I am today. It has made me realise that individuals with disabilities can be as capable, if not more than their able-bodied counterparts.

INTERVIEWER: Beyond the medals, you've become vocal for **inclusivity** and accessibility. How do you see your role in **advocating** for disability rights and inclusivity?

fortitude:
strength to face adversity or difficulty

testament:
proof

preconceived notions:
opinions about something even before knowing the truth

inclusivity:
including everyone and their thoughts and treating them equally

advocating:
supporting or suggesting an idea

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unleashed:
release of
something
powerful that
cannot be
controlled

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DR. MALIK:

Advocacy is integral to my mission. I strongly believe in working for the cause of strengthening the emotional health of persons with challenges and empowering women through outdoor sports and adventure activities. I also support persons from lower socio-economic strata and provide equipment to para sportspersons. I believe youth is the voice of tomorrow. So, we organise disability sports awareness and advocacy sessions at various schools and colleges. My goal is to contribute to create a society where everyone, regardless of ability, is treated with dignity and given a fair chance to succeed.

INTERVIEWER:

Lastly, what advice do you have for individuals facing challenges or setbacks, especially those with disabilities, who aspire to achieve their goals?

DR. MALIK:

I would say, every setback is an opportunity to prove your strength. Surround yourself with a support system, believe in yourself, and let your journey inspire others. Remember, disability is not a limitation; it's a unique strength waiting to be **unleashed**.

INTERVIEWER:

Thank you for sharing your insights. Your story is undoubtedly inspirational.

DR. MALIK:

Thank you for having me! It's been a pleasure.





Check Your Understanding

- I Fill in the fact table given below based on the interview with Dr. Deepa Malik. Discuss your answers with your classmates and teacher.

Fact Table	
1. diagnosed with spinal tumour at the age of	
2. result of the surgery	
3. named as one of the 10 most effective para-athletes by	
4. first successful Paralympic event	
5. list of 'firsts'	(i) (ii)
6. awards won	(i) (ii) (iii)
7. two things supported by her	(i) (ii)

- II Read the two sets of sentences given below.

Choose whether the given statements display:
fact-opinion or cause-effect.

(1)

- (i) In the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games, I secured the silver medal in the shot-put event.
- (ii) I feel it was a moment of personal victory and a step forward in changing perceptions.

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(2)

- (i) I was diagnosed with a tumour in my spine.
- (ii) I had a surgery and was told that I would be bound to a wheelchair for the rest of my life.

Knowing the difference between **fact** (evidence/factual information that can be proved to be true) and **opinion** (writer's beliefs/perception) helps us understand the text better.

Understanding the relationship between **cause** (actions/events) and **effect** (outcomes) is also helpful in deeper analysis of the text.

III Work in pairs to identify which of these pairs of sentences show:

- 1. cause-effect
- 2. fact-opinion

Write 1 or 2 in the boxes given.

- (i) Dr. Deepa Malik was a member of the Working Group for the Formulation of Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012–17).

It is believed that she contributed greatly to create better sports policies for the persons with disabilities.

- (ii) Paralympics showcases incredible talent and determination of para-athletes.

The global perception on disabilities shifts, inspiring para-athletes to pursue their dreams.



Critical Reflection

I Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

- 1. *I had two choices—squander my life in remorse or transform it to a world of limitless possibilities.*



I love sports and had been a swimmer too, so I decided to switch to para-athletics. This is how my Paralympics journey began. My breakthrough moment came in the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games, when I secured the silver medal in the shot-put event. In hindsight, I feel it was a moment of personal victory and a step forward in changing perceptions.

(i) Give a reason for the following statement.

The speaker's decision to transform her life can be likened to the concept of a caterpillar transforming into a butterfly.

(ii) Why could the speaker switch to para-athletics quite comfortably?

(iii) Complete the sentence with an appropriate reason.

The speaker calls 2016 Rio Paralympic Games as a 'breakthrough moment' because _____.

(iv) Select the correct option to complete the sentence.

The phrase 'in hindsight' indicates the speaker is _____.

- A. curious
- B. reflective
- C. determined
- D. courageous

(v) The speaker uses the phrase 'changing perceptions'. List one likely perception the speaker might have changed.

2. *Honestly, I feel sports, especially Paralympics, have the extraordinary ability to challenge stereotypes and change attitudes towards disability. When people witness the strength, skill, and competitive spirit of para-athletes, it breaks down preconceived notions. Paralympics has given me a new lease of life and helped me push boundaries.*

(i) Choose the option that lists the words to describe the tone of the speaker.



- A. appreciative
- B. moralistic
- C. sentimental
- D. optimistic
- E. defensive
- (a) A and D
- (b) B, D, and E
- (c) B and C
- (d) A, C, and E

(ii) Complete the analogy given below with a word from the extract.

ability : potential :: preconceived notions:

(iii) State whether the following sentence is true or false.

Paralympics is a platform that not only showcases the remarkable abilities of para-athletes but also questions stereotypes.

(iv) What does 'helped me push boundaries' tell us about the speaker?

(v) Which phrase from the extract suggests that the speaker was able to transform her life?

II Answer the following questions.

1. Explain how Dr. Malik's achievements challenge societal perceptions.
2. What can be the long-term impact of involving youth in schools and colleges in advocacy with respect to disability?
3. Rationalise the appropriateness of the title of this text with reference to Dr. Deepa Malik's attitude and achievements.
4. "Every setback is an opportunity to prove your strength". How might this be a life lesson for every individual, and not just sportspersons?



5. Examine how Dr. Deepa Malik's recognition as one of the 10 most inspirational para-athletes globally contributes to the larger discourse on gender equality in sports.
6. How might Dr. Deepa Malik's thought, 'ability beyond disability', serve as a guideline for success for all future para-athletes?
7. What have you learnt from this interview, and how can you implement these learnings in your life?



Vocabulary and Structures in Context

- I Work in pairs. Match the given phrases in Column 1 with their meanings in Column 2. Use the phrases in sentences of your own.

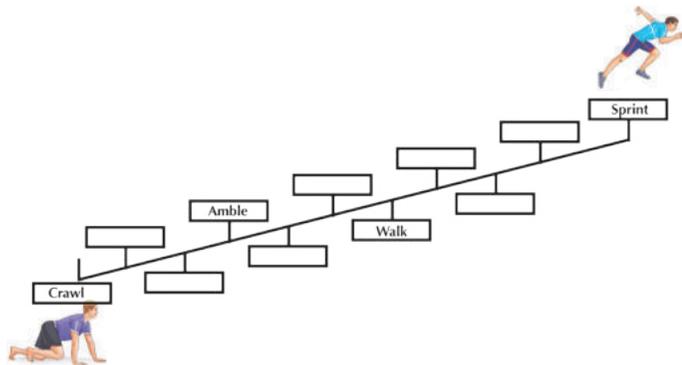
Column 1	Column 2
1. defy the odds	(i) a time of significant development or discovery
2. a new lease of life	(ii) overcome challenges and achieve goals
3. in hindsight	(iii) succeed in doing something when most people think it would result in failure
4. breakthrough moment	(iv) ability to understand something after it has happened
5. turn obstacles into stepping stones	(v) an occasion when you become more energetic and active than earlier



II A common word used in athletics is 'sprinting' which relates to movement. Read the words related to movement given in the box below.

Arrange them on the word cline in increasing order of pace from the slowest to the fastest. Some examples have been done for you.

crawl	amble	walk	jog
saunter	dart	sprint	stroll
run	plod	creep	



III Match the highlighted verbs in Column 1 with their functions in Column 2. There are two extra functions that you do not need.

Column 1	Column 2
1. I could hear the audience clapping.	(i) promise
2. It couldn't be helped.	(ii) possibility
3. I should give it my best shot.	(iii) prediction
4. I knew if I tried, I would win.	(iv) obligation
	(v) past ability
	(vi) impossibility



The verbs in bold are called modal auxiliaries. Each of these modal verbs can perform various functions based on the situation in which they are used.

IV Read the table which shows other functions of the modal auxiliaries.

Modal Verbs	Functions
1. could	(i) possibility (ii) unreal ability (iii) request (iv) suggestion
2. couldn't	(i) inability
3. should	(i) probability (ii) advice
4. would	(i) request (ii) past habit

Now, make sentences with the modal verbs given in the table above with each function of the modal verbs. Mention the function in brackets.

V Read the following sentences.

- Interviewer: You've been listed as one of the 10 most inspirational women para-athletes globally by the International Paralympic Committee.
- Dr. Malik: I love sports and had been a swimmer too, so I decided to switch to para-athletics.

The sentences given above are in _____.

(Direct Speech/Reported Speech)

The sentences given above are _____ sentences.
(declarative/interrogative/exclamatory/imperative)

Now, work in pairs. Observe the changes from Column 1 to Column 2. Note these changes in Column 3. One example has been done for you.



Column 1 Direct Speech	Column 2 Reported Speech	Column 3 Changes Noted
Interviewer: You've been listed as one of the ten most inspirational women para-athletes globally by the International Paralympic Committee.	The interviewer said that she had been listed as one of the 10 most inspirational women para-athletes globally by the International Paralympic Committee.	1. 'said' added 2. that—linking word added 3. have been → had been 4. you → she
Dr. Malik: I love sports and had been a swimmer too, and so I decided to switch to para-athletics.	Dr. Malik said that she loved sports and had been a swimmer too, and so she had decided to switch to para-athletics.	1. 2. 3. I → she 4. 5. 6. decided → had decided
Interviewer: Your story is indeed a testament to the power of determination.	The interviewer said that her story was indeed a testament to the power of determination.	1. 2. 3. 4.
Dr. Malik: I believe youth is the voice of tomorrow.	Dr. Malik says that she believes youth is the voice of tomorrow.	1. 2.

Steps to Remember

Use reporting verbs said, told, or says.

Remove quotation marks.

Add linking word 'that' after the reporting verb.



VI Read the conversation given below.

- SIYA I WATCHED A DOCUMENTARY ON THE PARA EQUESTRIAN EVENT ON TELEVISION LAST NIGHT.
- TARUN I DIDN'T KNOW PARALYMPICS HAS EQUESTRIAN EVENTS.



- SIYA It does. It was so interesting to watch.
- TARUN That's wonderful. So, para equestrians must be training for months for this.
- SIYA They also have to find and develop their own style of communication with their horse.
- TARUN I will watch this documentary the next weekend.

Change the conversation given above to reported speech.

Siya said that she 1. _____
_____. Tarun replied that he hadn't known that Paralympics had equestrian events. Siya added that 2. _____
_____. Tarun remarked that it was wonderful and that para equestrians must be training for months for that. Siya replied that 3. _____
_____. Tarun said that 4. _____
_____.





Listen and Respond

I You will listen to an announcement for special assembly in school. As you listen, fill in the blanks with one or two exact words. (Transcript for teacher on page 268)

1. The venue for the special assembly is the _____.
2. A presentation on inclusion will be made by the _____.
3. The dance performance will focus on the themes of _____ and _____.
4. A _____ will be conducted by experts who support inclusion.
5. The celebration will end with a _____ to encourage team work.



Speaking Activity

I Interview the Sports Captain and the Sports Coach of your school.

Note that the interview of the Sports Captain is informal, and that of the Sports Coach is formal.



Work in pairs. One of you can be the interviewer and the other the interviewee in the informal interview. Interchange your role for the formal one.

Informal	Formal
Hello! I'm so glad that you agreed to meet me for this interview.	Good morning, it is my privilege to get this opportunity to have this interaction with you.
Tell me about yourself and your love for sports.	Could you tell me how your journey in sports began?



Did you face any challenges? How did you deal with them?	Could you share something about the challenges you faced and how you overcame them?
What are some impressive achievements you've had? How do you feel about them?	You've received many accolades. What do these accomplishments mean to you?
What would you like to say to your peers or juniors who are interested in sports?	What advice do you have for aspiring athletes?



Writing Task

I Read the details about a notice in the table given below.

What is a notice?	A notice is generally written to convey some information to students, or a specific group of people.
A notice tells us about...	An event, a celebration, a competition, important information, lost/found article
Format of a notice	<p style="text-align: center;">Name of Organisation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NOTICE</p> <p>Date</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Heading</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Details</p> <p>Signature Name Designation</p>



- II The Sports Club of your school is organising an Inter-school Athletic Meet. As the Sports Captain, draft a notice in not more than 50 words asking interested students to register themselves for selection in different events. Add all necessary details. Do not forget to design your notice within a box.



Learning Beyond the Text

- I Did you know?

The origin of Paralympics can be traced back to the year 1948, when Sir Ludwig Guttmann, organised a sports competition for war veterans with spinal cord-related injuries in England. The Stoke Mandeville Games was the Olympic-style games for differently-abled athletes. It was organised for the first time in Rome in 1960 and since then the game has evolved. The Paralympics are split into Winter Games and Summer Games, which alternately occur every two years. Since the late twentieth century, the Paralympics have been held in the same city, which hosts the corresponding Olympic Games; the Paralympics follow shortly after the Olympics.

- II Work in groups of four. Choose any one of the topics given below and make a presentation.

- Two lesser-known Paralympic sports (examples: para equestrian, para rowing, etc.)
- Two Paralympians from India



Steps to be followed:

- Do research on the topic of your choice. Refer to magazines, newspapers, and the internet.
- Prepare the presentation based on the following guidelines:
 - One introductory slide (mentioning topic chosen)
 - Two slides on origin and brief history of Paralympics
 - Four to five slides about lesser-known Paralympic sports or Indian Paralympians
 - One concluding slide
- Choose appropriate slide design, colour schemes, and images.
- Ensure there is a good balance between text and images.
- Share your presentation in class.
- Each member of the group to take turns to present.

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