

4 Talents

4.1 What are you good at?

VOCABULARY Activities

1 Match these nouns with the verbs below (1–4). There are two nouns for each verb.

advice
photos

decisions
presentations

football
tests

~~friends~~
video games

1 make

a friends b _____

2 play

a _____ b _____

3 give

a _____ b _____

4 take

a _____ b _____

2 Complete the sentences using these words.

giving a presentation

making friends

playing tennis

taking a photo

1 I'm not good at _____ because meeting new people makes me nervous.

2 When _____, you need to make sure everyone is looking at the camera.

3 I love _____ – it's a great sport!

4 It's important to make eye contact with your audience while _____.

LISTENING A unique ability

3  18 Listen. What can Daniel Tammet do? Circle the correct answer.

Daniel Tammet can _____.

a speak hundreds of languages fluently

b remember things very well

c talk and write very quickly

4  18 Listen again. Circle the correct options to complete the sentences.

1 In 2004 / 2014, Tammet set a record for being able to remember a very long number.

2 He knows *five* / *ten* languages. He learned to speak Icelandic in one week / *three months*.

3 Tammet learns things quickly by *grouping them together* / *memorizing*.

4 Tammet is helping people improve their memories through his talks / *books*.

COMMUNICATION Talking about abilities

5 Read the conversation. Replace the words in **bold** with words from the box.

fantastic not bad that good terrible

A: Hi! I heard you singing. You're **amazing**!

1 _____

B: Thanks, that's really kind of you. Do you sing?

2 _____

A: Yeah, but I'm not **very good** at it. I play the guitar though.

3 _____

B: Well, that's great! I'm **really bad** at guitar.

A: Maybe I can play while you sing. I'm **pretty good** at folk music.

4 _____

6 Complete the sentences in your own words.

1 What sport are you good at?

2 Are you good at giving presentations?

3 What is one thing you are not very good at?



4.2

Can you stand on your head?

GRAMMAR *can and can't*

- 1** Complete the table of skills for yourself. Then use the information in the table to write sentences with *can* or *can't*.

	juggle	play the piano	ride a bike
Eliot	✓	x	✓
Tom and Mia	✓	✓	x
You			

Eliot

- 1 He _____.
- 2 _____.
- 3 _____.

Tom and Mia

- 4 They _____.
- 5 _____.
- 6 _____.

You

- 7 I _____.
- 8 _____.
- 9 _____.

- 2** Correct the mistakes in the sentences.

- 1 What instruments do you can play?
- 2 I don't can play football very well.
- 3 Does your friend can speak English?
- 4 Can you to swim underwater?
- 5 My sister can plays the guitar.
- 6 You can dance salsa?

LANGUAGE FOCUS *Describing abilities and talents*

- 3** Match the questions (1–4) with the responses (a–d).

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Are you good at sports? | a No, I don't. |
| 2 Do you know how to ride a bicycle? | b Yes, I can. |
| 3 Can you cook? | c I can play the piano well. |
| 4 What talents do you have? | d Yes, I am. |

4 Put the words in the correct order to make questions. Then answer the questions in your own words.

1 drive a car / know how to / Do you / ? _____

2 photos / good at / Are you / taking / ? _____

3 underwater / you / Can / swim / ? _____

5  **19** Listen to the conversation. Write sentences to answer the questions.

1 Can the man speak Spanish?

2 Is the woman taking Spanish lessons?

3 Is the man going to South America?

4 Can the woman play the guitar well?

PRONUNCIATION **Similar sounds**

6  **20** Some words sound very similar. Listen to the examples and repeat.

sit	seat
see	she
disk	desk

7  **21** Match the words with similar sounds. Then listen and check your answers.

1 ship	a pen
2 bat	b set
3 sat	c sheep
4 pan	d bet
5 fit	e been
6 bin	f feet

8  **22** Listen to six sentences. Which word does the person say? Circle the correct answers.

1 a sat	4 a slip
b set	b sleep
2 a pen	5 a bat
b pan	b bet
3 a send	6 a ship
b sand	b sheep

4.3 Not all fun and games

READING

Making your passion pay online

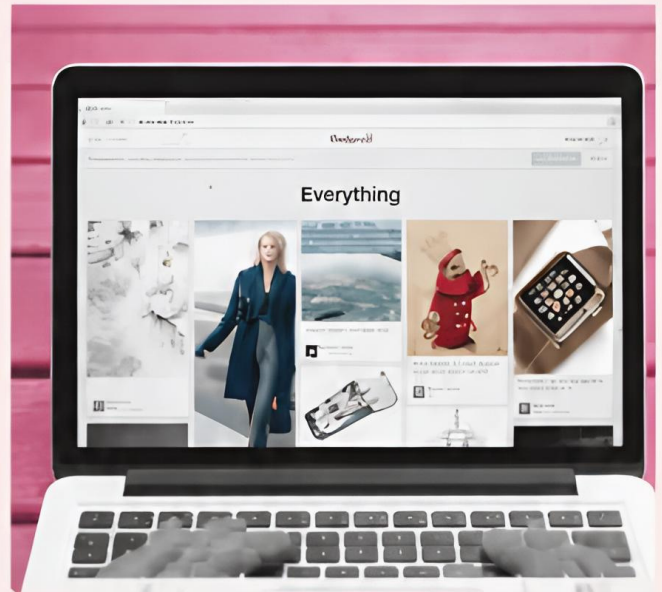
1 Want to make money using social media? Then turn your talent into cash by posting your work online. Here are two people who tried it and succeeded.

2 The Painter

2 Katie Rodgers always loved painting beautiful clothes and decided to share a few photos of her work online. Big fashion brands noticed her paintings and wanted her to create more designs featuring their clothes. She quit her office job when she started earning much more through her online business. 'The key to her success? 'It's not enough to have talent', she says. 'You need passion.'

3 The Dog Lover

3 Shirley Braha takes photos of her dog, Mamie, and posts them on Instagram. Over a million people follow her online. She makes money from calendars and videos featuring Mamie. In fact, she makes as much money as she used to while working full-time – but she says her new job is more fun. 'There's stress that comes with it', she says, 'but it's fun stress'.



Social media isn't just for staying connected with friends, but can also be a means to earn an income.

1 Read the article. What is it mainly about?

- a using the Internet to earn money from your hobby
- b the importance of teaching your skills to other people
- c how to have fun while earning money

2 Circle the correct answers.

- 1 Why did Rodgers quit her job?
 - a Her online business was more successful.
 - b She was having too much fun with her online business.
 - c Big brands wanted to give her a job.
- 2 Which sentence is true?
 - a Braha makes more money now, but her old job was more fun.
 - b Braha's hobby can be stressful at times, but she enjoys it a lot.
 - c Braha mostly posts photos of her dog that were taken by other people.

LISTENING

3  23 Listen. What is the speaker talking about?

- a finding classes online b learning about new hobbies c earning money from a hobby

4  23 Listen again. Answer the questions.

1 Put the advice given in the talk in the correct order (1–3).

- a Teach people how to do your hobby. _____
b Make a product and sell it. _____
c Share what you do on the Internet. _____

2 Which example does **not** match the advice given in the talk?

- a 'I have a travel blog. Sometimes hotels advertise their promotions on my page.'
b 'I love gardening. I sell fresh vegetables from my garden at the farmers' market.'
c 'I love playing the piano. I often look for new songs to learn on the Internet.'

5 Tick (✓) the advice from the talk that Rodgers and Braha followed.

- a Turn your hobby into a job. ☐ c Teach people how to do your hobby. ☐
b Share your talent on the Internet. ☐ d Make a product using your hobby. ☐

WORD FOCUS of

6 Match the two parts to make phrases with of.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 1 a cup of | a China |
| 2 a good sense of | b of the sea |
| 3 the capital of | c perfume |
| 4 a member of | d coffee |
| 5 the bottom of | e a team |
| 6 earn a lot | f of dollars |
| 7 the smell of | g of money |
| 8 millions | h humour |

7 Complete the sentences using phrases with of.

- 1 My husband is a _____ a jazz band.
2 Teachers need a good _____ humour.
3 Do you know what the _____ Australia is?
4 Some people _____ money on social media.
5 The gaming industry makes _____ dollars every year.
6 Good swimmers can dive to _____ a swimming pool.
7 When I feel stressed, I have a _____ tea to help me relax.
8 I love the _____ fresh bread first thing in the morning.

4.4

The orchestra in my mouth



Philippe Petit walking across a lightrope between the World Trade Center's Twin Towers in 1974

▶ Ed Cage and Nicole Paris: A beatboxing lesson from a father-daughter duo

Ed Cage and Nicole Paris are a father and daughter beatboxing team. When Nicole was a baby, Ed beatboxed to help her sleep. Now they compete to find out who sounds better. And they beatbox just about everywhere – in the kitchen, in the car and even in church!

▶ Philippe Petit: The journey across the high wire

Philippe Petit started tightrope walking at the age of sixteen after seeing it performed at a circus. Petit talks about his greatest achievement – tightrope walking between the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, four hundred metres up in the air!

▶ Michael Moschen: Juggling as art ... and science

Michael Moschen tells us that juggling can be fun. But, he says, it's more than just throwing and catching balls. He shows us how juggling can teach us about art and science – using skill, space and rhythm.

TEDTALKS

1 Read the descriptions of three TED Talks above. In your opinion, what is the best title for this playlist, a, b or c?

- a People who have dangerous hobbies
- b Talents you can learn in a day
- c People with entertaining talents

2 Match the speakers (1–3) with their quotes (a–c).

1 Ed Cage and Nicole Paris

a 'I approach the edge. I step over the beam. I put my left foot on the cable...'

2 Philippe Petit

b 'Part of the challenge was to try to understand rhythm and space using not just my hands ... but using the rhythm of my body and feet, and controlling the balls with my feet.'

3 Michael Moschen

c 'Then you would see a rapper, and when the rapper began to rap, we would do a simple beat ...'

3 Complete the sentences with the **highlighted** words from the TED playlist.

1 A(n) _____ is something that someone has succeeded in doing after a lot of effort.

2 A(n) _____ is a group of people who work together.

3 If you _____ something, you learn something you did not know before.

4 Which talk would you most like to see? Why? Watch the talk at TED.com.

4.5

Are you right for the job?

WRITING Describing an unusual ability

- 1 Read the paragraph about one person's special talent. What is the talent?

Write one paragraph. Start by saying who the person is and what their talent is.

Remember to use can and new words from this unit.

My friend Juanita has a fantastic talent. She can speak six languages and she can learn a new language in a month. She works as a translator, turning one language into another. She often helps tourists who are in trouble and gives language lessons to children for free.

Say how the person makes money out of their talent.

Say how the person helps others using this talent.

- 2 Write a paragraph about someone you know who has an unusual ability or talent. Answer the questions to plan your paragraph.

- 1 Who is the person?

.....

.....

- 2 What is their ability or talent?

.....

.....

- 3 How does the person make money from their talent?

.....

.....

- 4 How does the person help other people with this talent?

.....

.....

- 3 Write your paragraph. Then complete the checklist.

Did you use correct spelling and punctuation?

☐

Did you use *can* and some new words from this unit?

☐

Did you describe what the person does?

☐

Did you describe how the person helps others using their talent?

☐