

Talk a Lot

Hospital

Multi-Purpose Text

Plaster Cast (Original Text)

Line

1 Two weeks later Dennis broke his ankle playing football with some friends from work.
2 He was rushed to hospital, moaning and groaning – not in an ambulance, but in his
3 dad’s work van. His friends and colleagues gathered in the hospital waiting room
4 while Dennis had an x-ray and was examined by the doctor. Several long hours later
5 Maggie was talking to her grandma on the phone, “Don’t worry, grandma. It looks like
6 it’ll be alright. He says he’s in agony, but the doctor said it wasn’t too serious.
7 Apparently, when he broke it the bones all stayed in the right place; and the ligaments
8 aren’t damaged.”
9 Dennis was sitting up in bed reading his first get well card, which had been
10 hand-delivered by his girlfriend Sarah. “I won’t be playing football for a while, lads,”
11 said Dennis to his mates. “They’ll let the swelling go down; then they’ll have to put it
12 in a plaster cast. And they’re saying I’ll need crutches.” “For six to eight weeks”, said
13 his dad, finishing a bunch of grapes, “Put your feet up for a bit.” “After that you’ll start
14 the physiotherapy,” added his mum.
15 “Can I sign your plaster, Dennis,” asked Sarah shyly. Dennis was about to
16 say yes, but then he noticed the frowning face of his sister out of the corner of his
17 eye. He remembered Mandy, the other girl he liked, and mumbled, “Er, no. I don’t
18 think so.” Then, seeing her disappointment, he said, “Well, OK. Just your initials.”
(251 words)



Plaster Cast (Text with 20 Differences)

Two weeks **1. ago (later)** Dennis broke his ankle playing football with some
2. guys (friends) from work. He was rushed to hospital, moaning and **3. crying (groaning)**
– not in an ambulance, but in his dad’s work **4. bus (van)**. His friends and colleagues
5. stood (gathered) in the hospital waiting room while Dennis had an x-ray and was
examined by the doctor. Several **6. minutes (long hours)** later Maggie was talking to her
7. friend (grandma) on the phone, “Don’t worry, grandma. It looks like **8. he’ll (it’ll)** be
alright. He says he’s in agony, but the doctor said it wasn’t too **9. bad (serious)**. Apparently,
when he broke it the bones all stayed in the right **10. way (place)**; and the ligaments aren’t
damaged.”

11. Rob (Dennis) was sitting up in bed reading his first get well card, which had
been hand-delivered by his girlfriend **12. Claire (Sarah)**. “I won’t be playing
13. golf (football) for a while, lads,” said Dennis to his **14. parents (mates)**. “They’ll let the
swelling go down; then they’ll have to put it in a plaster cast. And they’re saying I’ll need
crutches.” “For six to **15. ten (eight)** weeks”, said his dad, finishing a **16. bowl (bunch)**
of grapes, “Put your feet up for a bit.” “After that you’ll start the physiotherapy,” added his
mum.

“Can I sign your **17. arm (plaster)**, Dennis,” asked Sarah shyly. Dennis was about
to say yes, but then he **18. saw (noticed)** the frowning face of his sister out of the corner of
his eye. He remembered Mandy, the other girl he liked, and **19. muttered (mumbled)**, “Er,
no. I don’t think so.” Then, seeing her **20. tears (disappointment)**, he said, “Well, OK. Just
your initials.”

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Multi-Purpose Text

Plaster Cast (Gap-Fill – Verbs)

Two weeks later Dennis 1. _____ his ankle playing football with some friends from work. He was 2. _____ to hospital, moaning and groaning – not in an ambulance, but in his dad’s work van. His friends and colleagues 3. _____ in the hospital waiting room while Dennis 4. _____ an x-ray and was examined by the doctor. Several long hours later Maggie was 5. _____ to her grandma on the phone, “Don’t worry, grandma. It looks like it’ll be alright. He 6. _____ he’s in agony, but the doctor said it wasn’t too serious. Apparently, when he broke it the bones all 7. _____ in the right place; and the ligaments aren’t damaged.”

Dennis was sitting up in bed reading his first get well card, which had been hand-8. _____ by his girlfriend Sarah. “I won’t be playing football for a while, lads,” said Dennis to his mates. “They’ll 9. _____ the swelling go down; then they’ll have to put it in a plaster cast. And they’re saying I’ll 10. _____ crutches.” “For six to eight weeks”, said his dad, finishing a bunch of grapes, “11. _____ your feet up for a bit.” “After that you’ll 12. _____ the physiotherapy,” added his mum.

“Can I 13. _____ your plaster, Dennis,” asked Sarah shyly. Dennis was about to say yes, but then he 14. _____ the frowning face of his sister out of the corner of his eye. He remembered Mandy, the other girl he liked, and mumbled, “Er, no. I don’t 15. _____ so.” Then, seeing her disappointment, he said, “Well, OK. Just your initials.”



Plaster Cast (Multiple Choice – Use of English)

Two weeks later Dennis broke 1. **a) her, b) their, c) his** ankle playing football with 2. **a) an, b) some, c) a** friends from work. He was rushed 3. **a) to, b) at, c) in** hospital, moaning and groaning – 4. **a) no, b) not, c) knot** in an ambulance, but in his dad’s work van. His friends 5. **a) and, b) or, c) an** colleagues gathered in the hospital waiting room while Dennis had an x-ray and was examined 6. **a) for, b) with, c) by** the doctor. Several long hours later Maggie 7. **a) is, b) will, c) was** talking to her grandma on the phone, “Don’t worry, grandma. It looks like it’ll be alright. He says 8. **a) he’s, b) she’s, c) it’s** in agony, but the doctor said it wasn’t too serious. 9. **a) Generally, b) apparently, c) Apparently**, when he broke it the bones all stayed in the right place; and the ligaments aren’t damaged.”

Dennis was sitting up in bed reading his first get well card, which had been hand-delivered 10. **a) to, b) by, c) from** his girlfriend Sarah. “I won’t be playing football for a while, lads,” said Dennis to his mates. “They’ll let the swelling go 11. **a) down, b) in, c) out**; then they’ll have to put it in a plaster cast. And they’re saying I’ll need crutches.” “For six to eight 12. **a) week, b) weeks, c) minutes**”, said his dad, finishing a bunch of grapes, “Put your feet up for a bit.” “After that you’ll start the physiotherapy,” added his 13. **a) dad, b) friend’s, c) mum**.

“Can I sign your plaster, Dennis,” asked Sarah shyly. Dennis was 14. **a) gone, b) just, c) about** to say yes, but then he noticed the frowning face of his sister out of the corner of his eye. He remembered Mandy, the other girl he liked, and mumbled, “Er, no. I don’t think so.” Then, seeing her disappointment, he 15. **a) said, b) say, c) says**, “Well, OK. Just your initials.”

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Multi-Purpose Text

Plaster Cast (Comprehension Questions)

1. Who broke his ankle?
2. Who examined Dennis?
3. Was Dennis in pain?
4. How did Dennis get to the hospital?
5. Who went to the hospital with Dennis?
6. Who sent Dennis's first get well card?
7. What did Dennis break?
8. Who had an x-ray?
9. Was it a serious injury?
10. Was Dennis's grandma worried?
11. Whose initials will be on Dennis's plaster?
12. Did Dennis go to hospital in an ambulance?
13. How did Dennis break his ankle?
14. Why will Dennis have to put his feet up?
15. What will happen after the swelling goes down?
16. Where did Dennis's friends and colleagues wait?
17. Who was Dennis playing football with?
18. What was Dennis reading in bed?
19. Who wanted to sign Dennis's plaster?
20. Will Dennis let his girlfriend sign his cast?
21. Why was Maggie frowning?
22. Why wasn't it a serious injury?
23. Did Sarah send her card by post?
24. Will Dennis need to use crutches?
25. How long will Dennis have to rest for?
26. What was Dennis's dad eating?
27. When will Dennis start physiotherapy?
28. Who did Maggie speak to on the phone?
29. Will Dennis play football tomorrow?
30. Why did Sarah feel disappointed?

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Plaster Cast (True, False, or Unknown?)

1. Dennis had to go to hospital.
2. Dennis's ligaments were badly damaged.
3. Dennis's dad loves grapes.
4. Dennis never wants to play football again.
5. Dennis was in bed in hospital.
6. Mandy is better looking than Sarah.
7. Dennis's grandma was worried.
8. Dennis will need physiotherapy on his ankle.
9. It was a serious break.
10. Dennis broke his leg.
11. Dennis didn't want Maggie to sign his plaster.
12. Dennis was taken to hospital in his dad's work van.
13. Sarah felt disappointed and embarrassed.
14. Sarah wanted to sign Dennis's plaster.
15. Dennis's dad drove him to hospital.
16. Sarah kissed Dennis.
17. Dennis was scared when he broke his leg.
18. Dennis had an x-ray.
19. Dennis stayed in hospital for two nights.
20. Somebody brought some grapes.
21. Dennis will have to rest for three months.
22. Sarah felt disappointed.
23. Dennis really enjoys playing football.
24. Dennis broke his ankle playing football.
25. Dennis isn't close to his family.
26. The doctor x-rayed Dennis's arm.
27. Maggie was annoyed because Dennis was cheating on Sarah.
28. Sarah brought Dennis a get well card.
29. Dennis drove to hospital.
30. Sarah signed her initials on Dennis's plaster.

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Multi-Purpose Text

Glossary of New Words

Here are some words and phrases from the text that may be new to students. You could either pre-teach them, or encourage your students to find translations in a bi-lingual dictionary and write them in the gaps below. Stressed syllables are underlined.

1. **ankle** (*noun*: joint between leg and foot) _____
2. **moan and groan** (*phrase*: to complain strongly) _____
3. **colleague** (*noun*: person you work with) _____
4. **in agony** (*phrase*: in extreme pain) _____
5. **apparently** (*adverb*: it appears that...) _____
6. **ligament** (*noun*: tissue connecting bones at a joint) _____
7. **hand-delivered** (*adverbial*: brought by hand) _____
8. **swelling** (*noun*: part of the body gets bigger) _____
9. **plaster cast** (*noun*: used to keep bones in place while they heal) _____
10. **crutch** (*noun*: a support to help you walk) _____
11. **physiotherapy** (*noun*: sessions to help you move damaged limbs) _____
12. **shyly** (*adverb*: nervously; without confidence) _____
13. **frowning** (*adjective*: looking unhappy about something) _____
14. **disappointment** (*noun*: expectations not met) _____
15. **initials** (*noun*: first letters of somebody's first name and surname together) _____

Answers

Plaster Cast (Gap-Fill – Verbs)

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. broke | 6. says | 11. Put |
| 2. rushed | 7. stayed | 12. start |
| 3. gathered | 8. delivered | 13. sign |
| 4. had | 9. let | 14. noticed |
| 5. talking | 10. need | 15. think |

Plaster Cast (Multiple Choice – Use of English)

- | | | |
|-------|--------|--------|
| 1. c) | 6. c) | 11. a) |
| 2. b) | 7. c) | 12. b) |
| 3. a) | 8. a) | 13. c) |
| 4. b) | 9. c) | 14. c) |
| 5. a) | 10. b) | 15. a) |

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Plaster Cast (Comprehension Questions)

1. Dennis.
2. The doctor.
3. Yes.
4. In his dad's work van.
5. His family, friends, colleagues, and girlfriend.
6. Sarah.
7. His ankle.
8. Dennis.
9. No.
10. Yes.
11. Sarah's.
12. No.
13. Playing football.
14. To let his ankle get better.
15. Dennis's ankle will be put in a plaster cast.
16. In the hospital waiting room.
17. With some friends from work.
18. His first get well card.
19. Sarah.
20. Yes, but only with her initials.
21. Because Dennis was going to let Sarah sign his plaster cast, but she knew that he is also going out with Mandy, and that she would find out about Sarah
22. Because when he broke it the bones all stayed in the right place; and the ligaments aren't damaged.
23. No.
24. Yes.
25. For six to eight weeks.
26. Some grapes.
27. After resting for six to eight weeks.
28. Her grandma.
29. No.
30. Because Dennis said that she couldn't sign his plaster.

Plaster Cast (True, False, or Unknown?)

(T = True, F = False, U = Unknown)

- | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. T | 11. U | 21. F |
| 2. F | 12. T | 22. T |
| 3. U | 13. U | 23. U |
| 4. U | 14. T | 24. T |
| 5. T | 15. U | 25. F |
| 6. U | 16. U | 26. F |
| 7. T | 17. U | 27. U |
| 8. T | 18. T | 28. T |
| 9. F | 19. U | 29. F |
| 10. F | 20. T | 30. U |

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