

A magazine article

1 Look at the photos and headline on p15 and answer the questions.

- Describe the girl. What is she doing?
- What are the people doing in the other picture?
- Read the headline. What do you think it means?

Subskill: Reading for gist/skimming

Read a text quickly to understand the main message. Titles, headings and content words help you focus on the information that is most useful and relevant.

2 Read the text quickly and choose the best summary.

- It is an article about how technology can improve people's lives and help them in their careers.
- It is an article describing how people have recovered from accidents and adapted to change.
- It is an article that gives information about the powers and abilities people wish they could have.

3 Read and listen to the article. Are the sentences true or false? Correct the false sentences.

- Chiara has modelled for many years.
- She learnt to walk again just a month after her accident.
- Chiara asked a designer to make her a decorative leg.
- When she was modelling, Chiara hid her prosthetic leg.
- Orlando had no physical effects from his accident at all.
- He can calculate what day of the week any day since his accident is.

4 Complete the sentences with the correct name Chiara or Orlando.

- (...) didn't think he/she would ever do something he/she is doing now.
- (...) knows things that most people are not able to remember.
- (...) is able to do something as the result of a change in his/her brain.
- (...) lost part of his/her body but didn't let that stop him/her doing things.

5 Answer the questions in your own words.

- What happened when Chiara was coming home from a dance show?
- When the designer wrote to Chiara, what was she working on?
- Why is Chiara studying hard?
- What was Orlando doing when he had his accident?
- Did Orlando lose his ability after a few years?
- Does Orlando think he's special now?

6 **Word work** Match the definitions to the words in bold in the article.

- the job of working as a model
- occasions when professional photographers take photos for a magazine
- not willing to let anything stop you from doing something you want to do
- became healthy again after an illness or accident
- used for replacing a missing body part
- a series of actions intended to produce social or political change

7 **Work in pairs.** Answer the questions.

- What incredible ability would you like to have? Why?
- What would like to be able to do better? Why?

CRITICAL THINKING

- Understand** Chiara modelled in a campaign for more diversity. Why do people take part in campaigns?
- Analyse** What other campaigns do you know about? Think about one campaign and discuss why you think it was successful or unsuccessful.
- Create** What problems in society are important to you? Choose one problem and think of three things you could do to make people aware of it.

Research

Find more information about Stephen Wiltshire or someone you choose. What is amazing about them? What would it be like to have their abilities?



Stephen Wiltshire

Unique strengths

We might all dream of being famous, but ordinary people are incredible in so many different ways. We can adapt to new things and learn and grow, as these two interesting people show.

Chiara Bordi is an incredibly positive and confident young person. Chiara did her first **photo shoot** several years ago but before that the idea of **modelling** seemed impossible to her. Chiara was coming home from a dance show when she had a terrible accident. She lost part of her left leg and took nine months to walk again. Then an Italian designer wrote to Chiara – the designer was working on a decorative **prosthetic leg**, covered in crystals. Would Chiara model it? Instead of hiding her prosthetic leg, Chiara made it part of her image. Recently, she did a photo shoot for Models of Diversity, the **campaign** to encourage more diversity in modelling. Chiara is **determined** to focus on what she can do, not what she can't do. Will she become a world-famous model? Perhaps. She's also studying hard, hoping to become a doctor!

Orlando Serrell has got on amazing memory for dates. He's unusual because he didn't have this

ability until he was ten. While he was playing baseball with friends one day, the ball hit his head hard. He **recovered** quickly, but had a bad headache for weeks. Then Orlando discovered that he instantly knew what day of the week any date was – but only dates after his accident. Years later, he can still do it. Not only that, but he also knows exactly what he did and what the weather was like on any date since the event! Orlando was surprised when scientists, newspapers and TV shows were all interested in his experience and called him a 'genius'. He thinks he's ordinary.

We can all be amazing humans, whether it's having a talent or skill, working hard to succeed, achieving wonderful things despite difficult circumstances, dedicating your life to helping others or being a good friend. We humans are awesome!

