

6.4 Reading

Gapped text

I can understand the structure of a text.

- 1 In pairs, look at the photos and discuss the questions.
- Who are the people?
 - What do you know about them?
- 2 Read the article. Are the statements true (T) or false (F)?
- Lionel Messi is from Brazil.
 - Lionel Messi had a health problem when he was a child.
 - Lionel Messi started to play for Barcelona's first team at the age of nineteen.
 - Lionel Messi helps children in need.
 - Natalia Partyka has got one leg.
 - Natalia Partyka's older brother played table tennis.
 - Natalia Partyka didn't play in the Paralympics in Beijing.
 - Natalia Partyka won a silver medal at the Paralympics in London in 2012.
- 3 Read the sentences in Exercise 4 and look at the underlined words and phrases. Then match statements 1–7 below with sentences A–D.
- The sentence before is probably about a man.
 - The sentence before is probably about a woman.
 - The sentence before is probably about two or more people.
 - Something was expensive.
 - Perhaps the person did or said something unusual.
 - The sentence before probably says something like 'one (person)' or 'the first one'.
 - The sentence before is probably about a bad result.

EXAM FOCUS Gapped text

- 4 Read the article again. Complete gaps 1–3 with sentences A–D. There is one extra sentence.
- A Her parents weren't surprised and they helped her from the start.
- B It was the worst result in their career.
- C The other one was the South African swimmer Natalie du Toit.
- D It cost too much for his family and even for the local football club.

A little

'All kids need is a little help, a little hope and somebody who believes in them.' Magic Johnson, the American basketball player, said this about children in sport. But what if a child is born without an arm or with a serious illness? Is there still hope for them? What kind of help do they need? Here are the stories of two children who had someone who believed in them.

Lionel ('Leo') Messi started playing football at a local club in Rosario, Argentina, at the age of five. When he was eleven he stopped growing. Doctors discovered he had a hormone problem. He needed expensive **treatment**.
1 _____ Then the director of FC Barcelona noticed the boy and invited him to move to Spain. The club promised to pay for his
20 treatment. So Lionel and his father moved to Europe. Messi grew and trained. He started playing for the Barcelona first team before he

- 5 Complete the sentences with the words in blue in the article.
- The Paralympics is an international sports competition for **disabled** athletes.
 - Wimbledon is the oldest tennis _____ in the world.
 - Many _____ became champions because someone believed in them.
 - The Leo Messi Foundation pays for the _____ of poor Argentinian children with serious health problems.
 - The American swimmer Michael Phelps _____ eight gold medals at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.
 - Tennis star Venus Williams couldn't play in the 2011 US Open because of her _____.