

3 Winter's Tale



Warm Up

Answer a quiz on animals.

a) What is the fear of spiders called?

b) Which animal can survive on a diet that's 99 per cent bamboo?

c) Which is the fastest animal on land?

d) Which animal can live a lifetime without water?



Reading

Winter's story has inspired millions of people all over the world. Every day, scores of visitors are welcomed to Clearwater Marine Aquarium. Among them are those who have similar tales.

At first, officials at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium on the Gulf Coast of Florida, USA, thought Kevin Carroll's call was a **prank**. Carroll said he had heard on the radio about the injured dolphin that was rescued from a crab trap. He wanted to see if he could build the animal a **prosthetic** tail to replace the one that had been **amputated**.

Carroll, who is one of the world's leading **prosthetists**, convinced the dolphin's caretakers of his abilities and drove from Orlando to meet with them that day.

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The three-month-old dolphin, named Winter because she was found on a particularly cold December day in 2005, immediately stole Carroll's heart. In time, she would steal hearts around the world and inspire the 2011 movie 'Dolphin Tale,' in which she plays herself. It also starred top Hollywood actors like Morgan Freeman and Ashley Judd.

Carroll recalls his first meeting with the bottlenose dolphin, "Obviously, Winter was very sick and badly injured. And the people at the aquarium were heartbroken. They were just **incredible** with her, working round the clock. There was never a moment that Winter was without human contact. They were now her adopted family."



Carroll got in touch with his colleague, Dan, who happened to live nearby in Florida. The two of them quickly threw themselves into the project. They had built prosthetics for birds, horses, and dogs before but never a dolphin.

Carroll and Dan had to first **figure out** whether a fake tail would even help Winter. The dolphin could still swim on her own, despite losing her entire tail and two **vertebrae**. She had **adapted**, learning to swim side to side, the way a fish or shark would, instead of the up-and-down motion usual for dolphins.

She couldn't swim as fast or jump as high as most dolphins, but the real problem was that she was slowly damaging her spine. So, they felt that by fitting her with a prosthetic device, Winter could get swimming in the right manner again.



The challenges in creating such a **device** were **manifold**. It is not easy to fit a prosthetic limb and then make it move the way a usual part of our body moves. This one would attach to the end of Winter's body and had to move side to side, up and down, and gently twist as she swam.

It also needed to attach properly to her **stump**. "This was particularly difficult," Carroll explains, "because Dolphins have **delicate** skin. Human skin is also **fragile**, but I can scratch my nail across my skin and in a couple of minutes that mark is

gone,” he says. “But if I put that same mark on the dolphin’s skin, six weeks later I would come back and that mark would still be there.”

Carroll and Dan, who lost his own leg in a lawn-mowing accident as a child, worked with an engineer to develop a new material, nicknamed ‘WintersGel,’ that would help Winter bear her new body part easily.

Dan tested it on himself first, and when they put it on Winter next week, nothing was wrong. The team began preparing the dolphin for her new prosthetic, starting with a very small tail so she could slowly become used to it. Trainers coached her to once again move her body up and down. Over the course of a year, the team **gradually** increased the size of the tail to match her now 230-**pound** body, and Winter began swimming as she had before the accident.

“We knew it was going to happen, but when it happened, it was just awesome,” Carroll says about the first time Winter used the full prosthetic. “Just to see this very clean, correct, smooth motion in the water – it was absolutely breathtaking.”

Working with Winter has become a hobby for Carroll and Dan, who still often visit her at the Clearwater Aquarium. The facility itself was nearing closing down for lack of money when Winter arrived but has now become a major tourist attraction. Thousands of visitors, including many wounded soldiers and children with disabilities, **throng** the aquarium daily. Winter inspires them and gives them hope.



Glossary

scores: very many

prank: a joke or mischievous act

prosthetic: an artificial body part

incredible: surprising, or difficult to believe

amputated: cut off a body part by surgical operation

prosthetist: a specialist in prosthetics

figure out: try to understand something

vertebrae: one of the small bones that form a row down the centre of your back

adapted: got used to

device: a thing made for a particular purpose

manifold: many, numerous

stump: the part of the limb that is left after amputation

delicate: can be easily damaged

fragile: easily gets hurt or injured

gradually: slowly and steadily

pound: a measure of weight used in the United Kingdom and the United States. One pound equals 450 grams.

throng: be present in large numbers



Read and Answer

1. Frame suitable questions for the answers given below.

- a) _____?
Clearwater Marine Aquarium
- b) _____?
Kevin Carroll
- c) _____?
Winter
- d) _____?
Dan
- e) _____?
WintersGel

2. Note down three things that Carroll and Dan did to give Winter a tail.

- a) _____

- b) _____

- c) _____

3. Answer the following questions.

- a) How did Winter lose her tail?
- b) How did Winter get her name?
- c) Why was it important to give Winter a prosthetic tail?
- d) Why was Clearwater Marine Aquarium closing down?
- e) How could it save itself from shutting down?
- f) What role did Carroll play in the film 'Dolphin Tale'?
- g) Who else acted in the film?



Think and Answer

1. Why did Dan test the gel on himself first?
2. Dan wore a prosthetic leg. Do you think this helped him choose his job? Discuss.
3. Why do you think Carroll and Dan have made working with Winter their hobby?
4. Why is Winter an inspiration?
5. People with disabilities are called 'specially-abled'. Why do you think this name is used? Discuss.



Word Work

Homophones

When two words have similar pronunciation but different spellings, they are called **homophones**.

In the story, we find the homophones **tale** and **tail**. In fact, the movie title 'Dolphin Tale' uses this homophone to create a wordplay.

Some other examples of homophones are:

bear/bare here/hear sew/so

1. Complete the sentences with the correct words.

- a) The _____ (hair/hare) has long ears.
- b) The hermit told a _____ (tail/tale) to the rabbit.
- c) Anita had a _____ (pear/pair) for lunch.
- d) The sky was _____ (blue/blew) and no wind _____ (blue/blew).
- e) He _____ (new/knew) the answer but was too scared to speak.
- f) I know that you don't _____ (know/no) the answer.
- g) I will not hear a _____ (no/know) for an answer.
- h) I bought a _____ (pear/pair) of blue socks.

Phrasal verbs

Read these sentences.

- The two of them quickly **threw** themselves **into** the project.
- Carroll and Dan had to first **figure out** whether a fake tail would even help Winter.

The expressions **threw into** and **figure out** comprise a verb and a preposition. However, their meanings cannot be understood by knowing what each word in these multi-word phrases, or **phrasal verbs**, means. However, some phrasal verbs are simpler to understand and knowing what the verbs and the prepositions mean helps us know what the phrasal verbs mean.

So, **to throw oneself into something** means 'to begin to do something with a lot of interest'.

And, **to figure out** means 'to understand and solve a problem'.

Sometimes, the verb and the preposition in a phrasal verb can be separated by the **object of the verb**.

The **object of the verb** receives the action of a verb.

2. Use the phrasal verbs to complete the sentences. You can change the tense of the verbs.

turn up break into brighten up break down calm down

- He _____ late for work every day.
- She _____ when she heard that India had lost the Cricket World Cup semi-finals.
- Our headmaster _____ our day when he told us that the school would remain closed because of the rains.
- Mrs Potts needed to _____. She was very upset with her baker who had given her stale bread.
- The thieves _____ our house last night, but they found nothing they could steal.

Listen Live

Listen to some information on bottlenose dolphins and write down ten things that you have learnt about them. You may write short sentences or even phrases. The first one has been done for you.

- a) They are grey in colour and 2 to 4 metres in length.
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____
- g) _____
- h) _____
- i) _____
- j) _____

Sound Sense

Read and listen to these words. Pay attention to the letters in colour.

winter stump

The highlighted letters are pronounced as /ə(r)/ and /ʌ/, respectively. They are pronounced as /'wɪntə(r)/ and /stʌmp/.

Words ending in **er** are pronounced as /ə/. It is different from the /ʌ/ made by the letter **u**.

Read and repeat these words.

- a) customer b) emperor c) runner d) actor
- e) thunder f) tunnel g) summer

Speak Now



Did you notice that the story does not start with, 'Once upon a time' or 'There was once a dolphin ...'? It is good to begin a story with an unpredictable and a different opening.

Work in groups of four and create a story beginning with the following lines. Tell the story to your class.

It all started like this... I was sitting in the balcony watching the birds fly across the sky when all of a sudden ...



Go Grammar

Adverbs

Read this sentence.

- The 3-month-old dolphin **immediately** stole Carroll's heart.

The word **immediately** is an **adverb**.

Adverbs are words that tell us more about verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs.

Types of adverbs

Adverbs can be of different types depending on their function in a sentence.

Adverbs of manner: Some adverbs describe the way or manner in which an action takes place. They answer the question **how**. Such adverbs are called **adverbs of manner**. They are usually formed by adding **-ly** after adjectives.

Examples:

- Winter was very sick and **badly** injured.
- Over the course of a year, the team **gradually** increased the size of the tail to match her now 230-pound body, and Winter began swimming as she had before the accident.

Adverbs of time: Some adverbs tell us about the time of an action. They answer the question **when**. Such adverbs are called **adverbs of time**.

Example:

- When they put it on Winter **next week**, nothing was wrong.

Adverbs of place: Some adverbs point out the place of an action. They answer the question **where**. Such adverbs are called **adverbs of place**.

Example:

- Carroll got in touch with his colleague, Dan, who happened to live **nearby** in Florida.

Adverbs of frequency: Some adverbs tell us how frequently an action takes place. They answer the question **how often**. Such adverbs are called **adverbs of frequency**.

Example:

- There was **never** a moment that Winter was without human contact.

Some more adverbs:

Manner	Time	Place	Frequency
fairly	before	everywhere	always
swiftly	now	inside	sometimes
hard	yet	within	often
beautifully	daily	out	usually
carefully	then	below	frequently

Some adverbs like **hard**, **high**, and **fast** are the same when used as adjectives.

1. **Read the following sentences carefully. Then write the most suitable adverb next to each sentence. The first one has been done for you.**

everywhere soon cautiously hurriedly high daily

- a) The careful boy crossed the road in this manner. cautiously
- b) Where did you look for the ball? _____
- c) When can the workmen finish painting the house? _____
- d) How did he move when he was in a hurry? _____
- e) How often does she go to the market to buy fresh food? _____
- f) The kite flew in the sky when the breeze grew stronger. _____

2. What are they saying? Complete the sentences with **adverbs of manner**.

carelessly loudly softly quickly carefully

- I can't hear you. You're speaking very _____.
- Karan is playing his music very _____!
- Quick! My room is on fire. Bring some water _____!
- I opened the magic bottle _____. It went bang!
- Be careful now... Open the door _____.

3. Read the passage below and fill in the blanks using suitable **adverbs of time** from the box. The first one has been done for you.

now yesterday soon immediately yet early

Yesterday was a special day for me. It was my birthday. I woke up quite _____, and while I was rubbing my eyes and yawning, I noticed a present on my desk. I jumped out of bed _____, ran to the desk, picked up the present, and began tearing at the wrapper. _____ there was wrapping paper all over the floor. The present was wrapped in several layers of paper. Inside a box was a great present. I had wanted a watch since I was a little child and _____ I had one. My parents weren't up _____, so I had to wait to thank them.

4. Choose suitable **adverbs of place** to complete the sentences.

- Mr Smith lives _____ in the city. (outside/somewhere)
- Please leave the shoes _____. (here/away)
- Jenny told me to wait for her _____. (nowhere/here)
- I searched _____ but I could not find the ring. (somewhere/everywhere)
- I saw many animals on the farm. They were running _____! (inside/around)

5. Choose suitable **adverbs of frequency** to complete the sentences.

- Ravi is never lazy. He _____ works hard. (always/sometimes)
- My sister rarely eats burgers. She _____ eats healthy. (sometimes/usually)
- I always leave for work on time. I'm _____ late. (rarely/often)
- The boy falls sick frequently. He _____ misses school. (never/often)
- Although not every day, I _____ watch television in the evenings. (sometimes/regularly)



Write It

A poster is a printed paper carrying some information or an important message. It has both pictures and words.

Here is a poster about poster making.

POSTER MAKING

PLAN:
Gather the information you want in your poster.

KEEP IT SIMPLE:
Write simple, easy-to-read sentences (5-6 words)

COLOURFUL:
Use colours for variety and to make it interesting.

MESSAGE:
Convey a message or some important information

EYE CATCHING:
Use pictures and drawings that will grab attention.

This is a poster on road safety.

SAFETY ON THE ROAD

- Always walk on the footpath.
- Cross the road at a zebra crossing.
- Look right and left before crossing the road.
- Never run on the road.
- Respect and follow road signs.



Create a poster that you would like to put up at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. Give details about Winter and why people should go watch her swim. Let people know that she is the star attraction of the aquarium.