

**Exercise 1:** Look at the image below and write down the first **six words** that you think of. Prepare to discuss your words (5-7 mins) with a partner in class.



1	4
2	5
3	6

**Exercise 2: Complete the sentences using these key words from the text on page 4 & 5**

*fortunate    a cab    crammed    memory    an essay    surgery    to wake up  
to flood (6)    to support    to realise    a drawer    to survive    a blood clot*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is the ability a mind has to store and remember information
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is to stop sleeping
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is to know and understand something
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is to continue to live or exist despite a serious injury, illness, war etc
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is medical treatment in which a doctor cuts open someone's body
6. \_\_\_\_\_ is a thick mass of almost solid blood that blocks a tube in your body
7. \_\_\_\_\_ is a taxi
8. \_\_\_\_\_ is to affect somebody suddenly and strongly
9. \_\_\_\_\_ is good luck
10. \_\_\_\_\_ is to give or be ready to give help to somebody if they need it
11. \_\_\_\_\_ is full of things or people
12. \_\_\_\_\_ is a part of a piece of furniture that slides in and out and is used for keeping things in
13. \_\_\_\_\_ is a short piece of writing by a student on a particular subject

*a villain*      *a stereo*      *surreal*      *grainy*      *a giant*      *a route*      *shiny*  
*to transport(2)*      *curious*      *to recognise*      *a flash*      *imagination*      *to accept*

14. \_\_\_\_\_ is to know who somebody is or what something is, because you have seen or heard them or it before
15. \_\_\_\_\_ is the ability to think of clever and original ideas, possibilities, or solutions
16. \_\_\_\_\_ is very new and attractive (*approving*)
17. \_\_\_\_\_ is the main bad character in a story, play, film etc.
18. \_\_\_\_\_ is a fixed way along which a bus, train, etc. regularly travels or goods are regularly sent
19. \_\_\_\_\_ is not having completely clear images because they look as if they are made of a lot of small marks (*especially of photographs*)
20. \_\_\_\_\_ is to continue in a difficult situation without complaining, because you know that you cannot change it
21. \_\_\_\_\_ is something that is so strange that you cannot believe it is real
22. \_\_\_\_\_ is to make somebody feel that they are in a different place, time or situation
23. \_\_\_\_\_ is a set of electronic equipment with two speakers, used for listening to the radio, CDs, and cassettes
24. \_\_\_\_\_ is a person or thing that is unusually large
25. \_\_\_\_\_ is a particular idea or feeling that suddenly comes into your mind or shows in your face
26. \_\_\_\_\_ is having a strong desire to know about something

**Exercise 3:** Find and highlight all the keywords in the text (see example: **wake up** )

**Exercise 4:** Read the following article and answer the questions on page 6

**I lost my memories in a road accident. A song brought them flooding back**

The thing about **waking up** with no memories is that you don't realise what you've lost until people start telling you who you are meant to be. That's where my journey began, 20 years ago.



Photograph: Courtesy of Thomas Leeds

I woke up as a 19-year-old, having survived a serious road accident and surgery to remove a blood clot from my brain. I had broken my back, but I could walk and talk. Yet there was a lot missing. I was alive, but I was not the teenager who had crossed the road and been hit by a black cab that night. He was gone. I had lost my childhood memories.

My head was flooded with questions. Everything was new. At first, the questions were small and simple. What's an ice-cream? How do I make that music play? Who are they? I was fortunate to have a family who supported me at home while I recovered. But soon the questions became bigger. What am I going to do with my life? How can I get a job when I don't remember school? Who am I, really?

In my bedroom I found a drawer crammed full of artwork, essays and scripts with my name on them. I didn't recognise any of it. I knew I had a good imagination but I couldn't draw like that. I knew I loved stories, but I was struggling to read and write. It was hard to believe that I had once been this clever, creative kid, who had dreamed of being a writer. How I wished I could be him again.

Then I was told that it was possible that my memories might not be gone, they were just hard to reach. Maybe something from my past could jog them. My hopes ballooned. I went to a lot of the places I was told I had been to as a child, all the parks and shops and old schools. I went to places we'd been to on holiday and travelled the tube on the routes I had taken in my teens. We tried everything, but as time went on, the boy with my name in so many stories and grainy photographs remained another person in another world.

The night before my 30th birthday, I decided to accept that he was simply gone – for ever. I was planning a 1980s-themed party and had started preparing a playlist.

It was late. I went to bed, plugged my earphones in and closed my eyes. I started skipping from one classic to the next. Then I pressed “skip” one more time, and that’s when it happened –The most surreal moment of my life. A song I had somehow not heard in all that time, *The Whole of the Moon* by the Waterboys, began to play, and I was transported.

I found myself sitting on a strange, blue floor, staring at a silver stereo. Then suddenly I was walking in bright sunshine, holding a giant man’s hand. In a flash I was in another curious place; I saw some coloured glass lights on an enormous Christmas tree that towered over me. Near the tree, standing in a doorway, there was a woman. She was young, smiling, and didn’t have grey hair. She was my mum. I was her little boy, and it was real. I was finally there with her, at last.

It was such a short moment but it was mine, and that changed everything. It lit a flame inside of me and the idea for a story exploded into my head. I knew that learning to write again would be hard, but it wasn’t impossible. And if something is not impossible then you can do it.

I took that young kid’s dream, that he first had as a nine-year-old, out of the drawer. Today I’m 39 and inside that drawer is a shiny novel with my name on it, the first of a new series about a boy who wakes up with no memories, in another world. He must find his memories to unlock the power he’ll need to stop a villain who is making everyone forget.

Twenty years on, I still know how much I lost from the accident, but I also know that it didn’t stop me – I found my way back – and that tells me who I really am.

**Jayben and the Golden Torch by Thomas Leeds is out now (Hodder Children’s Books, £7.99)**

<https://www.amazon.de/Jayben-Golden-Torch-Book-1/dp/1444968637>

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2023/mar/29/a-moment-that-changed-me-road-accident-song-memories-childhood>

**Exercise 5:**

**Reading Comprehension**

1. What age was Thomas Leeds when he was hit by a cab?
2. Why did he need surgery?
3. Who supported him while he recovered from the accident?
4. What did Thomas lose as a result of the accident?
5. What did he find in his bedroom that he didn't recognise?
6. What did the author experience while listening to a song on his 30th birthday?
7. What song triggered the author's memories?
8. Why did he decide to write a novel about a boy who wakes up with no memories?
9. What is the title of Thomas Leeds' novel?
10. What is the novel about?

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**Exercise 5:**

**Listening Comprehension**

There are people who can quickly memorise lists of thousands of numbers, the order of all the cards in a deck , and much more. Science writer Joshua Foer describes the technique -- called the memory palace -- and shows off its most remarkable feature: anyone can learn how to use it, including him.

[Joshua Foer— Feats of Memory Anyone Can Do](#)

Click on the link and \*listen for answers to these questions

*\* If necessary, switch on the closed captions (CC)*

1. Which city holds the United States Memory Championship every year?
2. Which country is Ed Cook from?
3. What movie is based Kim Peek's life? (05:22 – 05:27 mins)
4. Which actor played his character in the movie?
5. In which city did Joshua and Kim spend an afternoon together? (05:28- 05:32 mins)
6. Name four technologies that make it easier for humans to externalise memories?
7. Why did researchers at UCL study a group of memory champions?(07:25-07:32 mins)
8. Which part of the brain are competitors using to memorise things?(08:10 - 08:15 mins)
9. How many times has Ben Pridmore been World Memory Champion?
10. What term is used to describe the techniques used by competitors? (09:19 - 09:23 mins)
11. Which is easier: to remember a person's job, or to remember their name?
12. Why?

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12. \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 6:**

**Talking**

**Write down three questions on any aspect\* of this week's material to ask your partner**  
(\*memory, accidents, 80s music, storytelling, ancient Greece, etc)

1 \_\_\_\_\_?

2 \_\_\_\_\_?

3 \_\_\_\_\_?