

IELTS Reading: Lesson 6



ARTICLE: Invisible Injuries

Instructions for 2nd Half of Class:

- 1) Skip to the questions. Do not read the article until you fully understand what the questions are asking.
 - 2) Look for key words. Find key words in the questions that you can reference to navigate the article.
 - 3) Scan the article for clues and answer as many easy questions as you can first. It is still recommended not to skip between question sections as it is easy to miss questions and lose easy points.
- A. In the summer of 2018 I suffered a catastrophic loss as the result of a crash. Then, nothing. Just darkness. I learned later that local first responders entered my vehicle and stabilized us by holding our necks in place while keeping us strapped into our seats. I couldn't hear anything. I couldn't feel anything. An oncoming vehicle crossed over the centre line and hit us head-on.
- B. I vaguely recall being extracted from the remnants of my vehicle when the ambulance arrived. I screamed in pain. I didn't know where the pain was coming from, only that it was excruciating. Digital imaging at the hospital showed bleeding in three parts of my brain, about six millimetres each. I was diagnosed with a mild-complicated traumatic brain injury or TBI. The symptoms of my TBI persisted for nearly two years after my injury. At the beginning of my recovery, I couldn't leave a dark, quiet room for more than 30 minutes at a time. When symptoms set in, I would feel dizzy, disoriented, nauseous, confused, irritable and anxious.
- C. I learned as time went on that the emotional side effects of a TBI can be just as paralyzing as the physical ones. I was lonely and isolated, because my recovery required solitude in dark and quiet places. On top of that, the tools that I had used in the past to navigate challenging times were taken away. Everything was blurry, and my brain, the thing I would normally use to problem-solve a difficult situation, wasn't on my side.
- D. My brain injury has had a tremendous impact on my life — an impact I wouldn't have to deal with if that oncoming driver had been paying attention. My life is changed forever because someone else drove distracted, drunk or drowsy.
- E. I was different. I was a stranger to myself and it felt like there was no one who understood. While my world came to a literal screeching halt, the rest of the world spun madly on. As my treatment progressed, I was lucky enough to meet other TBI survivors who shared their stories with me. As I felt well enough to do so, I did some of my own internet research to find organizations in support of those living with a TBI.
- F. One thing became increasingly clear: a TBI is unlike any other injury. Your brain is who you are. When it is changed, it changes everything. Society wouldn't expect a person with a broken leg to run a marathon with a cast on. TBIs are invisible, and for this reason, in my experience, others often underestimate the effect that they have on survivors' physical, mental and emotional well-being. If you are someone with a TBI or know someone with a TBI, try to visualize the "cast" on their brain and, most importantly, slow down to walk by their side while they heal.

Read the rest of this article at: < <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatoon/first-person-traumatic-brain-injury-1.5971989>>

VOCABULARY & PHRASES

TBI	tremendous	nauseous
visualize	impact	irritable
screeching	problem-solve	anxious
halt	dizzy	head-on collision
madly	disoriented	life-changing experience

IELTS Speaking: Lesson 6



QUESTIONS: Invisible Injuries

Questions 1-6

Complete the sentences below.

Choose NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS from the text for each answer.

Write your answers in the spaces for 1-6 below.

1. I was _____, because my recovery required solitude in dark and quiet places.
2. I was diagnosed with a mild-complicated _____ or TBI.
3. In the summer of 2018 I suffered a _____ as the result of a crash.
4. in my experience, others often underestimate the effect that they have on survivors' physical, mental and _____.
5. While my world came to a _____, the rest of the world spun madly on.
6. an impact I wouldn't have to deal with if that _____ had been paying attention.

Questions 7-11

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Lesson 4?

Answer the questions with one of the below options

- TRUE if the statement agrees with the information
FALSE if the statement contradicts the information
NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this

7. The author's only injuries were physical.
8. The author suffered from a brain injury.
9. Non-physical injuries can have as big an impact as physical injuries.
10. The author found that sharing similar experiences was helpful.
11. More than 500 similar crashes happen each year.

Questions 12

Choose the correct letter A, B, C, or D.

12. This word does NOT describe the tone of this article
- A. Educational
 - B. Somber
 - C. Exciting
 - D. Reflective

Answers:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| 1. lonely and isolated | 11. Not Given |
| 2. traumatic brain injury | 12. C |
| 3. catastrophic loss | |
| 4. emotional well-being | |
| 5. literal screeching halt | |
| 6. oncoming driver | |
| 7. False | |
| 8. True | |
| 9. True | |
| 10. True | |