

A limb from Lego

It's amazing what you can build out of Lego. But ... an arm?! This video shows us that anything is possible ...

Tasks

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises. You can also read the transcript.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

Vocabulary

1. Lego
2. to be obsessed with
3. EDM
4. a prosthetic limb
5. a cable
6. fully functional
7. sophisticated
8. biceps

Definition

- a. to think something is so important that you are always thinking about it
- b. the muscle on the front of the arm between the shoulder and elbow
- c. having an advanced and complex design
- d. a type of plastic toy you can use to build things
- e. a thick wire covered in plastic
- f. electronic dance music
- g. working completely correctly
- h. an artificial arm or leg

Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

	Answer	
1. When he was younger, David often played with Lego.	True	False
2. David lost his right arm in an accident.	True	False
3. 'Hand Solo' is the name David gives to his arm.	True	False
4. David built MK1 soon after creating his first Lego arm.	True	False
5. David could use MK1 when exercising.	True	False
6. David built MK1 in under a week.	True	False
7. MK2 requires an external power source.	True	False
8. David's friends respect his achievement.	True	False

Task 2

David and the narrator use lots of natural phrases. Look at the **phrases in bold** and choose their function.

1. ... or **something like that** ...
 - a. used to ask if someone understands something (for example, a joke)
 - b. used to show attitudes and feelings
 - c. used to show there is a great amount of something
 - d. used to show what we say is not specific
2. ... I went to the mirror and **was like**, 'Ugh, er!' ...
 - a. used to ask if someone understands something (for example, a joke)
 - b. used to show attitudes and feelings
 - c. used to show there is a great amount of something
 - d. used to show what we say is not specific
3. He goes by the name of Hand Solo – **get it?**!
 - a. used to ask if someone understands something (for example, a joke)
 - b. used to show attitudes and feelings
 - c. used to show there is a great amount of something
 - d. used to show what we say is not specific
4. ... he was obsessed with Lego. **So much so**, he wanted to make it a part of him ...
 - a. used to ask if someone understands something (for example, a joke)
 - b. used to show attitudes and feelings
 - c. used to show there is a great amount of something
 - d. used to show what we say is not specific

Discussion

What do you think of David's device? What would you build out of Lego?

Transcript

David: When I was a kid I always played with Lego. I built cars, planes, motorbikes. But now, I built an arm.

Narrator: Meet David Aguilar.

David: My name is David Aguilar. I am from Andorra, and I'm 18 years old.

Narrator: When David was born, his right arm hadn't fully developed.

David: This is the ... my right arm. When I was growing up, it was quite annoying because I received a lot of *commentaries (comments) like, 'Oh, you don't have a hand', or something like that.

Narrator: And while some would see this as a disadvantage, David is just a regular kid. He likes EDM. He goes by the name Hand Solo – get it?! He has an embarrassing dad, he goes to school ...

David: This is my school.

Narrator: ... and he can open doors with his Lego arm. So cool! Growing up, he was obsessed with Lego. So much so, he wanted to make it a part of him – literally.

David: I built my first prosthetic arm when I was nine years old, and I built it around my hand. It started (off) being a boat.

Narrator: Unfortunately, the Lego bricks weren't strong enough, and it wasn't for another nine years till he would try again.

David: This is MK1. This is Lego Technic. It's like the sophisticated part of Lego. I can do push-ups with this thing, so it's quite strong. When I first built the arm and it was fully functional, I went to the mirror and I was like, 'Uugh, er!'

Narrator: That model, the MK1, only took five days to build. Of course, like any good inventor, he got straight to work on an upgrade.

David: And this is MK2. It has a battery that works like a biceps, and it has this fishing cable that ties up in here. When I fix this to my shoulder, I can do this [demonstrates] and the arm closes. I can stop in the middle and move it by myself.

When I first brought this (into school), they were all really amazed because how can somebody create a hand out of Lego? I was a normal guy, and when I built the arm everyone was like, 'You're awesome, you're really smart.' They told me they are really proud to be my friends. It's amazing.

Answers

Preparation task

1. d
2. a
3. f
4. h
5. e
6. g
7. c
8. b

Task 1

1. True
2. False
3. False
4. False
5. True
6. True
7. True
8. True

Task 2

1. d
2. b
3. a
4. c