

School of hope

1 QUICK QUIZ

Read the sentences about Cambodia. Are they true or false?

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|-------|
| 1. Cambodia is in north-east Asia | True | False |
| 2. It's next to India | True | False |
| 3. It's a very poor country | True | False |

In Cambodia, thousands of poor children don't go to school. Why not? Suggest two more reasons. Can you find someone who agrees with you?

1. Some children have to help their parents at home
2. There isn't a school near their home
3. _____
4. _____

2 WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Match the words from the article with the definitions. The paragraph number will also help you find the correct word.

PARAGRAPHS 1-4

enrolled	raise (money)	persuade	assistance
faraway	keep up	disorder	respectively

1. distant from you _____
2. collect money for a particular purpose _____
3. help _____
4. illness _____
5. put your name on the official list of people who go to a school _____
6. used for saying that something happens separately to each of the people (in the order that they were mentioned) _____
7. make someone agree to do something _____
8. continue to do something _____

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PARAGRAPHS 5-7

ribbon-cutting ceremony	roam	well behaved	handed out
resemble	grab	equipped with	oxen

- 9. a small piece of coloured cloth is cut to celebrate something _____
- 10. to be similar to something or someone _____
- 11. move with no particular purpose _____
- 12. large types of cows used on farms _____
- 13. provided with the things they need _____
- 14. does things in a polite way _____
- 15. gave things to different people in a group _____
- 16. take hold of something in a rude way _____

PARAGRAPHS 8-10

stays in touch with	oversees	upkeep	generator
fund-raising	pay off	monsoons	brutal

- 17. collecting money for a good purpose _____
- 18. a machine that produces electricity _____
- 19. watches something in order to check that it works _____
- 20. the cost of keeping something in good condition _____
- 21. periods of heavy rain in South-East Asia _____
- 22. continues to speak, see or write to _____
- 23. extremely violent _____
- 24. bring some benefit _____

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SCHOOL OF HOPE

by Mary Beth Maslowski

1 What would you be doing if you weren't going to school? Illness forced 18-year-old Rachel Rosenfeld to stay home from school for almost a whole year. But that didn't stop her from helping to build a school – in faraway Cambodia, in south-eastern Asia!

2 Rachel, from Harrison in the state of New York, had a stomach disorder that was causing her a lot of pain. When possible, Rachel studied at home with a private tutor and did a lot of reading. One day, Rachel read an article about children in Cambodia who can't go to school. The article also reported that some parents in Cambodia are so poor they have to sell their daughters into prostitution. That's when Rachel decided to build a school.

Cambodia

- was called Kampuchea until 1989. The official name used by the government is Preah-reach-ana-chak Kampuchea, which means Kingdom of Kampuchea.
- has a picture of the famous Angkor Wat temple on its flag.
- names Khmer as its main language.
- has three main seasons: rainy (with monsoons), dry (and cold) and another dry (and hot).
- was ruled by a brutal, radical communist group, the Khmer Rouge, from 1975 until 1979. Under the Khmer Rouge dictator, Pol Pot, people were forced out of the cities to work on farms. Around 1.7 million Cambodians died or were killed during that time.

3 Rachel contacted an organization called American Assistance for Cambodia, where she found out what she could do to help. Rachel had to find a way to create something from nothing – on the other side of the world! "I needed to raise \$13,000 just for the buildings," she says. "In truth, I was pretty confused about how I would raise enough money to build and maintain an entire school."

4 Rachel started by sending out hundreds of mailings, hoping people could help. She let people buy signs with their names on them for things inside the school, like desks and chairs. She even made T-shirts and sold them for \$20 each.

5 Rachel also had to find time to do all the work. "I wasn't fully enrolled in school, due to my illness. But I was going to doctors and hospitals quite frequently and trying to keep up my studies." But eventually Rachel managed to raise about \$52,000 and persuaded the World Bank and

the Asian Development Bank to contribute \$10,000 and \$13,000 respectively.

6 When the school was ready, Rachel and her family flew to Cambodia for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new school. But getting to the school wasn't easy. The R.S. Rosenfeld School is in a small village in Cambodia's Siem Reap province. It's a poor area close to the famous Angkor Wat, a huge 12th century Buddhist temple built to resemble mountains. The only way to get there is via a number of dirt roads. The village has neither electricity nor running water. Chickens, cows and other animals roam free here. "We had to stop because two oxen were fighting in the middle of the road," says Rachel.

7 The school is equipped with five computers and Internet access for 300 primary-school pupils. Rachel says she was surprised by how well behaved the kids were. "My family and I handed out school supplies after the opening. Nobody grabbed a packet from our hands, but instead waited patiently until it was their turn."

8 Back home, Rachel's work is not finished. She stays in touch with the school and oversees the school's bank accounts. Every year, additional funds are required, for example for the computer teacher and the upkeep of the generator.

9 For anyone interested in fund-raising, Rachel has some advice: "Don't give up when times get hard," she says. "It's important to be passionate, creative and definitely stay organized. It'll all pay off. When I started this project, I thought it was something great for others. I never realized how much I would benefit from it myself."



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3 FIND THE INFORMATION

A. Rachel is ill. Complete this doctor's form for her.

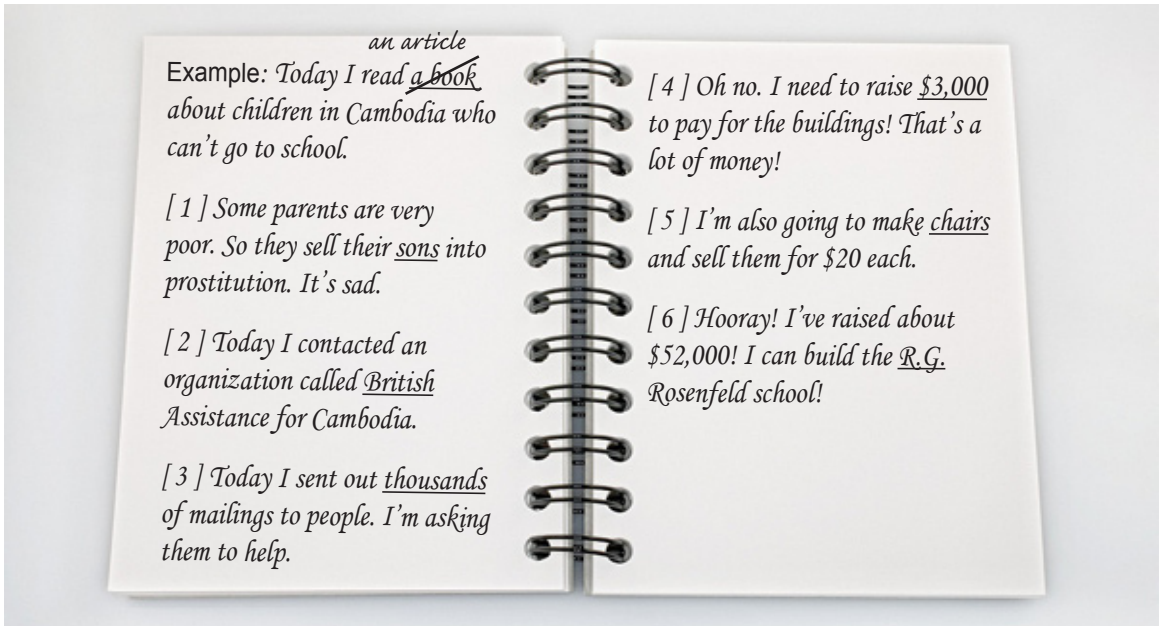
Dr. J. Domsky New York	<u>CERTIFICATE OF HEALTH</u>	
First name: <u>Rachel</u>	Surname: _____	
Age: _____	Address: _____, <u>New York</u>	
Health problem: <u>Rachel has a serious</u>		<u>disorder</u>

B. What order did the events take place? Number them 1-6.

Rachel....

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> went to Cambodia | <input type="checkbox"/> decided to build a school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> opened a school there | <input type="checkbox"/> read an article about Cambodia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> got ill and couldn't go to school | <input type="checkbox"/> raised some money |

C. Read some sentences from Rachel's diary and correct the mistakes. Compare your answers with a classmate. Do you agree?



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4 TEEN TALK

Read this sentence from paragraph 3: "In truth, I was pretty confused about how I would raise enough money...."

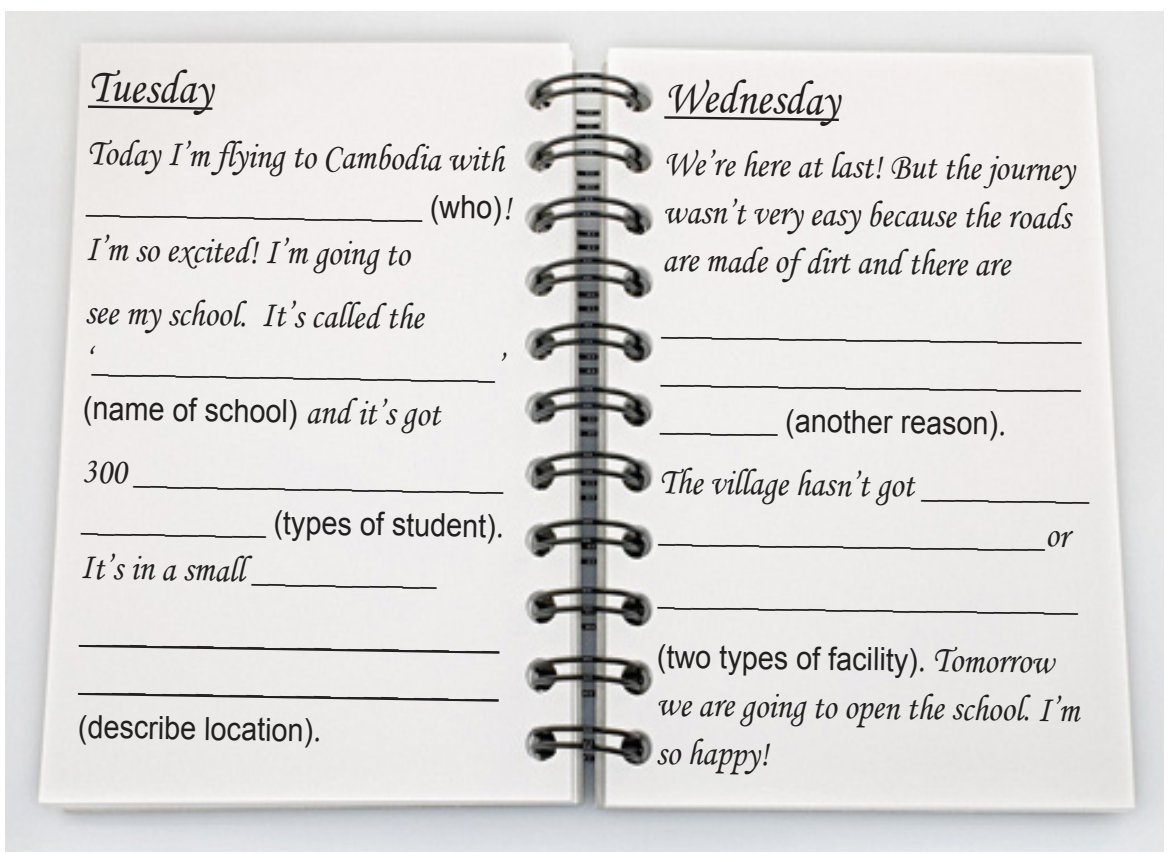
Pretty means quite.

Can you think of something you think is:

- a. pretty interesting? _____
- b. pretty boring? _____

5 WRITE A DIARY

Continue Rachel's diary. Find the missing information from the text.



6 WEBQUEST: CHOOSE THE WINNER OF A COMPETITION!

Every year 'World Challenge' holds a competition for the best aid project. Alone or in small groups, read examples from the following website and choose an interesting aid project:

www.theworldchallenge.co.uk

Make a poster about it. Read your classmates' posters and have a class vote on the best projects. Which project should win the first prize? Second prize? Why?

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7 DESIGN YOUR OWN SCHOOL!

A. Imagine you are designing a primary school for children in a poor country. There is no electricity or running water. Some children are hungry and ill. How important for your school are the items in the list below? Discuss with a classmate.

The school needs...	Costs	Very important	Quite important	Not important
Desks, chairs and furniture	\$5,000			
Notebooks and pens	\$1,000			
Five computers	\$5,000			
A generator	\$4,000			
A library with books	\$2,500			
A health clinic	\$4,500			
A football field	\$500			
A playground	\$500			
A well (for water)	\$2,000			
One free meal every day	\$18,000			
TOTAL	\$			

B. Discuss these questions.

1. Add up your costs. What's the total? How can you make some things cheaper?
2. What else should you buy for your school?
3. Most children in your school will eventually work in factories, on rice farms, in small businesses or as tour guides. What school subjects should you offer?
4. What kind of teachers do you want? What personal qualities should they have?
5. What's the name of your school?

C. How can you raise all the money to build your school? You need \$13,000 for the buildings and the additional money you listed above. Think of two more ideas.

We can....

- a. write to a big bank to ask for money
- b. email people to ask for money
- c. make things and sell them
- d. _____
- e. _____

Share your ideas with another group!



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KEY

1

1. false, false, true
2. some parents don't think that education is important, so they don't send their children to school; some parents haven't got enough money to pay for them to go to school; some children work in factories or on farms; some are sold as prostitutes.

2

1. faraway
2. raise (money)
3. assistance
4. disorder
5. enrolled
6. respectively
7. persuade
8. keep up
9. ribbon-cutting ceremony
10. resemble
11. roam
12. oxen
13. equipped with
14. well behaved
15. handed out
16. grab
17. fund-raising
18. generator
19. oversees
20. upkeep
21. monsoons
22. stays in touch with
23. brutal
24. pay off

3

A.

Surname: Rosenfeld

Age: 18

Address: Harrison

Health problem: stomach

B.

5. went to Cambodia
6. opened a school there
1. got ill and couldn't go to school
3. decided to build a school
2. read an article about Cambodia
4. raised some money

C.

1. daughters
2. American
3. hundreds
4. \$13,000
5. T-shirts
6. R. S.

4

- a. students' own answers
- b. students' own answers

5

(who) my family
(name of school) R.S. Rosenfeld School
(types of student) primary-school pupils
(describe location) village close to Angkor Wat
(another reason) animals in the road
(two types of facility) electricity / running water