

## Learn about Physical Therapists

CCSSR2. Figure out ideas when you read.

If you go to the Rehabilitation Institute in Chicago, you will see someone working to help patients. This is a job that helps people do more. It is a job that takes patience and skills. This person is a Physical Therapist. As you read what one person says about her job, imagine yourself doing this kind of work some day. How would you feel if every day you helped people make progress?

I work closely with people who have hurt themselves. Their injuries may be as mild as having a sore shoulder, knee or back, or as severe as having paralyzed legs and or arms. It's my job to evaluate what their problems are and come up with ways to help make them better, stronger, take their pain away or teach them to walk and do things for themselves again

I need to be able to communicate well with people of all ages and backgrounds everyday. I need to be able to talk to people I've never met and ask them personal questions that helps me to understand what is wrong with them. I can't be shy around new people and I need to be clear in my communications with them.

I chose to go into physical therapy because I love to be with people and talk with them. I decided that I didn't want to use the computer all day or answers the telephone or be in a lab doing experiments. I wanted to be around people and I wanted to be an important part of helping them feel better.

To prepare to become a Physical Therapist, I had to finish college and then go to graduate school for 3 years. In that time, I learned all the muscles in the body and all the organs and how they work. I learned how to figure out what is weak and what hurts on people and then how to help. I prepared for knowing all that by taking a lot of classes in biology, chemistry, math, physics, anatomy, physiology and psychology.

What I like about my job is that it is always very interesting and never boring. I like that I am never alone but surrounded by people all the time. They tell me that I have made a difference in their life and when I go home at night, I know that I have touched someone else's life and they appreciate the work I did for them. I also love that my job combines being active and physical with being a thinker and doing a lot of problem solving.

### EXPLAIN WHAT YOU LEARNED

1. Underline the most important information in each paragraph.
2. Write a short summary that tells what the passage explains. Include only the most important information.

*Start your summary this way:*

The main idea of the passage is \_\_\_\_\_.

Here is information that helps you understand that idea.

Then finish the summary. Include the information that helps explain the main idea.