

Shoot and Score!

by ReadWorks



Emily's older sister, Morgan, plays soccer. Morgan started playing soccer when she was seven years old. Now, she is 15 years old. One day after school, Emily asks Morgan if they can play soccer together.

"Of course!" says Morgan. "I will teach you!"

The two girls go home and change into comfy clothes. Emily puts on purple shorts, and Morgan puts on her soccer jersey. Then, Morgan puts on her soccer cleats, special shoes for soccer. They have spikes on the bottom so soccer players don't slip on the grass.

"You can wear sneakers," Morgan tells Emily. "Just make sure to tie your laces tight!"

They run out their front door. Morgan is carrying a soccer ball. "Be careful, girls!" their mother calls out. Both sisters smile and hold up a thumbs-up

sign.

"First, we can pass the ball to each other," Morgan says. She drops the ball on the soft, green grass. She lifts her right foot and kicks the ball towards Emily. It flies past Emily and zooms into their neighbor's front yard.

"You kicked it too hard!" Emily shouts.

Morgan giggles and says sorry. She runs into the yard to get the ball back.

"Okay, I'll try again," Morgan says. This time, she kicks it more softly. Her foot pushes it straight to Emily.

Emily holds out her foot to stop the ball. "Perfect!" Emily says, excited.

"Now kick it back!" Morgan shouts.

Emily lifts her foot and kicks the ball. But instead of going to Morgan, the ball flies to the left, near the garage. Emily is sad. "Why didn't the ball go straight to you?" she asks her sister.

"Don't be sad!" Morgan says. "You have to aim." She tells Emily that she can change the direction of the ball with her feet. She can push the ball towards the right or left. She can also stop the ball by blocking it with her foot. That way, players of the same team can pass the ball to each other and eventually shoot the ball into the goal. Morgan says it takes a lot of practice to become good at soccer. "Don't worry. We'll try again tomorrow," Morgan tells Emily.

Their mom opens the front door. "Dinner, girls!" she calls out.

Morgan picks up the ball, and they both run inside. Emily is tired, but she's excited to learn more tomorrow!

Acrobats

by ReadWorks

Circuses can be a lot of fun. Usually, there are popcorn, clowns, beautiful acrobats, and more. One of the most exciting parts of the circus is the acrobats.

Dressed in colorful costumes, these amazing performers fly over the stage on trapezes. Acrobats have to train for many years to do all of these dangerous stunts. It requires a lot of practice. The trapeze is one of the oldest circus acts around. When acrobats first begin to train, they typically start on the trapeze. Then, they can develop new skills. There are many different types of stunts that professional acrobats can do.

Sometimes, performers use big pieces of silk that hang from the ceiling to the floor. They use their leg and arm strength to climb the silks. Then they spin, flip, and twirl with the fabric. They have to wrap the silks around their feet or wrists so that they can support their body. It is a big feat!

Acrobats also perform on the lyra, or aerial hoop. A rope hangs a big hoop, like a hula hoop, from the ceiling. Acrobats hang off the hoop to do different tricks. They can flip around the hoop, or climb around it using only their legs or arms. This stunt also requires a lot of body strength. Sometimes, two acrobats use just one hoop at the same time to perform. This is a very hard trick!



Some circuses only have acrobats. In New York City, there is one group called Lady Circus. These women are professional acrobats and have been training for years. They put on shows every month that always have a big audience. The acrobats wear very colorful costumes they make themselves. People love their performances! Since Lady Circus is loved so much, the acrobats often perform at other events around the city. But whenever they do perform, they always need high ceilings. They have to hang up their trapezes, silks, and hoops.

Even though it is a lot of work, the members of Lady Circus love what they do. Not many other people can say that they fly over a stage on a regular basis!

Name: _____ Date: _____

Use the article "Shoot and Score!" to answer questions 1 to 2.

1. What does Morgan say it takes to become good at soccer?

2. What is the main idea of this story?

Use the article "Acrobats" to answer questions 3 to 4.

3. Describe acrobats. Be sure to include information about the practice they do.

4. What is the main idea of this article?

Use the articles "Shoot and Score!" and "Acrobats" to answer questions 5 to 6

5. "Shoot and Score!" and "Acrobats" both mention practice. Explain why practice is important to soccer players and acrobats. Support your answer with information from each text.

6. The importance of practice is an idea found in both texts. Explain whether the importance of practice is the MAIN idea of each text. Support your answer with evidence from both texts. (Your answer to this question may be different for "Shoot and Score!" than it is for "Acrobats.")
