

A Look Back

Read the story to find out the kind of show Ben works on.

¹ "This is great! Hurry, Ben, and sit down to watch this tape of last year's show. Your part is almost on," said Robert.

² Ben was feeling his way into the dark room when he bumped into Ling, the show's producer, who turned and smiled. "Welcome back from vacation, Ben. It's good to see you and the rest of the cast and crew. We just started watching the tape."

³ "Hi, everybody," whispered Ben as he found a place to sit facing the screen in the front of the room. He focused his eyes and saw Cindy and Robert on the screen. They were the hosts on a half-hour children's show called *Just for Openers*. They also did the science parts of the show. Ben started to watch the tape. Robert and Cindy were finishing a report on rain clouds.

⁴ "Do you recognize that kid?" asked Kim, one of the cast members, as the tape continued.

⁵ "He sure looks like me," said Ben, laughing. He saw himself up on the screen doing a report for his part of the show, called "Ben, the Traveler." The show was about places and people that children would like to visit.

⁶ "For this program, Ben was on location. He was in Michigan at a special kind of camp," Ling said. Everyone's attention was back on the screen. Ben was introducing the show: ". . . *The National Music Camp is a special kind of camp. The campers are artists, dancers, and musicians. They range in age from eight years old to college age. Their days are filled with projects that help them improve their skills in the arts. There is time to practice and learn. There is also time just to play. . .*"



⁷ The background tape on the screen changed as Ben continued. The campers were now seen climbing into boats and playing softball.

⁸ ". . . *The National Music Camp offers just what these campers want. This is Ben, the traveler, saying good-bye from Michigan.*"

⁹ "Hold the applause, please!" Ben said.

¹⁰ Everyone blinked as the lights came back on. Ling stood and said, "I thought it would help us if we saw a tape of one of last year's shows. Then we can talk about the shows for this year. I'm sure you all have some good ideas to share."

¹¹ "I'm ready to get started," said Ben. "This is going to be the best year ever!"

Knowing the Words

Write the words from the story that have the meanings below.

1. someone in charge of a show _____
(Par. 2)
2. adjusted to make clearer _____
(Par. 3)
3. a particular place _____
(Par. 4)
4. a level of school after high school _____
(Par. 6)
5. special assignments _____
(Par. 6)

A **synonym** is a word with the same or nearly the same meaning as another word. Circle each pair of synonyms.

6. location—vacation
8. blink—stare
7. finish—complete
9. bumped—hit

Learning to Study

Number the words in each column in alphabetical order.

1. _____ program
2. _____ interview
- _____ prepare
- _____ introduce
- _____ producer
- _____ invited

Guide words are printed at the top of most pages in a dictionary. The guide word at the left is the first word on the page. The guide word at the right is the last word on the page. Check each word that could be found on a page having the guide words shown in dark print.

3. **brand—brim**
_____ brake _____ broken _____ break
4. **fast—favor**
_____ family _____ father _____ fame
5. **home—hope**
_____ host _____ honest _____ hotel

Reading and Thinking

Write **T** before the sentences that are true. Write **F** before the sentences that are false.

1. _____ Ben has been on vacation.
2. _____ Ben is a cast member on a program for children.
3. _____ Ben has never worked on the show.
4. _____ Ben does the science reports on the program.
5. _____ Ling is the producer of the show.
6. Check the sentence that best states the main idea of the story.
_____ Ben tells the cast and crew about his summer vacation.
_____ Ben shares his ideas for the show with Ling.
_____ Ben and the cast start a new year working on the show.
7. Why did Ben go to Michigan last year?

Working with Words

A **prefix** is a group of letters added to the beginning of a word to change its meaning. The prefix **pre-** means "before." For example, *preview* means "to view before." Add **pre-** to each word below. Use each new word in a sentence.

1. _____ pay _____

2. _____ heat _____

3. _____ package _____
