

# Unit 2

## You do have such talent.

### You'll be able to:

1. talk about the talents you have;
2. discuss how to discover one's talents;
3. describe people's talents.



### Look at the picture and discuss:

1. Do you love watching talent shows?
2. Do you want to take part in a talent show?

## Warming up

1 Listen and match the word and phrases with the pictures. 🎧



hand shadow drama

magic trick

piano performance

imitation

### Key sentences:

1. William is a brilliant boy who can do magic tricks.
2. Mona is good at doing imitations and always makes people laugh.

2 Choose the talents you have.

drawing

cooking

knitting

singing

dancing

playing instruments

organising

designing

playing sports

others: \_\_\_\_\_

## Listening and Speaking

### 1 Listen and learn the words and expressions. 🎧

talent show    buzzword    huge fan    season    showcase  
household name    incredible    blow sb away    astonished

### 2 Listen to the dialogue and practice. 🎧

**Harry:** Have you watched any talent shows recently?

**Tracy:** Yeah, “talent show” is a buzzword now. My favourite is “Your Voice, Our Choice”.

**Harry:** I am a huge fan of that show, too. I’ve watched the entire season this year.

**Tracy:** It seems everyone is watching it.

**Harry:** It gives people of all ages the opportunity to showcase their skills and talents.

**Tracy:** The singers can become household names overnight.

**Harry:** I think you’re a good singer. Why not try it out?

**Tracy:** I’m not sure if I have that much talent.

**Harry:** You do have such talent. Take a chance.

**Tracy:** That’s encouraging. Thank you. I’ll give it a try.

### 3 Listen again and discuss why talent shows have become so popular. 🎧

1. They provide everyone an opportunity to showcase their skills and talents.
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

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## 4 Listen to the dialogue and practice. 🎧

**Host:** Hi Amy! That was a wonderful song!

**Amy:** Thank you. It's incredible that the judges gave me a ticket to the next round.

**Host:** You simply blew the judges away.

**Amy:** I still can't believe this is actually happening.

**Host:** Such a big and powerful voice to come out of such a little girl like you!

**Amy:** I enjoyed every minute onstage.

**Host:** I'm even more astonished to discover that you are completely self-taught. How did you teach yourself?

**Amy:** I watched online videos to learn to sing. I practice singing whenever I can.

**Host:** Amazing talent and hard work make the impossible possible!

### Tips:

self-taught: 自学的, 由 self 加 teach 的过去分词 taught 组成, 表示 teach oneself. 同学们还能想到类似的词语吗?

## 5 Listen again and role-play the dialogue. 🎧



dance;

such a difficult but beautiful dance;

practice dancing

## Reading and Writing

### 1 Read and learn the words and expressions.

step onto    support    extraordinary    rise to the top  
head start    assume    ahead of    miracle    potential

### 2 Read the introduction of the competitors in a talent show.

#### Jack

When he steps onto the stage and opens his mouth to sing, the entire audience are cheering and judges' jaws drop. He has such a moving voice that all the listeners have tears in their eyes.

#### Amy

She has become a new star on the Internet. Her video has been watched over a million times on the Internet. She leads with these numbers among all competitors. If you want to know how well she sings, just click your mouse!

#### Tim

This young boy started to sing in the church when he was only four years old. He often says he got the courage to sing from his mother. He has had a lot of fans at school, too. They have come all the way here tonight to support their super star.

#### Tips:

judges' jaws drop: 评委们惊叹不已。

### 3 Suppose you were one of the competitors, write an introduction for yourself.

## 4 Read about talent and hard work.

Talent is something you are born with. It's a natural gift that should be appreciated. Talent enables people to do extraordinary things. Not everyone can swim like Michael Phelps or run like Usain Bolt. We've known people who have risen to the top with their talent. However, there are also people who have all the talents they would ever need, but they still don't succeed. So is talent ever enough? Yes, but only at the very beginning when talent separates you from the rest of the people. It gives you a head start on others. For that reason, a natural talent is one of life's greatest gifts. But the advantage it gives lasts only a short time. Too many talented people who start with an advantage over others lose that advantage because they rely too much on their talent instead of making more of an effort. They assume that talent alone will keep them ahead of the others. They don't realise the truth: If they do not work hard, others will soon fly past them. Talent itself does not make miracles happen. You need to do things to change potentials into results. Author Stephen King says, "Talent is cheaper than table salt. What separates the talented individual from the successful one is a lot of hard work." More than just talent is needed for anyone who wants to be successful. Remember: Hard work will beat talent if the talented don't work hard.



**5** Read again and choose the best answers.

1. Talent is a \_\_\_\_\_ gift.  
A. difficult                      B. natural                      C. necessary
2. Michael Phelps has a talent for \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. boxing                      B. running                      C. swimming
3. Talented people sometimes lose their advantages because \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. they don't work hard enough  
B. they don't know how to use their talents  
C. they don't really have the talents

**6** Fill in the blanks with the proper form of the words and expressions in the box.

rely on    assume    miracle    extraordinary    make an effort

1. I didn't see your car, so I \_\_\_\_\_ you'd gone out.
2. Bad things happen if a talented person only \_\_\_\_\_ his talent and does not work hard.
3. They have made \_\_\_\_\_ achievements.
4. It's important to \_\_\_\_\_ to put your talent into use.
5. It's a \_\_\_\_\_ that nobody was injured in the crash.

**7** Discuss and write down your views about talent and hard work.

For example:

Thomas Edison says, "Genius is one percent inspiration, ninety-nine percent perspiration." ...

## Language in Use

### 被动语态

① Read the sentences and pay attention to the underlined parts.

1. Her video has been watched over a million times on the Internet.
2. It's a natural gift that should be appreciated.
3. More than just talent is needed for anyone who wants to be successful.

在英语中，强调动作的承受者时或动作的执行者不明确或不用指明时，通常使用被动语态。在被动句中，主语是动作的承受者，动词用被动形式。动词的被动形式由 be 动词和动词的过去分词构成。

② Complete the sentences using the words in the brackets as the example given.

*Example:*

I can't use my office for the moment. It is being painted (paint).

1. The washing machine was broken. It needs to \_\_\_\_\_ (repair).
2. How old are these houses? When \_\_\_\_\_ they \_\_\_\_\_ (build)?
3. Football is a very popular game. It \_\_\_\_\_ (play) all over the world.
4. Stamps \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) at any post office.

## More Activities

### 1 Read about the small talents the people have.

Talent is not always something big for extraordinary tasks. It could be the ability to do tiny little things as long as others cannot do the same.

**Henry** has a great sense of humour. He can always make people laugh by telling jokes or funny stories. It's always fun to hang around him. He makes the day a lot easier. His favourite saying is "Laughter is the best medicine". He is our "Funny Story Superman".

**Billy** is excellent at imitating comedians, especially Mr Bean, who is his idol. Billy can make all kinds of body gestures and facial expressions. Without saying a single word, he gets us to laugh our socks off. That's an amazing talent.

**Lisa** is special because she has an exceptionally good sense of direction. She always knows where she is and how to get to her destination. Whenever we are in a new place, she acts as our guide and we never get lost or waste time finding the right way, not even once.

### 2 Read again and match the talents with the people.

Henry

imitating comedians

Billy

a good sense of direction

Lisa

a great sense of humour

3 Work in groups and find out your group members' talents.

Name	Talents he/she has

4 Write something about your talents according to your group members' description.

For example:

My group members say I have a talent for doing imitations. I can imitate many cartoon characters such as SpongeBob, Snoopy, etc. I can always make people laugh when I do imitations.

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## Around the World 🎧

The Sydney Royal Cheese & Dairy Produce Show is held annually in the second week of February. The show is one of the most prestigious and competitive events in the dairy industry. Products judged include an extensive range of cheese, milk, butter, dairy desserts and ice cream created from cow's milk as well as sheep, goat and buffalo milk.



### Mouth Cancer Voice Awards

The Mouth Cancer Voice Awards is a biennial event looking for the most talented, brightest young stars for a unique online talent show. It aims to raise awareness of the risk factors (smoking, drinking, etc.) as well as of the symptoms of mouth cancer, among everyone in the UK, especially college students by reminding them not to take their voice for granted.

Florida Outdoor Sculpture Competition is organised every year by Polk Museum of Art, which works with local cities to install new sculptures in downtown parks. Sculptures are selected by a committee of community members and museum staff. An independent judge selects the Best of Show, Second Place and Honourable Mention awards for the competition.

