

THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210311-miracle-puppy.html>

Amid the constant stream of bad news that fills our screens, a heart-warming tale comes from a hospital in Oklahoma, USA. A puppy born with severe abnormalities has survived its first week, and doctors are optimistic that she will live a healthy life. Skipper the puppy is a cross-breed - she is a border collie and Australian shepherd mix. She was one of a litter of nine puppies. While her brothers and sisters came out "normal," Skipper was born with six legs and two tails. These are her most visible congenital conditions. She has others, including two pelvic regions, two lower urinary tracts and two reproductive regions. Her vet said that despite Skipper's condition, her organs are working "just fine".

Vets have called Skipper's survival a "miracle". The Neel Veterinary Hospital in Oklahoma, where she was born, wrote: "She has survived longer than we suspect any other canine has....Published research does not indicate one that has been born alive...with her combination of congenital conditions." It added: "Skipper is a strong girl. She is able to scoot around just like a regular puppy." Neel added: "We think that she may have some things to overcome, but she is determined right now and thriving." The miracle puppy has her own Facebook page. It says: "She is currently at the correct weight for her age and accomplishing all of her milestones. She is following a path to a happy and healthy life."

Sources: <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/02/23/us/puppy-born-with-six-legs-trnd/index.html>
<https://wgntv.com/news/shes-probably-one-of-a-kind-6-legged-puppy-is-a-miracle-veterinarians-say/>
<https://www.sciencetimes.com/articles/29821/20210223/miracle-puppy-oklahoma-six-legs-two-tails.htm>

WARM-UPS

1. PUPPIES: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about puppies. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

stream / bad news / heart-warming / hospital / puppy / optimistic / region / organ
survival / miracle / canine / research / overcome / thriving / weight / milestones

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. BAD NEWS: Students A **strongly** believe bad news is more interesting than good news; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. NEWS: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "news". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

5. PETS: Rank these with your partner. Put the best pet at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| • dog | • iguana |
| • goldfish | • sheep |
| • cat | • tortoise |
| • rabbit | • parrot |

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. constant | a. Something bad or undesirable very great; intense. |
| 2. tale | b. Happening continuously over a period of time. |
| 3. severe | c. Hopeful and confident about the future. |
| 4. optimistic | d. The group of young animals born to an animal at one time. |
| 5. litter | e. A fictitious or true narrative or story. |
| 6. congenital | f. Relating to making babies or young. |
| 7. reproductive | g. Of a disease or physical abnormality present from birth. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 8. suspect | h. Relating to or resembling a dog or dogs. |
| 9. canine | i. Succeed in dealing with a problem or difficulty. |
| 10. indicate | j. Have an idea about the existence, presence, or truth of something. |
| 11. scoot around | k. Point out; show. |
| 12. overcome | l. Prospering or flourishing. |
| 13. thriving | m. Move quickly. |
| 14. accomplishing | n. Achieving or completing successfully. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210311-miracle-puppy.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The article says a six-legged puppy was bad news. **T / F**
- b. The article says the puppy survived its first month. **T / F**
- c. The puppy has eight siblings. **T / F**
- d. Vets say the puppy's organs are working fine. **T / F**
- e. The puppy was born on the streets. **T / F**
- f. A vet said the puppy is very weak at the moment. **T / F**
- g. The vet said the puppy is unable to walk. **T / F**
- h. The puppy is the correct weight for her age. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. constant | a. marvel |
| 2. tale | b. noticeable |
| 3. bothers and sisters | c. conquer |
| 4. visible | d. story |
| 5. regions | e. reckon |
| 6. miracle | f. flourishing |
| 7. suspect | g. areas |
| 8. overcome | h. non-stop |
| 9. thriving | i. fulfilling |
| 10. accomplishing | j. siblings |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. Amid the constant | a. and thriving |
| 2. A puppy born with severe | b. of nine puppies |
| 3. doctors are optimistic that | c. are working |
| 4. She was one of a litter | d. abnormalities |
| 5. her organs | e. a path |
| 6. Vets have called Skipper's survival | f. milestones |
| 7. she may have some things | g. stream of bad news |
| 8. she is determined right now | h. to overcome |
| 9. accomplishing all of her | i. she will live |
| 10. She is following | j. a "miracle" |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210311-miracle-puppy.html>

1. What does the article say there is a constant stream of?
2. How long has the puppy survived so far?
3. How many brothers and sisters does the puppy have?
4. How many tails was the puppy born with?
5. What did the puppy's vet say are working "just fine"?
6. What did the vet call the puppy's survival?
7. What can the puppy scoot around like?
8. What did the vet say the puppy has to overcome?
9. What kind of weight is the puppy at for her age?
10. What is the puppy following a path to?

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210311-miracle-puppy.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'miracle' and 'puppy'.

miracle	puppy
----------------	--------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• amid• severe• cross• normal• visible• despite	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• miracle• longer• alive• overcome• page• path
--	---

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'miracle'?
3. What do you think of miracles?
4. Have you ever witnessed a miracle?
5. What miracles would you like to happen?
6. Do you prefer to read about bad or good news?
7. What do you think about puppies?
8. Which are cuter - puppies or kittens?
9. How will the puppy live life with six legs?
10. What advice do you have for the puppy's owner?

'Miracle' puppy born with six legs – 11th March, 2021
Thousands more free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](https://www.breakingnewsenglish.com)

DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'puppy'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Would you like to work as a vet?
15. What do you think a vet does every day?
16. How strong are you?
17. What things in life have you overcome?
18. What milestones have you passed in life?
19. How can we get on a path to a happy life?
20. What questions would you like to ask the vet?