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## Girl born with 8 limbs OK after op

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### Contents

The Article	2
Warm-ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
Listening Gap Fill	6
After Reading / Listening	7
Student Survey	8
Discussion	9
Language Work	10
Writing	11
Homework	12
Answers	13

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## THE ARTICLE

A two-year-old Indian girl has had four limbs removed from her body. Lakshmi Tatma was born as a conjoined twin and had an extra pair of arms and legs. Her twin stopped developing in the womb and was headless, leaving Lakshmi with the extra sets of limbs. The risky, marathon, 27-hour operation on Wednesday was a huge success and little Lakshmi is now doing well and recovering in a Bangalore hospital. She is awake following her surgery and is apparently full of smiles. She reportedly wiggled her toes and moved her hands, which doctors say is a good sign that her recovery will go smoothly. She may even be able to walk soon. Lead surgeon Dr Sharan Patil told reporters: "Lakshmi is stable and doing well. All her signs are within the normal limits. She has survived very well."

Lakshmi was born with a very rare condition called *ischiopagus*. This occurs in less than 2 per cent of conjoined twins. One of the twin embryos stops developing in the mother's womb and the other embryo ends up with more body parts than it needs. Lakshmi's additional limbs made it impossible for her to stand and walk. Her father Shambu said he had been through the most traumatic time of his life. He spent 15 minutes with his daughter in the ICU and said: "I was relieved to see my daughter open her eyes and move her legs." Shambu named his daughter after the four-armed Hindu goddess of wealth and local villagers saw her as a reincarnation of the goddess. A circus wanted to buy Lakshmi but her parents had better ideas for her future and took her to the Bangalore hospital.

## WARM-UPS

**1. OPERATIONS:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about operations. Change partners often. After you finish, sit with your original partner(s) and share what you found out.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*limbs / the womb / risky operations / wiggling one's toes / smooth recoveries / rare conditions / embryos / traumatic times / goddesses / reincarnation / circus*

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

**3. NAMING CHILDREN:** Have you thought about what names to give your children? Choose names after the people below. Explain your choices to your partner(s).

- |                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| • family member _____    | • national hero _____ |
| • rock star _____        | • world figure _____  |
| • religious figure _____ | • sport star _____    |

**4. TRAUMATIC TIMES:** With your partner(s), discuss which of the experiences below would be most traumatic for you and why:

- your child having a risky, marathon operation
- losing a limb
- having to move to another country
- divorce – yours or your parents
- being kidnapped by terrorists
- exams

**5. TWINS:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'twins'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

## BEFORE READING / LISTENING

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| a. A girl was born with four arms and four legs.                 | T / F |
| b. She had a 27-hour operation to remove two arms and two legs.  | T / F |
| c. She woke up from the operation and was very unhappy.          | T / F |
| d. Doctors are not very hopeful that she will survive.           | T / F |
| e. The girl was born with a very rare medical condition.         | T / F |
| f. She had a little trouble walking before the operation.        | T / F |
| g. Neither of her parents was allowed to see her after the op.   | T / F |
| h. The girl's parents said they will now take her to the circus. | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. limbs          | a. uncommon      |
| 2. marathon       | b. distressing   |
| 3. apparently     | c. arms and legs |
| 4. wiggled        | d. extra         |
| 5. stable         | e. rebirth       |
| 6. rare           | f. long          |
| 7. additional     | g. wriggle       |
| 8. traumatic      | h. comforted     |
| 9. relieved       | i. settled       |
| 10. reincarnation | j. seemingly     |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- |                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Lakshmi Tatma was born as a     | a. well and recovering          |
| 2. The risky, marathon,            | b. up with more body parts      |
| 3. Lakshmi is now doing            | c. the normal limits            |
| 4. She reportedly wiggled her      | d. 27-hour operation            |
| 5. All her signs are within        | e. of the goddess               |
| 6. Lakshmi was born                | f. traumatic time of his life   |
| 7. the other embryo ends           | g. with a very rare condition   |
| 8. he had been through the most    | h. conjoined twin               |
| 9. Shambu named his daughter after | i. toes and moved her hands     |
| 10. a reincarnation                | j. the four-armed Hindu goddess |

## WHILE READING / LISTENING

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

A two-year-old Indian girl has had four limbs \_\_\_\_\_ from her body. Lakshmi Tatma was born as a \_\_\_\_\_ twin and had an extra pair of arms and legs. Her twin stopped developing in the womb and was \_\_\_\_\_, leaving Lakshmi with the extra sets of limbs. The risky, marathon, 27-hour operation on Wednesday was a \_\_\_\_\_ success and little Lakshmi is now doing well and recovering in a Bangalore hospital. She is awake following her surgery and is apparently \_\_\_\_\_ of smiles. She reportedly wiggled her toes and moved her hands, which doctors say is a good \_\_\_\_\_ that her recovery will go \_\_\_\_\_. She may even be able to walk soon. Lead surgeon Dr Sharan Patil told reporters: "Lakshmi is \_\_\_\_\_ and doing well. All her signs are within the normal limits. She has survived very well."

*smoothly*

*full*

*headless*

*stable*

*removed*

*huge*

*sign*

*conjoined*

Lakshmi was born with a very rare \_\_\_\_\_ called *ischiopagus*. This occurs in less than 2 per cent of conjoined twins. One of the twin embryos stops \_\_\_\_\_ in the mother's womb and the other embryo \_\_\_\_\_ with more body parts than it needs. Lakshmi's additional limbs made it impossible for her to stand and walk. Her father Shambu said he had been through the most \_\_\_\_\_ time of his life. He spent 15 minutes with his daughter in the ICU and said: "I was \_\_\_\_\_ to see my daughter open her eyes and move her legs." Shambu named his daughter \_\_\_\_\_ the four-armed Hindu goddess of \_\_\_\_\_ and local villagers saw her as a reincarnation of the goddess. A circus wanted to buy Lakshmi but her parents had better ideas for her \_\_\_\_\_ and took her to the Bangalore hospital.

*after*

*traumatic*

*developing*

*wealth*

*ends up*

*condition*

*future*

*relieved*

**LISTENING: Listen and fill in the spaces.**

A two-year-old Indian girl \_\_\_\_\_ removed from her body. Lakshmi Tatma was born as a conjoined twin and had an extra pair of arms and legs. Her twin stopped developing \_\_\_\_\_ headless, leaving Lakshmi with the extra sets of limbs. The risky, marathon, 27-hour operation on Wednesday \_\_\_\_\_ little Lakshmi is now doing well and recovering in a Bangalore hospital. She is awake following her surgery and is \_\_\_\_\_. She reportedly wiggled her toes and moved her hands, which doctors say is a good sign that her recovery will go smoothly. She may \_\_\_\_\_ soon. Lead surgeon Dr Sharan Patil told reporters: "Lakshmi is stable and doing well. All her \_\_\_\_\_ normal limits. She has survived very well."

Lakshmi was \_\_\_\_\_ condition called *ischiopagus*. This occurs in less than 2 per cent of conjoined twins. One of the twin embryos stops developing in the mother's womb and the other embryo ends up with \_\_\_\_\_ it needs. Lakshmi's additional limbs made it impossible for \_\_\_\_\_. Her father Shambu said he had been through the most traumatic time of his life. He spent 15 minutes with his daughter in the ICU and said: "I \_\_\_\_\_ daughter open her eyes and move her legs." Shambu named his daughter after the four-armed Hindu goddess of wealth \_\_\_\_\_ her as a reincarnation of the goddess. A circus wanted to buy Lakshmi but her parents had better \_\_\_\_\_ took her to the Bangalore hospital.

## AFTER READING / LISTENING

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'arm' and 'leg'.

<b>arm</b>	<b>leg</b>

- 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 exactly how these were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• removed</li><li>• womb</li><li>• huge</li><li>• full</li><li>• smoothly</li><li>• normal</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• condition</li><li>• ends up</li><li>• additional</li><li>• relieved</li><li>• wealth</li><li>• future</li></ul>
--	---

## STUDENT OPERATIONS SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about operations in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1	STUDENT 2	STUDENT 3
	_____	_____	_____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.



## **DISCUSSION**

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

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
  - b) What are your feelings after reading the article?
  - c) What do you think would have happened to Lakshmi 100 years ago?
  - d) What would have happened to Lakshmi today without our medical knowledge and expert doctors?
  - e) How do you think Lakshmi will feel knowing her operation was successful?
  - f) What do you think happens in a 27-hour operation?
  - g) Do you think everyone takes a break to sleep during such a long operation?
  - h) How would you feel if your child needed a similar operation?
  - i) Would you like to be a doctor able to perform such operations?
- 

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

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Do you think genetic engineering will mean that one day, no children will be born with abnormalities?
- c) Are you surprised people can be conjoined and be born with more limbs than they need?
- d) Is the Internet an important part of your life?
- e) What is the most traumatic experience in your life?
- f) Have you ever been in or visited someone in an intensive care unit?
- g) What questions would you like to ask Lakshmi?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Lakshmi's doctor?
- i) Did you like this discussion?

## LANGUAGE

**CORRECT WORD:** Put the correct words from a–d below in the article.

A two-year-old Indian girl has had four limbs removed from her body. Lakshmi Tatma was born as a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ twin and had an extra (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of arms and legs. Her twin stopped developing in the womb and was headless, (3) \_\_\_\_\_ Lakshmi with the extra sets of limbs. The risky, marathon, 27-hour operation on Wednesday was a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ success and little Lakshmi is now doing well and recovering in a Bangalore hospital. She is awake following her surgery and is apparently full of smiles. She reportedly wiggled her toes and moved her hands, which doctors say is a good sign that her recovery will (5) \_\_\_\_\_ smoothly. She may even be able to walk soon. Lead surgeon Dr Sharan Patil told reporters: "Lakshmi is stable and doing well. All her signs are (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the normal limits. She has survived very well."

Lakshmi was born with a very rare condition called *ischiopagus*. This (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in less than 2 per cent of conjoined twins. One of the twin embryos stops developing in the mother's womb and the other embryo ends (8) \_\_\_\_\_ with more body parts than it needs. Lakshmi's additional limbs made it impossible (9) \_\_\_\_\_ her to stand and walk. Her father Shambu said he had been through the most (10) \_\_\_\_\_ time of his life. He spent 15 minutes with his daughter in the ICU and said: "I was relieved to see my daughter open her eyes and move her legs." Shambu named his daughter (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the four-armed Hindu goddess of wealth and local villagers saw her as a reincarnation (12) \_\_\_\_\_ the goddess. A circus wanted to buy Lakshmi but her parents had better ideas for her future and took her to the Bangalore hospital.

- |     |                |                |               |               |
|-----|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) jointly    | (b) joint      | (c) conjoined | (d) joined    |
| 2.  | (a) parts      | (b) part       | (c) pear      | (d) pair      |
| 3.  | (a) leaves     | (b) leaving    | (c) left      | (d) leave     |
| 4.  | (a) huge       | (b) hug        | (c) hugs      | (d) hugging   |
| 5.  | (a) go         | (b) spread     | (c) press     | (d) move      |
| 6.  | (a) outside    | (b) without    | (c) within    | (d) in        |
| 7.  | (a) occurring  | (b) occurrence | (c) occult    | (d) occurs    |
| 8.  | (a) down       | (b) up         | (c) along     | (d) through   |
| 9.  | (a) to         | (b) for        | (c) with      | (d) by        |
| 10. | (a) traumatize | (b) drama      | (c) trauma    | (d) traumatic |
| 11. | (a) after      | (b) following  | (c) next      | (d) before    |
| 12. | (a) out        | (b) with       | (c) of        | (d) up        |

## WRITING:

Write about *operations* for 10 minutes. Correct your partner's paper.

[illegible]

## **HOMEWORK**

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find more information about Lakshmi Tatma. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. OPERATIONS:** Make a poster about risky operations. Show the duties and responsibilities of different medical staff. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all include similar things?

**4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about the life of Lakshmi Tatma. Include imaginary interviews with her and her parents.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down new words and expressions.

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to Lakshmi Tatma. Ask her three questions about her operation, parents and life. Give her three pieces of advice on how to have a happy life from now. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

## ANSWERS

### TRUE / FALSE:

a. T      b. T      c. F      d. F      e. T      f. F      g. F      h. F

### SYNONYM MATCH:

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. limbs          | a. arms and legs |
| 2. marathon       | b. long          |
| 3. apparently     | c. seemingly     |
| 4. wiggled        | d. wriggle       |
| 5. stable         | e. settled       |
| 6. rare           | f. uncommon      |
| 7. additional     | g. extra         |
| 8. traumatic      | h. distressing   |
| 9. relieved       | i. comforted     |
| 10. reincarnation | j. rebirth       |

### PHRASE MATCH:

- |                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Lakshmi Tatma was born as a     | a. conjoined twin               |
| 2. The risky, marathon,            | b. 27-hour operation            |
| 3. Lakshmi is now doing            | c. well and recovering          |
| 4. She reportedly wiggled her      | d. toes and moved her hands     |
| 5. All her signs are within        | e. the normal limits            |
| 6. Lakshmi was born                | f. with a very rare condition   |
| 7. the other embryo ends           | g. up with more body parts      |
| 8. he had been through the most    | h. traumatic time of his life   |
| 9. Shambu named his daughter after | i. the four-armed Hindu goddess |
| 10. a reincarnation                | j. of the goddess               |

### GAP FILL:

#### Girl born with 8 limbs OK after op

A two-year-old Indian girl has had four limbs **removed** from her body. Lakshmi Tatma was born as a **conjoined** twin and had an extra pair of arms and legs. Her twin stopped developing in the womb and was **headless**, leaving Lakshmi with the extra sets of limbs. The risky, marathon, 27-hour operation on Wednesday was a **huge** success and little Lakshmi is now doing well and recovering in a Bangalore hospital. She is awake following her surgery and is apparently **full** of smiles. She reportedly wiggled her toes and moved her hands, which doctors say is a good **sign** that her recovery will go **smoothly**. She may even be able to walk soon. Lead surgeon Dr Sharan Patil told reporters: "Lakshmi is **stable** and doing well. All her signs are within the normal limits. She has survived very well."

Lakshmi was born with a very rare **condition** called *ischiopagus*. This occurs in less than 2 per cent of conjoined twins. One of the twin embryos stops **developing** in the mother's womb and the other embryo **ends up** with more body parts than it needs. Lakshmi's additional limbs made it impossible for her to stand and walk. Her father Shambu said he had been through the most **traumatic** time of his life. He spent 15 minutes with his daughter in the ICU and said: "I was **relieved** to see my daughter open her eyes and move her legs." Shambu named his daughter **after** the four-armed Hindu goddess of **wealth** and local villagers saw her as a reincarnation of the goddess. A circus wanted to buy Lakshmi but her parents had better ideas for her **future** and took her to the Bangalore hospital.

### LANGUAGE WORK

1 - c    2 - d    3 - b    4 - a    5 - a    6 - c    7 - d    8 - b    9 - b    10 - d    11 - a    12 - c