

**the ARTICLE (for instructors)**

**The Tallest Basketball Player Ever**

It seems that Kenny George can't go anywhere nowadays without someone asking for an autograph or a picture, in part because of his athletic prowess on the college basketball court. In only twenty minutes of play time per game, he averages 12.4 points, 8.8 rebounds, and 4.6 blocks. But people gawk at him because he also happens to be the tallest basketball player ever. At 7 feet 7 inches (234 centimeters) and 360 pounds (163 kilograms), he really stands out in any crowd.

Although most would consider it very cool to slam dunk without any leap whatsoever, George faces a number of not so cool difficulties. For starters, unable to get behind the steering wheel of a car, he's never learned to drive. Moreover, whenever the team goes on a road trip, the bus company has to remove two seats so George can comfortably sit. He also sits on the floor of many of his classes because the desks don't fit.

Kenny George suffers from gigantism, a condition in which the pituitary gland secretes too much growth hormone. The pro-wrestler Andre the Giant is likely the most notable athlete in recent years affected by this condition. Gigantism has made the twenty-two year old George extremely self-conscious, and he hates conducting interviews. The questions inevitably turn to his health, size, and condition. (Knee problems required him to sit out much of his sophomore year.) His teammates have become quite protective of him, however, and they tell people to back off and give their friend some room.

Along with a passion for basketball, graphic design and animation vie for George's attention. He has wished he weren't so tall, and he eventually hopes for a career in comics or animation. Yet a stint in pro-basketball trumps these plans, and George wants to play for the NBA first.

**Teacher's Notes:**

\* Underlined words in **red typeface** are the answers.

**the ARTICLE (for students)**

comfortably	inevitably	secretes	stint	gigantism
notable	trumps	crowd	prohess	self-conscious
gawk	hormone	vie	passion	road trip

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It seems that Kenny George can't go anywhere nowadays without someone asking for an autograph or a picture, in part because of his athletic (a. \_\_\_\_\_) on the college basketball court. In only twenty minutes of play time per game, he averages 12.4 points, 8.8 rebounds, and 4.6 blocks. But people (b. \_\_\_\_\_) at him because he also happens to be the tallest basketball player ever. At 7 feet 7 inches (234 centimeters) and 360 pounds (163 kilograms), he really stands out in any (c. \_\_\_\_\_).

Although most would consider it very cool to slam dunk without any leap whatsoever, George faces a number of not so cool difficulties. For starters, unable to get behind the steering wheel of a car, he's never learned to drive. Moreover, whenever the team goes on a (d. \_\_\_\_\_), the bus company has to remove two seats so George can (e. \_\_\_\_\_) sit. He also sits on the floor of many of his classes because the desks don't fit.

Kenny George suffers from gigantism, a condition in which the pituitary gland (f. \_\_\_\_\_) too much growth (g. \_\_\_\_\_). The pro-wrestler Andre the Giant is likely the most (h. \_\_\_\_\_) athlete in recent years affected by this condition. (i. \_\_\_\_\_) has made the twenty-two year old George extremely (j. \_\_\_\_\_), and he hates conducting interviews. The questions (k. \_\_\_\_\_) turn to his health, size, and condition. (Knee problems required him to sit out much of his sophomore year.) His teammates have become quite protective of him, however, and they tell people to back off and give their friend some room.

Along with a (l. \_\_\_\_\_) for basketball, graphic design and animation (m. \_\_\_\_\_) for George's attention. He has wished he weren't so tall, and he eventually hopes for a career in comics or animation. Yet a (n. \_\_\_\_\_) in pro-basketball (o. \_\_\_\_\_) these plans, and George wants to play for the NBA first.

## STEP ONE

**Brainstorm:** Brainstorm with a partner(s) words and ideas associated with "basketball" for 2 minutes. Spend another 5 minutes or less discussing the words and ideas together.

## STEP TWO

**Target Word Pool:** Find the target words (in bold) with their exact match. How long did it take to find all the words?

<b>road trip</b>	<b>self-conscious</b>	<b>stint</b>	<b>gawk</b>	<b>notable</b>
<b>vie</b>	<b>proress</b>	<b>secretes</b>	<b>trumps</b>	<b>inevitably</b>
unselfconscious	stimulus	profess	inevitably	secrets
road rage	vie	gawked	stink	caulk
notableness	proress	vying	self-consciousness	vies
notable	unselfconsciously	secretes	view	gawker
stunt	inevitability	evidently	trumps	road trip
pronounce	road test	self-conscious	notices	proowler
vied	gawk	inevitableness	gawking	secretion
secrete	trumpet	prosperous	trumped	stint
			secretive	trumping

## STEP THREE

**Fill in the Blanks:** Fill in the blank with the correct word. Use a dictionary for any words you don't know, but be sure to check your English-English dictionary, too.

<b>road trip</b>	<b>self-conscious</b>	<b>stint</b>	<b>gawk</b>	<b>notable</b>
<b>vie</b>	<b>proress</b>	<b>secretes</b>	<b>trumps</b>	<b>inevitably</b>
a.	Kenny George is famous in part because of his athletic ( ) on the college basketball court.			
b.	But people ( ) at him because he also happens to be the tallest basketball player ever.			
c.	Whenever the team goes on a ( ), the bus company has to remove two seats so George can sit.			
d.	Kenny George suffers a condition in which the pituitary gland ( ) too much growth hormone.			
e.	Andre the Giant is likely the most ( ) athlete in recent years affected by this condition.			
f.	Gigantism has made the twenty-two year old George extremely ( ).			
g.	The questions ( ) turn to his health, size, and condition.			
h.	Along with a passion for basketball, graphic design and animation ( ) for George's attention.			
i.	Yet he hopes for a ( ) in pro-basketball.			
j.	Pro-basketball ( ) graphic design and animation, and George wants to play for the NBA first.			

### STEP FOUR

The Article: 1) Read the article, but don't worry about the missing words. 2) Fill in the blanks with today's vocabulary, followed by all the other words. 3) Read the article again, and circle any unknown words/phrases. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the words or phrases your circled. 4) Answer the questions to check your comprehension.

a.	Which is Kenny George most famous for, his basketball skill or his size?
b.	How tall is Kenny? How much does he weigh?
c.	What are some of the problems he faces?
d.	Why is he so large?
e.	What does Kenny want to do in the future?

### STEP FIVE

**Discuss:** Write down five vocabulary words from today's article that you want to use.

a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	
e.	

Now talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Every time you use a vocabulary word, place a check next to it.

a.	Did you like this article?
b.	In addition to the problems listed in the article, what other difficulties do you think Kenny faces?
c.	Do you think Kenny faces discrimination of any kind? How about ridicule?
d.	If you saw a very unusual or different person on the train or in a restaurant, what would you do?

**Score yourself:**

**10 or more times:** Fantastic! Be sure to review the words at home.

**6-9 times:** Pretty good! You're on your way to acquiring today's vocabulary. Try writing your own sentences at home.

**5 or less times:** Try harder next time! To acquire new vocabulary, you need to use the new words as much as possible.