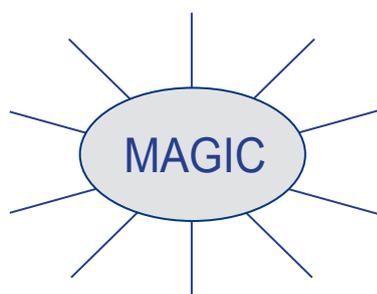


## The magicians trying to change the world

Level 1 • Pre-intermediate / Intermediate

### 1 Warmer

a. Complete the diagram with ten things that you associate with magic.



b. Compare your answers in small groups.

### 2 Key words

Match the key words with the definitions. Then find them in the article to read them in context. The section numbers are given to help you.

dexterity

coordination

status

perform

props

- do something in front of an audience to entertain them, for example sing or do a magic trick  
\_\_\_\_\_ (intro)
- objects used on stage or during a show \_\_\_\_\_ (section 1)
- the legal position of a person, country etc \_\_\_\_\_ (section 1)
- be very good at doing clever things with your hands \_\_\_\_\_ (section 2)
- the ability to control the movements of different parts of your body so that they work well together  
\_\_\_\_\_ (section 2)

heard

investigate

operating theatre

judgements

overcome

- succeed in dealing with or controlling a problem \_\_\_\_\_ (section 2)
- try to find out the facts and information about something \_\_\_\_\_ (section 3)
- a room in a hospital where doctors perform surgery \_\_\_\_\_ (section 3)
- opinions you form after thinking carefully about something \_\_\_\_\_ (section 3)
- listened to \_\_\_\_\_ (section 3)

## The magicians trying to change the world

### Level 1 • Pre-intermediate / Intermediate

#### The magicians trying to change the world – one card trick at a time

Claire Armitstead

9 September, 2019

In 1876, a magician called Professor Hoffmann wrote a book for boys, *Modern Magic*. It explained how magic tricks were performed. He believed young people should learn to perform magic because it would be useful in their jobs. One present-day magician, Will Houstoun, tells me, "Magic teaches you to stand in front of a room and talk and solve problems."

Today, a new generation of magicians are using magic to help make a better world.

#### 1 The 'magic humanitarian'

Jamie Balfour-Paul

Balfour-Paul, whose stage name is Jamie Jibberish, is a former charity worker who performs magic shows for children in refugee camps in the Middle East and Africa. He travels with a wooden box he bought years ago in Egypt. "I try to put everything into that box, and I choose props that the children know – newspapers, bottles, ropes," he says.

He has set up a charity called Magic for Smiles. "Living in a place where your parents don't have any status and there's no room to play is very stressful for children. Entertainment brings happiness to the children, but magic also helps with concentration, creativity and communication. Money is a problem, and it's quite a lonely life; just me driving around alone. But it's worth it to see the children's happy faces."

#### 2 The student magician

Cat Lee

"At 19, I couldn't cook or pour a drink and I'd never eaten with a knife and fork," says Cat Lee. She is now a confident 22-year-old law graduate with cerebral palsy. The turning point in her life was when she went to a summer camp for young people with hemiplegia, an illness that means one side of the body can't move. The camps are run by Breathe Arts Health Research, a charity set up by a group of magicians who believed the dexterity used in magic tricks could be used to help young people with hemiplegia.

They discovered that some children could make life-changing progress in coordination – and confidence – in just two weeks.

Cat left the ten-day course able to build an independent life and now helps younger children at the camps. She says learning to perform magic tricks helped her to overcome the difficulties she has from her cerebral palsy. "I can never thank them enough," she says with tears in her eyes.

#### 3 The medical magician and the surgeon

Will Houstoun and Roger Kneebone

Roger Kneebone is a surgeon. He runs a master's course in surgical education at Imperial College, London, with Will Houstoun, one of the UK's top close-up magicians. In 2014, they started working together to investigate the similarities between magic and surgery.

"First, I was looking at dexterity because both magic and surgery involve quick and complicated hand movements," says Kneebone, "but most of a surgeon's time isn't spent in the operating theatre."

There are things you need to do to make a magic trick work. "If you want someone to look at an object, look at it. If you want them to look at you, look at them," Houstoun says.

A surgeon must listen to a patient and make judgements and take notes at the same time. Like in a magic show, they need to create a connection with the patient. For the patient, it's the difference between feeling heard and safe, or just being another statistic, Kneebone says.

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First published in *The Guardian*, 09/09/19

## The magicians trying to change the world

### Level 1 • Pre-intermediate / Intermediate

#### 3 People

Underline these words in the article. Then match them with their meanings.

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. magician       | a. someone who leaves their country, especially during a war or other bad event |
| 2. charity worker | b. a doctor who performs operations where they cut open someone's body          |
| 3. refugee        | c. someone who performs magic tricks  |
| 4. graduate       | d. someone who works for an organization that helps people who are poor or ill  |
| 5. surgeon        | e. someone who has a degree from a university                                   |

Use the words to complete these sentences about the people in the article.

1. Roger Kneebone is a \_\_\_\_\_ who works with a close-up \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Cat Lee is a university \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Jamie Jibberish is a former \_\_\_\_\_ who now performs magic shows for children in \_\_\_\_\_ camps.

#### 4 Comprehension check

Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct any that are false.

1. Both magicians and surgeons must be able to do quick and complicated hand movements.
2. Jamie Jibberish set up a charity called Breathe Arts Health Research.
3. Magic can show surgeons how to create a good connection with their patients.
4. Magic helps children in refugee camps to concentrate, be creative and communicate with each other.
5. Learning to perform magic tricks helped Cat to do many everyday things in her life.
6. Roger Kneebone runs a master's course in magic at Imperial College, London.
7. Jamie Jibberish uses props like rope and newspaper in his magic shows.
8. Jamie Jibberish makes good money from his work with children.

#### 5 Discussion

- Have you ever been to a magic show?
- Do you know any magic tricks?
- Do you know anyone who can perform magic tricks? Give more details.

#### 6 Webquest

- a. Find out more about the two organizations in the article, Magic for Smiles and Breathe Arts Health Research. Watch any videos on their websites.
- b. Find and watch a video that shows how to do simple magic tricks. Choose one trick and learn it so that you can perform it in your next lesson or at a class party or celebration.

## The magicians trying to change the world

Level 1 • Pre-intermediate / Intermediate

### KEY

#### 2 Key words

1. perform
2. props
3. status
4. dexterity
5. coordination
6. overcome
7. investigate
8. operating theatre
9. judgements
10. heard

#### 3 People

1. c
  2. d
  3. a
  4. e
  5. b
1. surgeon, magician
  2. graduate
  3. charity worker, refugee

#### 4 Comprehension check

1. T
2. F – Jamie Jibberish set up a charity called Magic for Smiles.
3. T
4. T
5. T
6. F – Roger Kneebone runs a master's course in surgical education at Imperial College, London.
7. T
8. F – Jamie Jibberish doesn't make much money.