



Swimming

by Joy

I began to learn to swim when I was a young girl growing up in the UK. I was about seven years old. The school would take our class for swimming lessons twice a year. It was bitterly cold in winter but the school bus would come to our school every Friday and pick us up for our lessons. I used to look forward to going to the local indoor heated baths.

I learnt to swim quite quickly, I think because I loved the water so much. We were taught how to do all the swimming strokes. I could do the butterfly stroke very well but my favourite was freestyle. At the end of our lessons we were tested to see if we were doing the strokes correctly. If the swimming instructor was happy with what she saw, we would get a certificate. Then we would go up to the next level.

At the end of the swimming year, all the different schools would meet at the local baths and we would have a swimming carnival. We had to race against girls from other schools. I used to enjoy it and won many of the races that I was in. At the end of the races the winning school would get the trophy to take back to their school to keep on display until the next year.

In summer some of the girls were selected to represent our school in the high diving competition at the outdoor pools. I was one of the girls selected. I was very good at diving. I loved it much more than being at school doing school work.

I would walk to the indoor heated baths most days after school to swim and meet friends. That's where I met the love of my life, my husband. He also loved swimming so consequently when we had our children, we taught them to swim at an early age and now they are teaching their children to swim.

Nowadays I like to watch the grandchildren having their swimming lessons. I think it is very important that children learn to swim here in Australia with our climate and so many beaches, rivers and backyard pools. I love to go to the ocean for a swim on a hot summer evening.

A Personal Note from Joy

I began a computer course but because I have difficulty with spelling I realised I needed help if I was to proceed further. I contacted RWN and since working with my tutor I have become more confident. I have begun to enjoy reading books.

Discussion Prompts

With your tutor, respond to these questions:

- Do you enjoy swimming? How did you learn to swim?
Have you ever competed at swimming?
Did you enjoy reading Joy's text?
Do you get the impression that Joy enjoys swimming?
Can you point to any parts of the text which back up your opinion about Joy's like or dislike of swimming?

Can you find and write the answers to these factual questions?

Where did Joy grow up?

Where were her school's swimming lessons held?
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What was her favourite swimming style?

Was Joy good at diving? Yes No Can't Tell

Why does Joy believe it is important for Australians to learn to swim? In your own words, write a sentence to answer this question.
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Activities

Can you summarise
Joy's text, to your tutor?

Try to do it *without* looking at the text. Then, have a look, and see if you missed anything that you consider important.



Find these words from the text, in the Word Search below.

consequently	proceed	nowadays	favourite	ocean
trophy	baths	strokes	freestyle	
would	bitterly	learn	friends	local

f	r	e	e	s	t	y	l	e	t	m	b
o	p	n	f	a	v	o	u	r	i	t	e
o	r	n	o	w	a	d	a	y	s		n
c	o	n	s	e	q	u	e	n	t	l	y
e	c	s	t	r	o	k	e	s	r	b	l
a	e	z	w	o	u	l	d	o	o	a	o
n	e	e	x	l	e	a	r	n	p	t	c
w	d	f	r	i	e	n	d	s	h	h	a
e	b	i	t	t	e	r	l	y	y	s	l

Here is a sentence from Joy's Personal Note:

"I began a computer course but because I have difficulty with spelling I realised I needed help if I was to proceed further."

*That's quite a lot to read aloud, without pausing to take a breath!
Here it is again, this time with more punctuation (2 commas):*

I began a computer course, but because I have difficulty with spelling, I realised I needed help if I was to proceed further.

Punctuation

A comma creates a short pause in reading, shorter than a full stop. Put a comma where *you* think it would make each of these sentences a bit easier to read.



It was bitterly cold in winter but the school bus would come to our school every Friday and pick us up for our lessons.

At the end of the races the winning school would get the trophy to take back to their school to keep on display until the next year.

He also loved swimming so consequently when we had our children, we taught them to swim at an early age and now they are teaching their children to swim.

Here is another text about swimming - with no commas.

As you read it, decide where you would like to put a pause. Insert a comma. You might want to know that commas are often used to separate items in a list, such as *oranges, apples, lemons and cherries*.

Swimming is the movement of the body through water using arms and legs. Most of the time equipment is not used. People swim for exercise for fun and for competition. People swim using their arms and/or their legs. There are several "strokes": breaststroke front crawl butterfly and backstroke are some of them. The main stroke usually is front crawl but many people prefer breaststroke because it is relaxing. People can swim in the sea swimming pools rivers and lakes. Swimming has been around for a long time. Humans learned how to swim from the sea creatures. When they started swimming they could swim as well and fast as today.

More Activities



Proofread this passage from the text, to find spelling errors. Write the correct spelling on the line underneath. See how many errors you can find, before comparing this version with the original, to check your work.

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 instructor was happy with what she sore, we wood get a certifacate. Then we

 would go up to the next level.

Can you unscramble these long words from the text?

The 4 words are from this list of 5: certificate instructor
 consequently favourite competition

a	e	i	o	u	f	v	t	r	<i>is</i>
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e	i	i	e	a	t	f	c	r	c	t	<i>is</i>
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i	o	u	n	t	t	r	c	r	s	<i>is</i>
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i	i	o	o	e	m	c	t	t	p	n	<i>is</i>
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Your Own Writing

Think about something that took you a while to learn. How did you learn it? When did you start? Why did you do it? Do you think that learning that skill was important? Why?



Plan and draft a **short text of your own** about something you have learnt. Use this box to just jot down some key words you will need.

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