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Autism: The Life of Present and Future

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The **L**ife of **P**resent and **F**uture

At the end of the unit, students will be able to:

- Define what autism is
 - Identify new vocabulary related to autism
 - Explain what problems people with autism have
 - Compare the simple past tense and the present perfect tense
 - Write sentences by using the simple past tense and the present perfect tense
-

"This unit aims to inform students about autism and encourage them to improve awareness of people with autism. It is intended for secondary school students with a B1 level on the CEFR scale."

A TEACHER'S BOOK (B1 level)

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Introduction

Children with autism are increasing these days. They have a lot of difficulty in adapting to their society because of their characteristics. Their families are also making great efforts to take care of them. This unit will help you find out what autism is, what challenges they are facing and what support they need.

Warm-Up

Discuss the questions below with your partner or group

1. Do you know what disorder means?

Disorder means a set of problems with difficulty, impairment in life.

2. Do you know what kind of disorders there are?

Blindness, deafness, hearing impairment, autism, etc.

3. Have you ever heard of Autism or met children with Autism?

Yes. I have a child with autism in my neighborhood, or my brother has autism.

4. How did you feel when you met children with Autism?

I felt strange with him. She often shouted

5. What do you think of the future for children with the autism?

I think they cannot live alone because they cannot speak well.

They need some help for their lives



Reading and Vocabulary

Pre-reading



Activity: Identify your keywords

The following words are the keywords from the article "Autism: The life of Present and Future." Match each word to its definition. The first one is done for you.

	Keywords	Definition
2	Social	1. action that helps a bad situation
5	Interaction	2. relating to the way people live together
13	Disorder	3. identify a disease or its cause
9	Difficulty	4. not taking help or money from other people
6	Isolate	5. a situation where two or more people communicate with each other
1	Intervention	6. separate far from others
7	Therapy	7. a treatment that helps someone feel better
10	limit	8. help someone emotionally or in a practical way
8	support	9. the fact of being hard to do
4	independent	10. the greatest amount, number, or level allowed or possible
12	vocational	11. in a way that does not change
11	consistently	12. providing skills and education that prepare you for a job
3	diagnose	13. an illness of the mind or body
14	Prevalence	14. the fact of something existing or happening often

While you are reading (Activity 1~ Activity 2)



Activity 1: Read the article below to find the point with your partner or group. Then, answer the questions below.

What is Autism?

Have you ever met a child or an adult with autism? How do you feel? Can you understand what they say and do? Probably you did not understand them and felt strange. Do you know what autism is? Some people say that autism is one of the most fascinating and special disorders. However, their families, including parents, should struggle throughout their lives.

The word "autism" includes the meaning of "self", which comes from the Greek word "auto". It describes a person who lacks general social interaction. Also, autism is called Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), which means that it occurs in various forms and severity levels. Some individuals have typical language development and even high intelligence, while others have difficulty learning with delayed language development and low intelligence. However, they generally have different behaviors and ways of interacting with others.

Children with autism have the following characteristics:

- They have difficulty communicating with ordinary words or actions, such as eye contact or responding to others.
- They have a problem with joint attention with others in infancy (not pointing with a finger to get the attention of others)
- They seem to isolate from the outside world.
- They show strange, repetitive, and stereotyped patterns of behaviors, such as rocking back and forth.
- They are particularly sensitive to certain stimuli.
- Some of individuals with ASD have special talents, such as excellent memory, music, art, calculation, etc.



Figure 1 The major symptoms

Autism affects an estimated
1 in 54
children
in the U.S.



Figure 2 The autism prevalence

According to statistics from Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network in 2016, the prevalence of autism was about 1 in 54 children aged eight years. The exact reason for autism is still unclear. However, it is generally accepted that their brain structures are different from those of normal children, and it would be related to genetics and medical problems.

1. **Reread the article above and decide if the following statements are true or false. T / T / F**
- A. Autism is characterized by isolation from the outside world. (T / F)
 - B. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) means that the degree of disorder varies greatly among individuals. (T / F)
 - C. With the current medical development, the prevalence of autism is very low. (T / F)

Story 1: Max's childhood and present

A. Early intervention



Figure 3 Max's play

Autism characteristics usually appear before 18 months. Therefore, early intervention for young children with autism is crucial because it effectively improves intelligence, social skills, and understanding. In the case of Max, a child with autism, his mother took a long time to learn about his autistic tendencies. He was diagnosed with autism disorder when he was eight years old. When she recalled his childhood, he was not ordinary. However, she thought that he was just developing late and very stubborn.

Besides, she did not know about autism exactly and did not want to admit to his autism. Therefore, his early intervention for autism treatment was delayed, and his practical treatment began at the age of 8.

B. Max's behavioral characteristics

Max has shown many typical behaviors related to autism since childhood. First, his way of playing was unique. He did not play like other children: he always played alone and did not properly use his play equipment. For example, he lined up all of his toy cars, and he could play with his round wooden block for more than an hour. Second, he did not ask for anything with words until he was six years old. His words stopped at "Mom and Dad" when he was one year old. Instead of using words, he would grab his mother's hand or cry to get what he wanted. Third, he did not point at things with his finger. Also, there was no attention to what other children were



Figure 4 Max liked playing alone

interested in.

C. Max's present and future



Figure 5 Max's music therapy

Even though Max's interventions and treatment were late, he has been undergoing various therapies to improve his intelligence, behaviors, and words, including his social skills, for over six years. The therapies are speech therapy, cognitive therapy, music therapy, occupational therapy, etc. The process is not easy because it requires a lot of effort and money for him and his family. Now, he is 14 years old. His social skills have improved, and his interests have expanded, but he cannot lead an independent life like others. Sometimes his parents worry about his future after they are gone. They say, "how can he live without us? Can he get a job? Can he get married? What should we prepare for his future?" All parents with autistic children have similar concerns.

1. Reread the article above and decide if the following statements are true or false. *F / F / F*
 - A. Early intervention for children with autism is very important for the complete treatment of autism. (T / F)
 - B. Therapies for children with autism are to improve physical development. (T / F)
 - C. Most parents with children with autism are most concerned about their studies. (T / F)

Story 2: Yoon Seo's successful study and present

A. Successful study and employment

Most children with autism have much trouble entering secondary school and college. Also, getting a job is harder for them. However, here is one successful person with autism who graduated college and became a pastor and worker. He is Park Yoon Seo and is 44 years old this year. In fact, he is a famous person. He is the first person diagnosed with autism in Korea. He was diagnosed at the age of 5 when there was no awareness of autism in Korea. Despite his autism, his mother tried to do her best to help him learn in a normal school. She had to persuade his teachers and classmates to let him go to a normal school and study with others. She actively supported him throughout his school life. Finally, when he was 19 years old, he entered the theology department of Sungkonghoe university in Korea. It was the result of his and his mother's great efforts. His mother recalled that his study process was so painful that they even thought about giving up on his education. However, whenever frustration came, they tried to overcome hardships with the power of faith. Fortunately, he was able to get a job at the Milal Research Institute after he graduated. Also, he received the Presidential Award for his tremendous efforts and as an example for the disordered in 2003.



Figure 6 Yoon Seo's award

B. Ongoing difficulties



Figure 7 Yoon Seo as a pastor

In 2009, he married and now has two daughters. He has been a pastor in an alternative school for children with autism for ten years. Also, he has worked for a small social enterprise since 2018. His life looks like an ordinary life like other people. Nevertheless, he still has many difficulties with his autism; difficulty communicating with his family and co-workers, difficulty in independent self-management, and economic difficulties. Even though he and his family have been doing their best for decades to overcome his obstacle of autism, his job is still unstable, and sometimes it can lead to family crises. The social enterprise where he is working will close soon this year because government support has been cut off due to its lack of profit since it was founded. Why does he still live a hard life? His mother said that it is difficult for autistic people to be independent without social support

and advocacy due to the nature of their autism. Since they have limitations in social adaption, it is very difficult to support their whole life only with their family's help. Their stable future desperately needs continuous social and systematic support and help throughout their entire life.

2. Reread the article above and decide if the following statements are true or false. F / F / T

- A. If people with autism have a higher education, they don't need any more social support. (T / F)
- B. People with autism can never get married. (T / F)
- C. Difficulty communicating with other co-workers is one of the biggest challenges that people with autism face at work. (T / F)

Autistic people need constant social support

What should constant social support and help include? According to a recent study, there are various agencies and organizations to support autistic people to get a job in Europe, Greece, and the USA, such as [Treatment](#) and Education of Autistic and Related Communication Handicapped Children (TEACCH), Life Skills Education for students with Autism and other Pervasive Behavioral Challenges ([LEAP](#)), the Princeton Child Development Institute ([PCKI](#)), Autism Center for Excellence at Virginia Commonwealth, etc. The agencies and organizations have provided people with vocational training. The vocational training of adults with autism includes the acquisition of skills for a given task. Also, social skills include communication and behavioral skills necessary for work life. The supports should be made consistently in a detailed plan throughout their lives.



Figure 8 Autism awareness

Many people with autism have found jobs through vocational training provided by the agencies and institutions and live satisfactorily independent lives. However, there are limitations. Only autistic people who have communication skills, social skills, and higher education can get jobs. Therefore, it shows that intervention is important in early childhood.

Most parents who have children with autism are worried about their children's future. Can they live alone without the help of their family? Constant social support and advocacy based on vocational training and social skills are needed for the future of people with autism.

3. Reread the article above and decide if the following statements are true or false. *T / T / F*

- A. There are various organizations in the US for vocational education for people with autism. (T / F)
- B. Most parents with a child with autism are seriously concerned about their future independent life. (T / F)
- C. Only families with autistic people should support and advocate for people with autism. (T / F)



Activity 2: Write the correct word in the blanks with your partner. Use the Word Bank for reference.

Cloze Activity

Word Bank:

***advocacy, cognitive, difficulties, spectrum, essential,
higher education, intervention, isolated, repetitive,
symptoms, unique, varies, vocational.***

Autism is characterized by being isolated from the outside world.

They show unique behaviors. Autism is called a spectrum

disorder because the level of autism varies greatly from

person to person. Usually, they have difficulty communicating with ordinary

words or actions and exhibit repetitive or stereotyped

behaviors. Also, they are sensitive to certain senses. Most of the

symptoms of autism appear before 18 months, and early

intervention is crucial to improve their cognitive and social

skills. Most people with autism have a hard time learning and getting a job

that allows them to live independently. Even if they get higher education

and get a job, they need social help and support because of their autistic

nature, such as difficulty communicating with people around them and ___*difficulty*___ in self-management. Recent studies have shown that there are institutions in Europe, Greece, and the United States that give them ___*vocational*___ training, including the social skills they need. Through such institutions, people with autism need social skills and vocational training to get a job. Social support and ___*advocacy*___ are ___*essential*___ for the independence of their lives.

Post-reading



Activity: Review vocabulary related to autism by playing Kahoot game.

<https://create.kahoot.it/details/vocabulary-related-to-autism/52303aed-7d37-482c-bac2-a65d6a83f99c>

vocabulary	Definition
Intervention	1. action that helps a bad situation
Social	2. relating to the way people live together
diagnose	3. identify a disease or its cause
consistently	4. in a way that does not change
Interaction	5. a situation where two or more people communicate with each other
Isolate	6. separate far from others
Therapy	7. a treatment that helps someone feel better
support	8. help someone emotionally or in a practical way
Difficulty	9. the fact of being hard to do
limit	10. the greatest amount, number, or level allowed or possible
vocational	11. providing skills and education that prepare you for a job
Disorder	12. an illness of the mind or body
Prevalence	13. the fact of something existing or happening often



Assignment (Preparation for presentation)

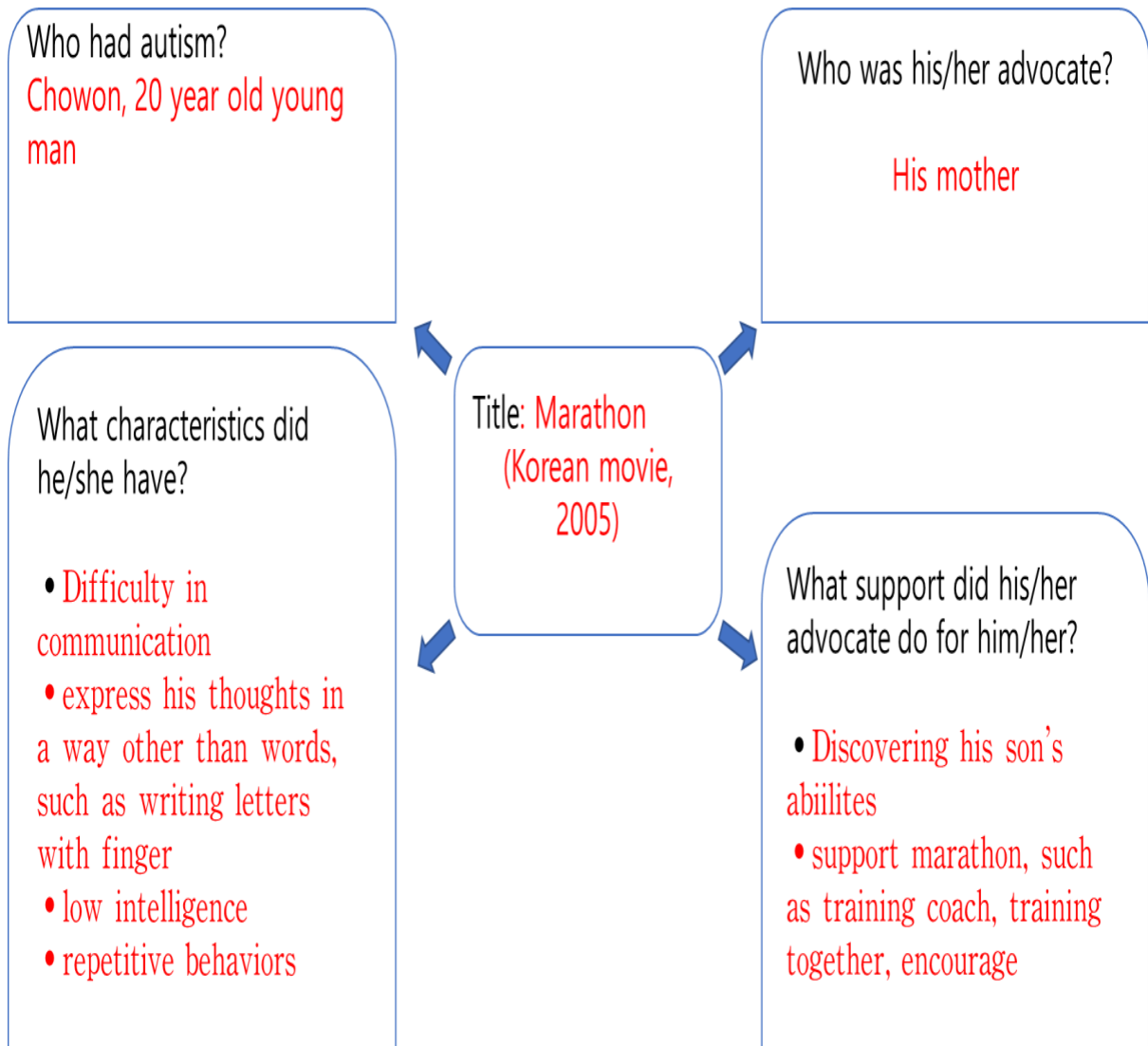
1. Investigate any movies or books about children with autism in your country.

If you can't find resources about autism in your country, you can refer to the site below.

<https://www.autism.org/autism-movies/>

<https://www.appliedbehavioranalysisprograms.com/30-best-childrens-books-about-the-autism-spectrum/>

2. Prepare for the presentation with your partner or group as shown below.



Vocabulary and Grammar



Activity 1: Simple past tense VS Present perfect tense

1. Simple past tense form and Present perfect tense form

- A. Simple past form: **the past tense of verbs** (regular verbs/irregular verbs)
- B. Present perfect tense form: have/has (not) + **past participle** (regular verbs / irregular verbs)

- Regular verb: present verb + -d or -ed /

present – **past verb** – **past participle**

Example: Improve + -d = improved /

improve – **improved** – **improved**

Talk + -ed = talked / talk – **talked** - **talked**

Stop + -ed = stopped / stop – **stopped** - **stopped**

- Irregular verb: no fixed form / present – **past verb** – **past participle**

Example) eat – **ate** - **eaten**

buy – **bought** - **bought**

go – **went** - **gone**

2. Simple past meaning and Present perfect tense meaning

- A. Simple past meaning: When something that happened at a specific point in time no longer persists, use the simple past tense
 - Simple past tense is often used with words that indicate specific points in the past, such as **yesterday, last year, in 1995, six years ago**.

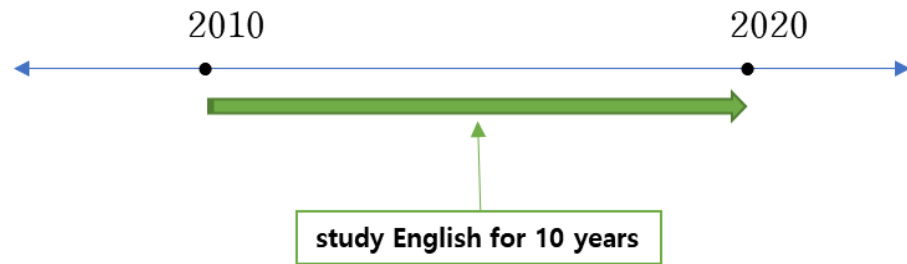
Example: I studied English **yesterday**.

- B. Present perfect meaning: If the action or event that started in the past affects the present, use the present perfect tense.
 - Present perfect tense is often used with words such as '**for**' or '**since**'.

★ **Note:**

- 'for' is used to indicate the length of time the event lasted.
- 'since' is used to indicate after the start of an event.

Example: I have studied English **for ten years**.



I have studied English **since 2010**.



Activity 2: With your partner or group, write down the present tense, past tense, and past participle of the verbs below.

1. the regular verbs: -d/-ed

	Present tense	Past tense	Past Participle
1	Accept	Accepted	
2	relate	related	related
3	appear	Appeared	appeared
4	play	palyed	played
5	use	used	used
6	stop	stopped	stopped
7	improve	improved	Improved

8	worry	worried	worried
9	Marry	Married	
10	graduate	graduated	graduated
11	try	tried	tried
12	support	supported	supported
13	work	worked	worked
14	help	helped	helped
15	provide	provided	provided
16	happen	happened	happened
17	isolate	isolated	isolated
18	show	showed	showed

2. The irregular verbs

	Present tense	Past tense	Past Participle
1	have	had	had
2	meet	met	met
3	do	did	done
4	understand	understand	Understood
5	know	knew	known
6	say	said	said
7	take	took	taken
8	think	thought	thought
9	begin	began	begun
10	undergo	underwent	undergone
11	get	got	gotten
12	become	became	become
13	overcome	overcame	overcome

14	find	found	found
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Activity 3: Practice simple past and present perfect

1. Complete simple past sentences using the given verbs.

- A. I (**used**) his computer last night. (use)
- B. They (**graduated**) from St. Cloud University in 2019. (graduate)
- C. He (**began**) the project six months ago. (begin)
- D. When she was young, it (**took**) five days to get to her hometown. (take)

2. Complete present perfect sentences using the given verbs.

- A. I (**have helped**) him start his own business for five years. (help)
- B. Sally (**has done**) her homework for two weeks but couldn't finish it. (do)
- C. They (**have worked**) in the Kia corporation since 2002. (work)
- D. John (**has tried**) to overcome his own obstacle since meeting her. (try)



Activity 4:

Read the paragraphs below and answer the questions.

B. Successful study and employment

Most children with autism have much trouble entering secondary school and college. Also, getting a job is harder for them. However, here is one successful person with autism who graduated college and became a pastor and worker. He is Park Yoon Seo and is 44 years old. In fact, he is a famous person. He is the first person diagnosed with autism in Korea. He was diagnosed at the age of 5 when there was no awareness of autism in Korea. Despite his autism, his mother tried to do her best to help him learn in a normal school. She had to persuade his teachers and classmates to let him go to a normal school and study with others. She actively supported him throughout his school life. Finally, when he was 19 years old, he entered the theology department of Sungkonghoe University in Korea. It was the result of his and his mother's great efforts. His mother recalled that his study process was so painful that they even thought about giving up on his education. However, whenever frustration came, they tried to overcome hardships with the power of faith. Fortunately, he was able to get a job at the Milal Research Institute after he graduated. Also, he received the Presidential Award for his tremendous efforts and as an example for the disordered in 2003.

1. Underline the sentences using the simple past tense from the paragraph above and complete the table below with your partner or group.

Simple past		Words of a specific point in time
Present verbs	Past verbs	
Ex) graduate	Graduated	Ex) at the age of 5 When he was 19 years old In 2003
Become	Became	
Is	Was	
Try	Tried	
Have	Had	
Support	Supported	
Recall	Recalled	
Enter	Entered	
Come	Came	
receive	received	

C. Ongoing difficulties

In 2009, he married and now has two daughters. He has been a pastor in an alternative school for children with autism for ten years. Also, he has worked for a small social enterprise since 2018. His life looks like an ordinary life like other people. Nevertheless, he still has many difficulties with his autism; difficulty communicating with his family and co-workers, difficulty in independent self-management, and economic difficulties. Even though he and his family have been doing their best for decades to overcome his obstacle of autism, his job is still unstable, and sometimes it can lead to family crises. The social enterprise that he is working at will be closed this year because government support has been cut off due to its lack of profit since it was founded. Why does he still live a hard life? His mother said that it is difficult for autistic people to be independent without social support and advocacy due to the nature of their autism. Since they have limitations in social adaption, it is very difficult to support their whole life only with their family's help. Their stable future desperately needs continuous social and systematic support and help throughout their entire life.

2. Find and write down the sentences using the present perfect tense from the paragraph above with your partner or group. Furthermore, complete the table below.

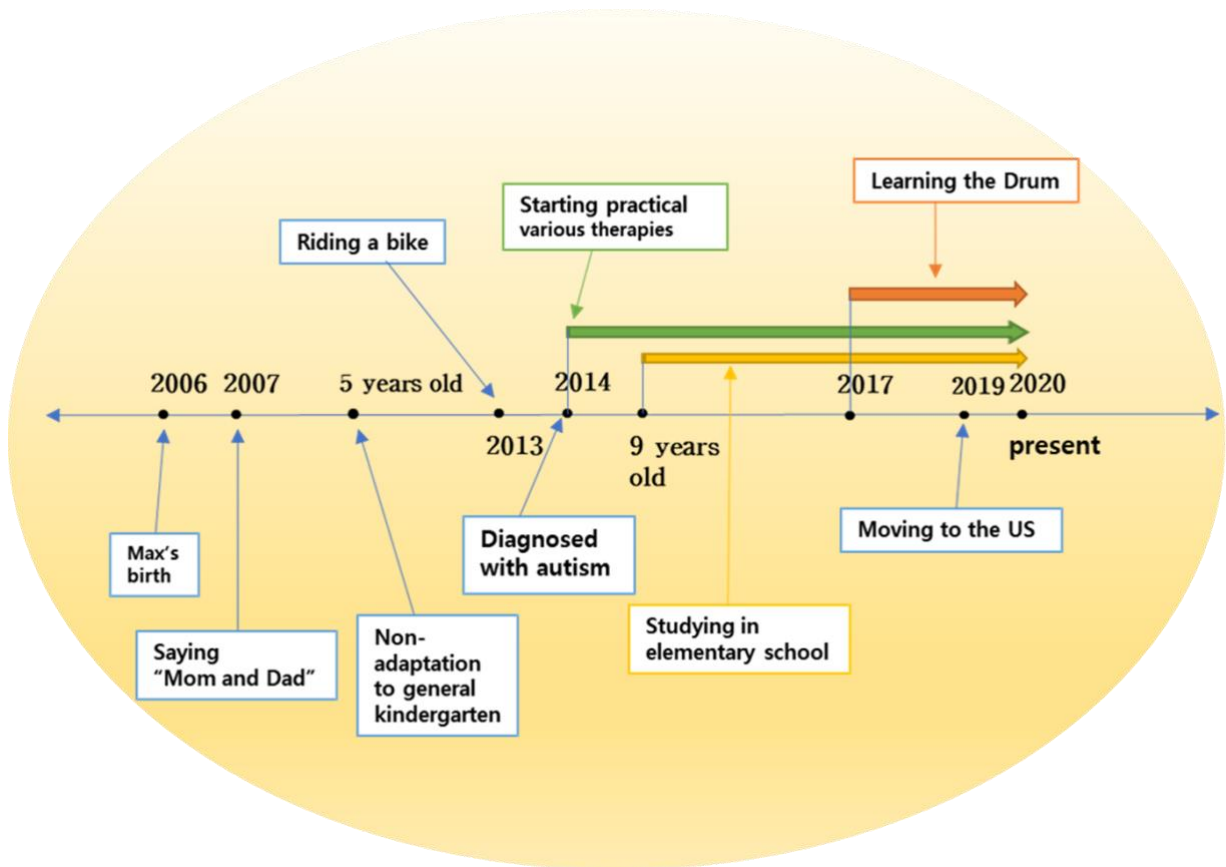
- He has been a paster in an alternative school for children with autism for ten years.
- He has worked for a small social enterprise since 2018,
- Even though he and his family have been doing their for decades to overcome his obstacle of autism,

- Government support has been cut off due to its lack of profit since it was founded.

Present Perfect			Words used together
Present verbs	Past verbs	Past participle	
Ex) do	Did	Done	Ex) for 10 years
Is / are	Was / were	Been	Since 2018
work	worked	Worked	For decades
			Since it was founded

Writing

The following is Max's timeline based on the article you learned.



Activity 1: With your partner or group, create your own three sentences that use the simple past tense and words of a specific point in time based on the timeline above.

- 1) Max was born in 2006.
- 2) Max didn't adapt to general kindergarten at 5 years old.
- 3) Max was diagnosed with autism in 2014.



Activity 2: With your partner or group, create your own two sentences that use the present perfect tense and words 'for' or 'since' based on the timeline above.

1) Max has gotten practical various therapies for 6 years.

2) Max has been studying in elementary school since 9 years old.

★ **Note:**

- 'for' is used to indicate the length of time the event lasted.
- 'since' is used to indicate after the start of an event.



Activity 3: Write a paragraph about Max's life using the simple past and present perfect tense.

This story is about Max's life. Max was born in 2006. He said words, "mom and dad." However, he didn't adapt to general kindergarten at 5 years old. He could ride a bike in 2013. He was diagnosed with autism at 8 years old, and he has been getting various therapies since 2014. He has studied in elementary school since 9 years old. Also, he has learned the drum for three years. He moved to the US in 2019.

Listening

"What happens to children with autism when they become adults?"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtgGzKRHT-Y&list=PL6wRq3->

Pre-listening



Activity 1: Discuss the questions below with your partner or group.

1. How do you feel if you cannot express what you want to do?

I will be angry and frustrated. I am upset and try to express in another way.

2. If your child is diagnosed with autism in the future, what will you do for him or her?

I will be embarrassed, but I try to teach him anything.

3. What do you think is the most useful support for people with autism?

The most useful support is continuing to help them live independently, such as getting a job, having a house, having social skills.



Activity 2: Let's learn keywords

1. Check the keywords below and write the words that match the meaning.

future advocate diagnose therapy support intervention adulthood
independently community transition lifespan overcome happiness
difficulty scholarship

- 1) overcome : to defeat or succeed in controlling or dealing with something
- 2) advocate : to publicly support an idea, plan, or way of doing something
- 3) future : a period of time that is to come
- 4) transition : the process of changing from one condition to the another
- 5) diagnose : to identify a disease or its cause
- 6) community : all the people who live in a particular area
- 7) adulthood : the state of being an adult
- 8) support : to help someone emotionally or in a practical way
- 9) independently : without taking help or money from other people
- 10) happiness : the feeling of being happy
- 11) lifespan : the length of time for which something exists or lasts
- 12) intervention : involvement in a difficult situation in order to improve it
- 13) difficulty : the fact of not being easy
- 14) therapy : a treatment that helps someone feel better
- 15) scholarship : a grant or payment to support a student's education

While you are listening (Activity 1 ~ Activity 3)

"What happens to children with autism when they become adults?"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtgGzKRHT-Y&list=PL6wRq3-hI9O8OEMj-ENoPQZ-GPADqXMzf&index=4&t=797s>



Activity 1: While you watch the video first, find the main idea.

We all need to support and advocate for children with autism for their adulthood, for their rights and happiness.



Activity 2: While you watch the video again, find the answers to the questions below.

1. What did the speaker say about himself?

He couldn't say until 2 1/2 years old, and he was diagnosed four. He had sensory overload, many difficulties. Now he is bestseller writer, speaker....

2. What question did the father of the autistic son, whom the speaker met at the first autism conference, ask him?

What will happen to my child when I'm gone?

3. As an advocate of children with autism, how is the speaker supporting autistic children pursuing a post-secondary education?

He started scholarship program in 2011 because he wanted to support children with autism to pursue a post-secondary education.

4. What were the examples of three parents preparing for their autistic children's transition to adulthood?

A father with a young son who reached adulthood	<i>His son started horseback riding therapy. Plan to have a house for his son</i>
A mom with a 8-year- old son	<i>Fundraise for her son Support him to be famous painter</i>
A mom with a 4-year- old daughter	<i>Looking at the future, Trust fund for her life, Getting full-time job</i>

5. What did the speaker say we can do to support the transition of children with autism to adulthood?

1)

*Need to ask question to help their future, their weakness.
They need to be educated and have the research. We need to find
knowledge for autism.*

2)

*Self-reflection.
Every day, we need to write what they do well, have weakness and
challenges.*

3)

*Advocate.
We need to teach them how to advocate for themselves.
We need to advocate for their rights because they are our community.*

6. What are the dreams of children with autism that the speaker says?

*Finding a job, graduating form college, finding love, getting married, finding
happiness.*



Activity 3: Dictation

**Write down the sentences with the words and tenses you
learned when your teacher reads them.**

1. *My parents became my biggest advocates*.
2. *When I was four, I was finally diaagnosed with autism*.

3. *In 2011, I started a scholarship program*.
4. *There are many things we can do to focus on that transition to adulthood*.
5. *We need to advocate for our kid's rights*.
6. *I was able to overcome my obstacles*.

Post-listening



Activity 1: Review vocabulary

There are 14 words in the Word Search. Find them with your partner or group.

Listening Vocabulary Word Search



FUTURE ADVOCATE DIAGNOSE THERAPY SUPPORT
INTERVENTION ADULTHOOD INDEPENDENTLY
COMMUNITY TRANSITION LIFESPAN OVERCOME
HAPPINESS DIFFICULTY



Activity 2: Discuss the questions below with your group.

1. **Do you think about you can support people with autism?**
Yes or no.
2. **If you can support people with autism, how do you support them?**
If not, why can't you support them?

We need to be aware of autism. We think of them a part of our community and village. ETC.

It is difficult for us to understand them. So, I don't know how to support them.

Speaking



Activity 1: Review of previous class.

Read the following sentences and decide whether it is true or false.

- A. Autism seems to be isolated. (T)

- B. The characteristics and severity of autism are the same for everyone. (F)

- C. Autism is a disease that can be completely cured with medicine. (F)

- D. People with autism need support and advocacy for their happiness and stability. (T)

- E. His family alone is enough to support and advocate for a child with autistic disorder. (F)



Activity 2: Presentation

Present your movie or book about people with autism you investigated as a assignment.

Who had autism?

Chowon, 20 year old young man

Who was his/her advocate?

His mother

What characteristics did he/she have?

- Difficulty in communication
- express his thoughts in a way other than words, such as writing letters with finger
- low intelligence
- repetitive behaviors

Title: Marathon
(Korean movie, 2005)

What support did his/her advocate do for him/her?

- Discovering his son's abilities
- support marathon, such as training coach, training together, encourage

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