



Skateboard Seven

Lesson Overview

Level: A2–B1

Time: 15–25 minutes

Skills: Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking

Focus: Improves listening and reading comprehension

Theme: Facing fears, perseverance and overcoming obstacles

Materials: Audio file, printable story and activities

What Learners Will Do

This short, story-based lesson helps A2–B1 learners build confidence in listening and reading comprehension through a real-life narrative about perseverance, fear and overcoming obstacles. Ideal for ESL classes, language lessons, or exam-skills practice.

Ideal For

- ESL/EFL classes
- Reading & Comprehension Lessons
- Substitute or low-prep lessons

Before Listening

Task: Look at the image and answer:

1. How old do you think the boy is?
2. What do you think the story is about?
3. What could go wrong?

Part 1 – Listening for Gist

Task: Choose the correct answer:

- a) Kevin has a secret plan for his birthday
- b) Kevin has a secret hobby
- c) Kevin is afraid of the teen gang

Part 2 – Listening for Comprehension

Task: Choose the correct answer:

- a) Kevin gets into a fight with the Trouble Gang
- b) The Trouble Gang watches and films Kevin,
- c) Kevin is disappointed after he finishes his jump

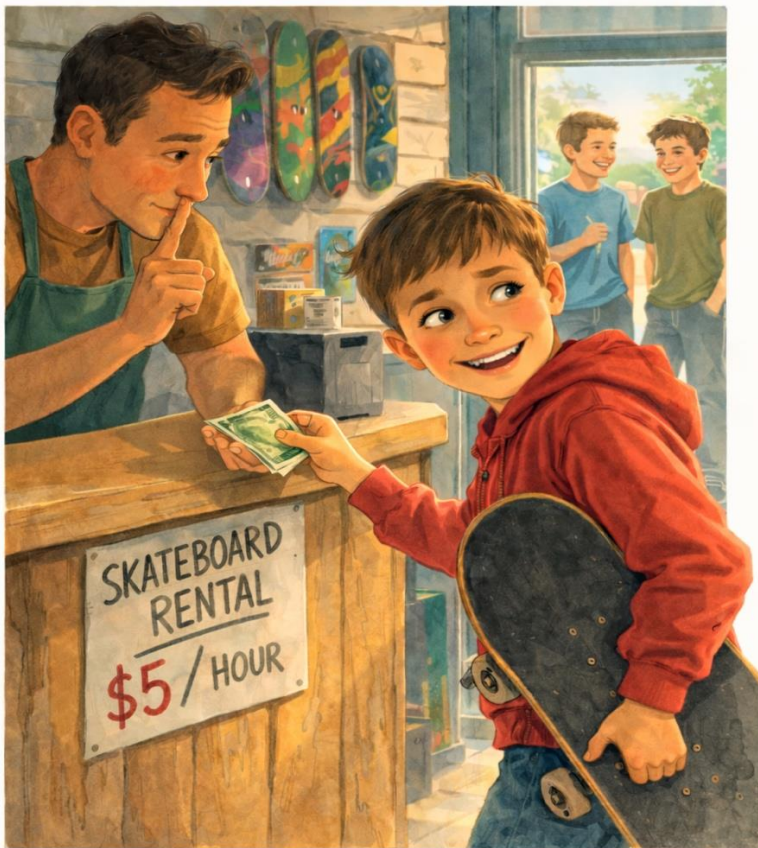
Reading & Language Focus

Read the story aloud in pairs or small groups.

- Underline past tense verbs
- Circle words or phrases that describe feelings or emotions
- Highlight any new vocabulary or expressions

It was a typical spring day; the weather was good and nothing much was going on. I had to study for my exams before spring break, but I **couldn't be bothered**. I was too excited about my birthday, which was two weeks away. I know that many people don't care so much about their birthdays, and some people don't celebrate birthdays at all. But for me, this one was going to be special!

It was my 12th birthday and Mum and Dad said I could have a skateboard and skateboard lessons. What they didn't know is that I had been secretly riding lessons since I was 9 and all my **mates** have helped me train every week. I even got the shopkeeper at Sam's Skateboards to rent me one for the last few years and I had been paying him back with my **pocket-money**.



We started our skateboard club when I was nine, right after the Christmas holidays when most of my friends got a skateboard from Father Christmas. That Christmas I had asked for one, again, knowing I wouldn't get it, but at least I could try. Mum was always afraid of me getting hurt. In the end, I got a really cool street bike, so I was able to [hang out](#) and ride along with my friends.



We didn't have a skate park in my town, so we had to make our own ramps with whatever we could find. We used to go to the [old scrapyard](#) and get loads of things to use. Old sheet metal, huge containers, crates, everything! It was free, so we just took it.

One day we were trying some tricks on the ramp we had just made, when a group of teenagers showed up, we called them the "Trouble Gang" and I mean: trouble.

They were always getting into fights and [mischief](#). We, didn't say much as they walked towards us, not knowing what they wanted or how fast we would have to run. They were on bikes too, so it would be challenging to get away.

We just looked at them and stopped we were like cowboys in an old Western film that my grandfather used to watch, where all would be silent, and they would stare at each other and see who would [draw their guns](#) first. Then their [ringleader](#), Charlie said: “Go on, don’t stop, keep skateboarding, we want to see how good you guys really are”.



Oh great, I thought to myself, now we have an [audience](#). I got a little nervous for a moment and then decided to just [have a go](#) and give it all I had. We all had our turns one by one, and then it was mine. My mates cheer me on and said: “Come on Kevin, [show them what you’ve got!](#)”

Then Charlie asked: “Oh, are you the pro?” Let’s make the ramp bigger boys”. In less than ten minutes, they had made us a much higher ramp. I don’t know if it’s better, but it was high, high enough to break a leg or an arm, I thought. “Mum is going to [punish](#) me for a week if I break something”, I said. Charlie then put a cardboard box in the middle and told me to fly over it, then added a special touch, he told Matty, the smallest of our [gang](#) to get in it. Matty ran over to the box and got in, now I was really [shaking in my boots!](#)

All of Charlie's gang had their mobile phones streaming live or recording to upload it on YouTube later. As I came off the first rail and picked up speed, I was going pretty fast, and I knew I would have to go up the ramp and fly off, but could I pull it off and fly over Matty's head and not land on him?

The momentum was huge, and all my friends and even Charlie's gang were rooting for me. "Come on kid, you've got this, go Kevin, you are killing it! And then I did it! I flew off the ramp with great speed and was able to perform one of the most difficult skateboard tricks called: mid-air. I flew directly over Matty's head and landed on my board with ease.



It was like the Olympics, where the crowd went wild. They all cheered. It was just epic! One of the boys shouted and before I knew it, there were over 20,000 hits. The video went viral overnight. A couple of weeks later, the phone rang, and it was a trainer for the youth skateboard club wanting to talk to my mum about having me come in for a training.

As you can imagine, not only did I get a skateboard that year for my birthday, I signed a three-year contract with the skateboarding club and I have been skating pro ever since.

I am still in school studying graphic design, so I can help design my own boards in the future. I love it and always try to tell young kids to follow their dreams!

Checking Understanding

Listening, Speaking & Writing

A. True/False

1. Kevin had never skateboarded before his birthday.
2. The Trouble Gang wanted to help him practice.
3. Ramps were built with free materials.
4. The video went viral.

B. What do you remember?

1. Why didn't his mom want him to skateboard?
2. What made the trick dangerous?
3. How did the video change his life?
4. What did Kevin do after he competed professionally?

Speaking/ Writing Extension

Imagine you are Kevin, write a short message to your family after the video goes viral.