

## Words by Theme Self-assessment

Complete the biography below with the given words from Units 9–12. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

awareness (n.)

debut (n.)

embrace (v.)

heartrending (adj.)

indigenous (adj.)

irreversible (adj.)

newbie (n.)

obsessed (adj.)

resilience (n.)

restore (v.)

the last straw (idm.)

top pick (n.)

### Getting through the odds

Susan Smith, a / an (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Australian gymnast, tried hopping on a balance beam when she was three and has been fond of gymnastics since then. She was so (2) \_\_\_\_\_ with the sport that she would go for training every day after school. To fulfil her dream of being a full-time athlete, she gave up her personal time to spend with family and friends. When she was 15, she made her (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in the World Artistic Gymnastics Championships. She won loads of awards and became one of the leading gymnasts worldwide. She even became the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of sportswear brands as a brand ambassador while she was still a / an (5) \_\_\_\_\_ in international competitions.



However, something (6) \_\_\_\_\_ occurred when she was 24. During a tournament, she fell off a horizontal bar, damaging the cervical vertebrae—the spinal cord right below the skull. Due to her severe injury, she endured a series of surgeries and intensive treatments. 'I am deeply sorry to inform you that the patient will be paralysed from the chest down,' the doctor announced that the injury was (7) \_\_\_\_\_. This message became (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and all of her hopes turned to dust.



Fortunately, her family and friends did not give up on her. With their encouragement, she started to (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the prolonged journey of recovery on a positive note. By practising and receiving all kinds of therapies, she is now capable of slightly (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the ability to move the body parts above her waist. Her (11) \_\_\_\_\_ has been way beyond the doctor's imagination. In her recovery journey, she has even become an advocate of safety (12) \_\_\_\_\_.