

Name:

## Day Two

# Better Than Ever

### Part 1: Tricky phrases and words



→ Read these phrases and words **out loud** to your partner.

- They had won the NCAA championship for five straight years
- Burnout is a real risk for young stars like Elena
- In an interview with *NCAA.com*
- she returned to college ball at the University of Delaware
- she was the second overall pick in the WNBA draft

- Elena                                    eh | **LAY** | nuh
- Delle Donne                            **DEH** | luh    **DON**
- championship                        **CHAM** | pee | yun | ship
- University                              yoo | nih | **VUR** | sih | tee
- Delaware                                **DEL** | uh | ware



### Decoding practice:

Circle the two base words in the compounds below. The first one is done for you.

basketball

standout

anywhere

burnout

powerhouse

faraway

overall



# Day Two Better Than Ever

// one minute

## Part 2: Last read

WPM \_\_\_\_\_

From a young age, Elena Delle Donne was a standout basketball player. She could score from anywhere on the floor. She grabbed rebounds. She played tough defense. People said she was like LeBron James.

College coaches began calling Elena when she was only in seventh grade. When she finished high school in Delaware, she was the number one college draft pick. 48  
61

Elena signed with UConn, a basketball powerhouse. They had won the NCAA championship for five straight years. It was a perfect match—a great player on a great team. 73  
89  
90

Or was it? Elena had always been very close to her family. At faraway UConn, she was scared and lonely. She stayed at college for just two days. Then she went home. “I can’t do this,” she told her parents. 107  
125  
130

Had Elena burned out? Burnout is a real risk for young stars like Elena. In an interview with *NCAA.com*, she talked about walking away from the game. “I lost the love of the game because it was taking me away from my family,” she said. 147  
163  
175

Elena was not done with basketball. After a break, she returned to college ball at the University of Delaware—a school closer to home. Elena Delle Donne was back! She became the top scorer in the NCAA. After college, she was the second overall pick in the WNBA draft. In her first season, she got the most All-Star votes of any player in the WNBA. The comeback was sweet. 191  
205  
222  
239  
244

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### Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Have you ever quit a sport or activity? Give your reasons.

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Talk to your partner. Write down your partner’s ideas.

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