

Name: _____

Day Two

Working Hard and Not Getting Ahead

Part 1: Tricky phrases and words



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

- It can be a strain to buy food and clothes
- when I get scolded for forgetting homework
- Maybe an agency can help
- everybody works hard just to keep even
- Derek's mother can switch hours
- Everyone is stressed

- basics **BAY** | siks
- responsibility rih | spon | sih | **BIH** | lih | tee
- argues **AR** | gyooz
- agency **AY** | jun | see



Decoding practice:

Complete these words from the passage that start with a consonant blend.

st _____

str _____

sl _____

sch _____

sc _____

sp _____

If you don't know the word already:

- a) Underline and say the single sounds in the blend.
- b) Say the sounds out loud as a blend.
- c) What sounds are in the rest of the word?
- d) Say and write the whole word.



Day Two

// one minute

Working Hard and Not Getting Ahead

Part 2: Last read

WPM _____

Most people go to work every day. But some families work hard and still don't make enough for the basics. It can be a strain to buy food and clothes and to pay bills. In many families, there is just one parent. In the span of a day, the parent may need to work 16 hours. In these families, older children often look after the younger ones. They may also clean the house and prepare meals. Children may pick up the slack while the parent is at work.

At 13, Derek has a lot of responsibility. He takes care of his brother and sister before and after school. Weekdays, he makes dinner and breakfast. At school, he sometimes argues with his teachers. Derek says, "It bugs me when I get scolded for forgetting homework. I have to take care of my family first. Then I can do schoolwork. There isn't enough time." His teachers need to be aware of all he has to do for his family. Derek also needs space just to be a 13-year-old.

Maybe an agency can help. The family may be able to get more childcare. Maybe Derek's mother can switch hours so she can be home more.

At Derek's house, everybody works hard just to keep even. Everyone is stressed. Families need to hope that hard work can help them get ahead.

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What could help Derek's family the most?

Write down your partner's ideas for helping Derek's family.
