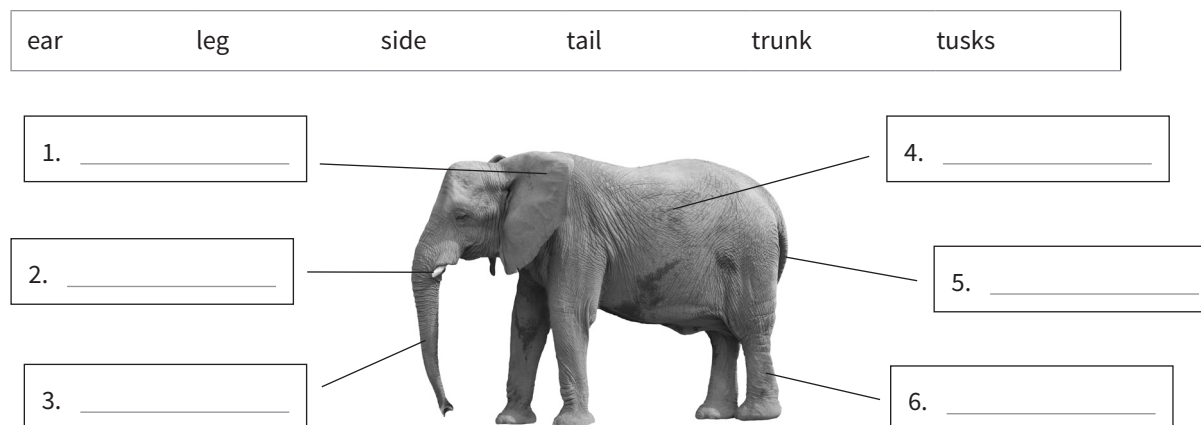


The six blind men and the elephant

Before you watch

A Label the picture with the correct words. Then compare with a partner.



B PAIR WORK What does each of these six parts of the elephant remind you of?

What do you think they'd feel like? Share your opinions and ideas.

A: In my opinion, the elephant's ear looks a little bit like an umbrella. It'd probably feel soft and smooth like the top of an umbrella if I touched it, too.

B: Really? An umbrella? I don't think the elephant's ear looks like an umbrella at all! If you ask me, it looks kind of like a . . .

While you watch

A Circle the correct answers.

- 1 The wise man tells the six blind men to use their sense of _____ to describe the elephant.
 - a smell
 - b hearing
 - c touch
- 2 Each of the six men was _____ about the elephant.
 - a wrong
 - b partly right
 - c unable to describe anything
- 3 The main idea of the story is that _____.
 - a it's important to communicate with other people
 - b each of us sees only a small part of what is true
 - c people don't have patience to hear others' opinions



- B** What do the six blind men say each part of the elephant is like? Complete the sentences with the correct objects.



fan



rope



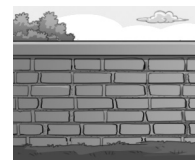
snake



spear



tree



wall

- 1 The elephant's leg is like a _____.
- 2 The elephant's tail is like a _____.
- 3 The elephant's trunk is like a _____.
- 4 The elephant's ear is like a _____.
- 5 The elephant's side is like a _____.
- 6 The elephant's tusk is like a _____.

- C** Write T (true) or F (false).

- 1 The six men were born blind. _____
- 2 Some of the blind men agreed with each other. _____
- 3 The blind men got into a big argument. _____
- 4 The wise man said it was useful to argue. _____
- 5 At the end of the video, the blind men touch the whole elephant. _____

After you watch

- A** **PAIR WORK** In the story, the fifth blind man says, “Actually, an elephant is like a wall!” The word *actually* means “in fact” or “in reality.” We most often use it in one of these ways: 1) to correct a mistake; 2) to express surprise; or 3) to express a change of mind. Discuss what you think it means in each sentence below.

- 1 An elephant isn't like a fan at all. Actually, an elephant is like a wall!
- 2 I ordered a green salad, but I think I actually want a fruit salad, instead.
- 3 She actually survived the shipwreck and returned to her country.
- 4 It wasn't an abduction. He actually just quietly left the city without telling anyone.
- 5 The Amazing Gregory can't actually read minds in his stage act. He's just very good at reading body language and facial expressions.
- 6 I know you'll think I'm crazy, but I actually liked that movie!

- B** Think of a time when you had an opinion but later changed it when you learned more. What was your original opinion? What changed your mind? Take notes.

- C** Group work Tell your group about your experience in Part B. Try to use the word *actually* as you discuss your change of opinion. Ask and answer questions for more information.