

THE WCR LEARNING COMMUNITY

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Wheelchair dancing
Photo: Mark Van Mane / PNG

Olesia dances in her wheelchair

Olesia has cerebral palsy. She is 35 years old.

Olesia has difficulty speaking. People thought she was not very capable.

They were wrong.

Olesia dances in her wheelchair.

She started dancing in 2000. She has won six awards.

Andy Wong is her teacher. He has a studio in Richmond.

Olesia is also a journalist, a rock climber and a poet. Her book of poetry is called *Dancing with the Stars*.

Olesia's wheelchair is 13 years old. It's broken. She needs a new one.

"A good wheelchair for me is as important as good shoes for a sportsman," says Olesia.

Olesia wants to buy a new wheelchair. She needs donations to help her.

Adapted from the Vancouver Sun

Go to *The Westcoast Reader* website for links to more information and videos.

Website: www.thewestcoastreader.com

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Reading Exercise

Olesia dances in her wheelchair

Fill in the blank with the right word.

speaking dances
six wheelchair
buy dancing

1. Olesia has difficulty _____.
2. Olesia _____ in her wheelchair.
3. She started _____ in 2000.
4. She won _____ awards.
5. Olesia's _____ is 13 years old.
6. Olesia wants to _____ a new wheelchair.

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Answer key

Olesia dances in her wheelchair

1. Olesia has difficulty speaking.
2. Olesia dances in her wheelchair.
3. She started dancing in 2000.
4. She won six awards.
5. Olesia's wheelchair is 13 years old.