

# 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](http://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.