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**READING 2 (Items 11-20)**

**Read the text. Then, complete the tasks.**

**[5M]**

Emily had a normal childhood until she was eighteen months old, when her parents noticed that she was walking strangely. They thought it was a simple problem that could be solved easily. However, Emily didn't get any better. They went to every hospital and medical centre they knew, but none of the doctors could identify what was wrong. Finally, after over six months of this, a doctor discovered that Emily was suffering from 'SMA'.

SMA is a rare disease that destroys the nerves controlling muscle movement. This affects a child's ability to use his or her muscles, especially for standing or walking. It is very rare because both parents have to be carriers of the abnormal gene to have a child with SMA. Emily's parents are both perfectly healthy and had no idea that they were carrying this harmful gene.

After hearing the news, they knew that they had to make big changes in their life. Emily's father asked some builders to re-construct parts of the house, so that she could move around more easily. Her mother borrowed a book from the doctor and started reading about this disease. She learned to follow particular medical procedures like water therapy, which is very helpful as the water allows movement of the arms and legs that may otherwise not be there.

It wasn't always easy. When people saw Emily, they thought she had had an accident. They kept asking lots of questions that annoyed the parents. Emily was crying all the time because she saw others walking around, but she couldn't.

Now, at the age of five, Emily can crawl around using her arms and uses a wheelchair when necessary. She still enjoys activities like swimming. Until now, scientists are still looking for a medicine to help children with SMA. Emily's parents still have hope that one day their daughter will be able to walk.

**Task one:** *for each item, shade in the bubble O next to the correct option.*

**11. How old was Emily when a doctor found that she had SMA?**

**12. As a result of the disease, what does she find it difficult to do?**

**13. Why did Emily's father rebuild some parts of the house?**

So that she \_\_\_\_\_

**14. Why was Emily crying all the time?**

Because she \_\_\_\_\_

**15. Who else in the family has become ill?**

**16. How can Emily move around the house?**

**Task Two:** *For each item, indicate whether the statement is true or false.*

**17- Emily's mother learned more about SMA from the Internet.**

**18- The most effective treatment for SMA is water.**

**19- When other people find out about Emily's condition, they become very curious.**

**20- SMA is an illness that affects the nerves controlling stomach movement.**

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## The Answers

- 11. 2/two ( years old )**
  - 12. walk**
  - 13. move around more easily**
  - 14. couldn't walk**
  - 15. nobody / no one**
  - 16. using her arms / a wheelchair**
  - 17.false**
  - 18.true**
  - 19.true**
  - 20.false**
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