

Name _____

Expressing Ideas More Clearly

Read the passage:

For years, Marcus had wanted to learn how to play the guitar. His older sister was a talented musician and often played in local concerts. Watching her perform made Marcus eager to try. When he finally got a guitar for his birthday, he started practicing every day after school. At first, it was hard—his fingers hurt, and he couldn't remember the chords. But instead of giving up, Marcus set small goals, like learning one new song each week. After three months, he surprised his family by playing a song perfectly at his sister's birthday dinner. His sister clapped and said, "You're a real guitarist now!"



Express yourself

Directions: Answer the following questions using **clear, complete sentences**. Include **details** from the passage and **explain your thinking**.

1. Why did Marcus want to learn to play the guitar?
2. What challenges did Marcus face when learning to play?
3. How did Marcus stay motivated to keep practicing?
4. Why was playing the song at his sister's birthday dinner important?
5. What lesson can you learn from Marcus's experience?