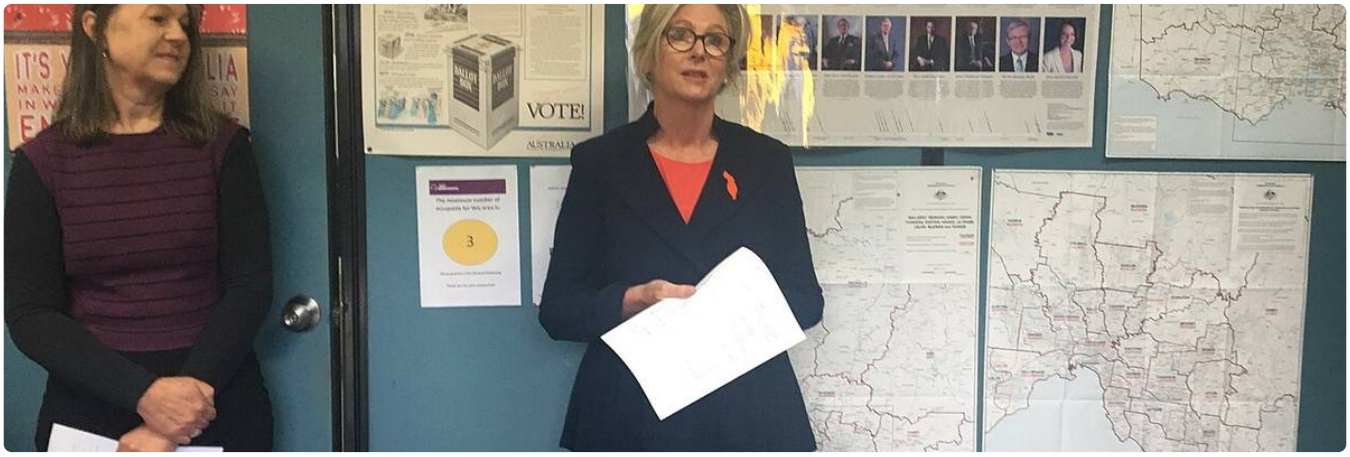
CLASSROOM WORKSHEET

Independent MP Helen Haines Leaves Hospital After Double Amputation

Politics · Nov 16, 2026 · 2 min read

NAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____ SCORE _____ / 11



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1 Read

The number beside each paragraph helps you talk about it.

1 Australian federal representative Helen Haines has been discharged from hospital, reportedly almost four weeks after an alleged vehicle incident left her without both legs outside her electorate office in Wangaratta, Victoria.

2 The independent MP, who represents the seat of Indi in Victoria, is now understood to have entered the rehabilitation phase of her recovery, which will continue in Melbourne. She was granted a leave of absence until 26 November.

3 Haines expressed gratitude to staff at the Alfred hospital for the care she received during her stay, describing herself as overwhelmed by the warm wishes and donations she has received from Australians and people around the world. More than $1.46m has been raised for Save the Children through a fundraiser established in her name.

4 Prime Minister Anthony Albanese stated that ongoing support continues to be provided to Haines, her family, community, and staff throughout her rehabilitation.

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2 Key words

discharged /dɪsˈtʃɑːdʒd/ *verb*

Formally released from a hospital or institution after treatment is considered complete.

Patients are typically discharged once their vital signs have stabilised.

alleged /əˈlɛdʒd/ *adjective*

Claimed or reported as true but not yet proven or confirmed.

The alleged breach of contract is still under investigation.

rehabilitation /ˌriːəˌbɪlɪˈteɪʃən/ *noun*

The process of recovering strength, health, or normal function after an illness or injury.

Rehabilitation programmes help stroke survivors regain motor function.

overwhelmed /ˌoʊvərˈwɛlmd/ *adjective*

Feeling unable to cope because of an intense abundance of emotion, support, or tasks.

She felt overwhelmed by the number of people who turned up for her retirement party.

fundraiser /ˈfʌndˌreɪzər/ *noun*

An organised event or campaign to collect money for a charitable cause.

The local fundraiser attracted hundreds of attendees and exceeded its initial target.

leave of absence /liːv əv ˈæbsəns/ *idiom*

Formal permission granted by an employer or institution allowing someone to be absent for a set period.

He applied for a leave of absence to pursue a postdoctoral fellowship abroad.

3 Grammar focus

Hedging and distancing

reportedly / is thought to / appears to / is expected to + verb

Hedging language (reportedly, is thought to, appears to) lets a writer report information without vouching for it. It marks the difference between established fact and claim or expectation.

1. Australian federal representative Helen Haines has been discharged from hospital, reportedly almost four weeks after an alleged vehicle incident left her without both legs outside her electorate office in Wangaratta, Victoria.

What does the writer avoid stating as a certain fact?

4 Reading comprehension

EXERCISE 1 Reading Comprehension

3 points

Read the passage and choose the best answer for each question.

1 What does the word 'alleged' suggest about the vehicle incident?

(a) It has been officially confirmed by a court.
(b) The cause of her injury has not yet been proven or formally established.
(c) The incident involved multiple vehicles.
(d) It was a deliberate act against a public figure.

2 Which of the following best describes the tone of Haines's reaction to public donations and wishes?

(a) Indifferent and dismissive
(b) Politically strategic
(c) Deeply moved and appreciative
(d) Anxious about the amount raised

3 What does the text imply about the role of the Prime Minister's statement?

(a) It announces a government policy change regarding disability support.
(b) It signals official institutional acknowledgement of Haines's situation.
(c) It provides new medical information about her condition.
(d) It replaces the need for private fundraising.

5 Vocabulary and grammar practice

EXERCISE 2 Contextual Grammar – Hedging and Passives

3 points

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the verb in brackets, following the hint provided.

1 Haines is now understood to _____ (enter) the rehabilitation phase of her recovery.

2 Ongoing support _____ (provide) to Haines, her family, community, and staff throughout her rehabilitation.

3 An alleged vehicle incident _____ (leave) her without both legs outside her electorate office.

EXERCISE 3 **Vocabulary Matching** 5 points

Match each vocabulary term with its correct definition.

1 discharged _____
2 alleged _____
3 rehabilitation _____
4 overwhelmed _____
5 fundraiser _____

A An organised event or campaign to collect money for a charitable cause.

B The process of recovering strength, health, or normal function after an illness or injury.

C Claimed or reported as true but not yet proven or confirmed.

D Formally released from a hospital or institution after treatment is considered complete.

E Feeling unable to cope because of an intense abundance of emotion, support, or tasks.

6 Guided writing

EXERCISE 4 **Writing Summary**

Write a balanced summary (120–180 words) of the news story. You must include the words 'alleged', 'rehabilitation', 'overwhelmed', and 'support' in your response. Aim for an objective journalistic tone and note any hedging language the original text uses. Write 120 to 180 words.

7 Discussion

Talk with a partner, then share one idea.

EXERCISE 5 **Speaking**

1. How does the consistent use of hedging language ('alleged', 'reportedly', 'understood to') shape a reader's trust and expectations about the story? Is it ethically necessary in this context?
2. To what extent do you think public displays of solidarity—such as fundraising on an individual's behalf—change the way citizens perceive the relationship between elected representatives and their communities?
3. If you were editing this news item for a different audience (e.g., an international readership unfamiliar with Australian politics), which details would you prioritise and which would you cut, and why?

Answer key

For the teacher

Keep this page for yourself and copy only the pages before it. Short-answer and writing tasks list one possible answer.

Exercise 1 Reading Comprehension

1. B. The cause of her injury has not yet been proven or formally established. 'Alleged' signals that the incident is reported but not yet confirmed as fact, hedging the claim.
2. C. Deeply moved and appreciative The text says she was 'overwhelmed by the warm wishes and donations' and 'expressed gratitude', indicating genuine emotional appreciation.
3. B. It signals official institutional acknowledgement of Haines's situation. The PM's statement 'that ongoing support continues to be provided' serves as an official public acknowledgement, not new policy or medical information.

Exercise 2 Contextual Grammar – Hedging and Passives

1. have entered 'Is understood to have entered' uses the perfect infinitive after a passive reporting structure to indicate a completed action viewed from the present.
2. continues to be provided The text uses 'continues to be provided', a present simple passive with 'continue' to signal an ongoing institutional commitment.
3. left 'Left' is the past simple active form, narrating a completed past event with a clear subject (the incident) performing the action.

Exercise 3 Vocabulary Matching

1. D. Formally released from a hospital or institution after treatment is considered complete.
2. C. Claimed or reported as true but not yet proven or confirmed.
3. B. The process of recovering strength, health, or normal function after an illness or injury.
4. E. Feeling unable to cope because of an intense abundance of emotion, support, or tasks.
5. A. An organised event or campaign to collect money for a charitable cause.

Exercise 4 Writing Summary

Independent MP Helen Haines has been discharged from hospital approximately four weeks after an alleged vehicle incident left her without both legs outside her electorate office in Wangaratta, Victoria. The representative for the seat of Indi is now understood to have entered the rehabilitation phase of her recovery, which will continue in Melbourne, and has been granted a leave of absence until 26 November. Haines expressed gratitude to Alfred hospital staff and described herself as overwhelmed by warm wishes and donations from Australians and people worldwide. More than $1.46m has been raised for Save the Children through a fundraiser established in her name. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese stated that ongoing support continues to be provided to Haines, her family, community, and staff throughout her rehabilitation. The article consistently uses hedging language such as 'alleged', 'reportedly', and 'understood to' when describing the incident and its aftermath. One possible answer. Yours will be different and can still be good: check it against the list.