

Missing Six Fingers

Jose Castillo

BEFORE YOU READ:

1. Look at the title, the headings, and the pictures. What do you think this article will be about?
2. Think about the word “missing.” To miss something means to feel the loss of something. For example, “I miss my friend who I have not seen for two years.” To be missing also means to be absent or lost. For example, the author has lost or is missing six fingers. Try using the verb “to miss” and “to be missing” in various sentences.
3. A *prosthesis* (noun) is an artificial body part. It is not part of the body you were born with. *Prosthetic* (adjective) describes a *device* that you use as a body part. A *device* (noun) is a thing that is made for a purpose. What *prosthetic devices* do you use or have you seen or heard of?
4. Describe any *device* you use in your life to make an activity easier.

An Accident at Work

Access to technology for me is very important because I lost six fingers. The big change in my life happened on September 22, 2020. I was working for a roofing company when my accident happened. I was cutting metal in a machine, and my fingers slipped in the machine. I didn’t know my fingers were there and I pushed the button. The machine cut the metal and my fingers too.

My Smartphone Helps

I use my smartphone to do my homework and many other things. For me, it is more convenient to use my phone than a computer because I can use my thumbs to type which is faster than trying to type with partial fingers on a keyboard.



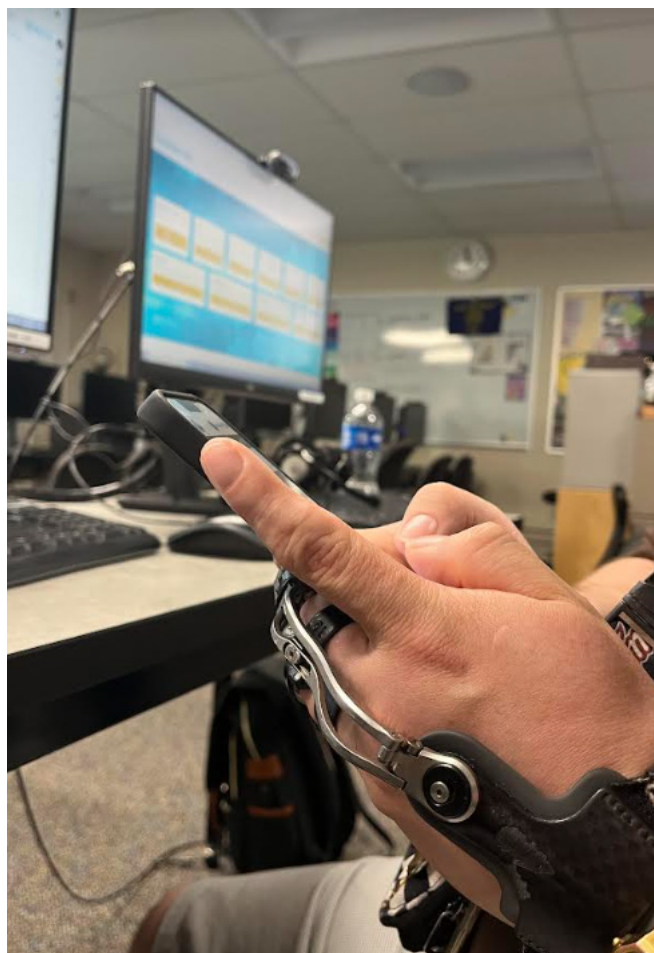
My Prosthetic Fingers Are a Part of Me

Technology can help us with our health. For example, doctors are using robots to help with surgeries. We use monitors to check our bodies for any problems. In my situation, I have a *prosthesis*. On my left hand, I have two prosthetic fingers. My *prosthetic* fingers help me hold my phone and many other things too.

My *prosthetic* fingers have become a part of me. If I don't wear them, I don't feel comfortable. They are part of my body.

Technology Helps

Technology can make a big difference, especially for people like me. Technology is not difficult if you take the time to learn how to use it. I took the time to learn how to use my prosthetic fingers, and I have benefited from it so much.



AFTER YOU READ:

1. What technology does Jose use to manage his disability?
2. Practice pronouncing *prosthetic* and *prosthesis*.

Jose Castillo is an ESOL student at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, Oregon. He is from Sinaloa Mexico. He came to the U.S. when he was 13 years old. He graduated in 2011 from Centennial High School. He didn't go to college immediately after high school, but now he has the opportunity to go, and he wants to take advantage of it.