Each story is different. Some are detailed; others are unclear．Some have a beginning, middle and end; 1 wander without a clear conclusion. Yet all those things do not really matter. 2 matters to the storyteller is that the story is heard—without 3 (interrupt), statement or judgment. Listening to someone's story costs 4 (little) than expensive diagnostic testing but is the key to healing and analysis.

I often thought of what a woman once taught me, and I reminded 5 of the importance of stopping, sitting down and 6 (true) listening.

I am a doctor. And, not long after, in 7 unexpected twist(扭伤), I became the patient, with a judgment of numerous sclerosis(细胞壁硬化)at age 31. Now, 20 years later, I sit all the time – in a wheelchair. For as long as I could, I continued to see patients from my chair, 8 I had to quit when my hands 9 (affect). I still teach medical students and other health care professionals, but now 10 the viewpoint of a physician and patient, I tell them I believe in the power of listening and tell them I know that vast healing takes place within me when someone stops, sits down and listens to my story.

1. others 2. What 3. interruption 4. less 5. myself 6. truly 7. an 8. but

9. were affected 10. from