

PRE-INTERMEDIATE UNIT 12

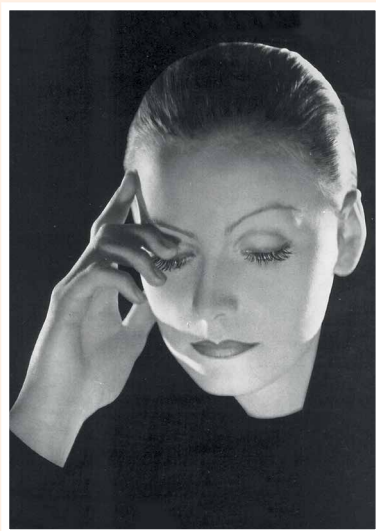
paragraphs

speakeout **WRITING TIP**

When we write longer texts, we divide them into different paragraphs. When you write something like a personal profile, each paragraph should have a clear focus and a different topic. The first sentence of each paragraph should introduce the topic of the paragraph. Most texts have an introduction, two or three main paragraphs, and a conclusion.

1 Read the profile of Greta Garbo. Who was she and why is she famous?

1 Greta Garbo was a Swedish film actress and an international star during Hollywood's silent and classic periods. She was nominated four times for an Oscar, and received an honorary one in 1954.



2 Greta Garbo was born in Stockholm in 1905. She was the youngest of three children. Her family was poor and lived in a small flat with no hot water. She became interested in the theatre when she was very young, and dreamed of becoming an actress. Greta finished school when she was 13 and did not go to secondary school because she had to work to earn money for her family.

3 When she was 17, she started studying at drama school in Stockholm, and she starred in her first film when she was only 19. When she was 20, she went to the United States to look for fame and fortune. In 1926, at the age of 21, she acted in her first silent film. In the following years she made eight more silent films and became an international star.

4 In 1930 she took her first speaking role, in the film *Anna Christie*. In the next eleven years she starred in many classic films. She was nominated for an Oscar for several of these roles. Then, mysteriously, she retired in 1941 at the age of only 36. She never acted again. Greta Garbo died in 1990 in New York.

2 Put the information in the correct order (1–6).

- a) Garbo left Sweden. _____
- b) Garbo stopped acting. _____
- c) Garbo starred in her first film. _____
- d) Garbo became famous. _____
- e) Garbo received several Oscar nominations. _____
- f) Garbo started to do speaking roles. _____

3 Match the titles to the paragraphs (1–4) in exercise 1.

- a) Rise to fame _____
b) Achievements and later life _____
c) Introduction _____
d) Childhood and education _____

4 What tense is used in the text? Why?

5 Write a profile of a famous person.

[illegible]

Plan your writing

- Think about the person you're going to write about? Who is he/she? What is/was he/she famous for?
- What can you say about his/her early life and education? How did he/she rise to fame?
- What are his/her achievements? What happened to him/her later in life?

Check your writing

- Does each paragraph have a clear focus?
- Have you used the past simple tense to describe the events of the person's life?
- Have you checked your grammar and spelling?
- Did you find any mistakes?