

A life of achievement

Vocabulary Life events

Grammar Simple past: regular and irregular verbs

Speaking Talking about past events

Getting started

- 1 Number the life events in the order they usually occur.

have children ____ find a job ____ graduate from school ____
 get married ____ grow up ____ go to school ____
 work hard ____ be born ____

- 2 PAIRS. Compare your answers.

Reading

- 3 Look at the pictures of Oprah Winfrey. What do you know about her? Put a check (✓) next to the sentences about her that you think are true.

She was born in the U.S.
 She's an only child.
 She's married.
 She lives in an apartment in Chicago.
 She has a plane.
 She doesn't have children.
 She gives a lot of money to charity.
 She has her own magazine.

- 4 Read the article about Oprah Winfrey. Then check your answers in Exercise 3.

- 5 PAIRS. Discuss. Did anything in the article surprise you?

1 Oprah Winfrey was born.

1954

3 She had her first talk show.

2 She left college.

4 She started *The Oprah Winfrey Show*.

5 She acted in her first movie.



Oprah Winfrey

People in more than 132 countries watch *Oprah*. On this TV talk show, ordinary people talk about their problems and Oprah Winfrey helps them.

Oprah lives in a wonderful apartment in Chicago and has a farm and a house in the mountains. She has great cars and a plane too. But Oprah Winfrey was not always rich and famous.

What kind of life did Oprah have as a child?

Oprah Winfrey was born in 1954 in Mississippi, in the U.S. Her family didn't have a lot of money. Oprah could read and write when she was three, and she loved books. She worked hard and was an excellent student at school, but she left college in 1973 when she was nineteen and didn't finish her education.

How did she start her successful career?

Oprah wanted to be famous, and her dream came true when she found a job in TV. She was the first woman and the first black newscaster on TV in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1977, she had her first TV talk show. In 1984, she moved to Chicago and started *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. It was a great success.



Oprah in *The Color Purple*

What did she do later?

In 1985, Oprah acted in Steven Spielberg's movie *The Color Purple*. After that, she made several other popular films. She didn't have any children, but she used her success to help other people's children. In 1997, she started a charity called Oprah's Angel Network. In the first five years, the charity collected more than \$12 million and gave it to people in need. Oprah's Angel Network helps students to go to college, poor families to build their own homes, and communities to become safer. Oprah began her own magazine for women in the spring of 2000. It's simply called *O*. The magazine contains many personal stories and moving articles that reflect her interest in helping people worldwide. Her television program is still very popular, but now it's just called *Oprah*.



7

She started her own magazine.

6

Read the article again. Then write the correct years on the timeline.

6

She started a charity to help other people.

Grammar focus

- 1 Study the examples of regular and irregular verbs in the simple past.

Regular verbs	Irregular verbs
Examples: <i>love, work, finish, end, want, move, act, start</i>	Examples: <i>be, can, leave, find, do, give, have</i>
(?) How did she start her successful career?	What kind of life did she have as a child?
(?) Did she start acting right away?	Did she have any brothers and sisters?
(+) She started <i>The Oprah Winfrey Show</i> in 1984.	She had her first talk show in 1977.
(-) She didn't start the Angel Network in 1984.	Her family didn't have a lot of money.

- 2 Look at the examples again. Is the rule in the chart true (T) or false (F)?

Simple past: regular and irregular verbs

Use the simple past to talk about completed actions in the past. _____

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- 3 Complete the story with the correct simple past form of the verbs in parentheses.

The entrepreneur Anita Roddick was born in
1. (be)

England in 1942. She open the first Body
2. (open)

Shop in 1976 in Brighton. She not have
3. (not have)

experience running a cosmetic shop, but she

a lot of good ideas. She want
4. (have) 5. (want)

to "make profits with principles." For example, she not allow
6. (not allow)

her cosmetics to be tested on animals. She pay a fair salary to
7. (pay)
all her employees.

By 1993, Anita Roddick one of the five richest women in the
8. (be)

world. But her principles still remain important to her. In 2000, she
9. (remain)

the world of business and become a full-time campaigner
10. (leave) 11. (become)

on social issues.



Pronunciation

- 4 Listen to the sentences. Notice the pronunciation of the simple past tense verbs. Check (✓) the verbs in which -ed is pronounced as an extra syllable.

lived	wanted ✓	loved	studied	decided	worked
acted	finished	started	watched	used	collected

- 5 Listen to the verbs in Exercise 4. Then listen and repeat.

- 6 Complete the rule.

The -ed ending is pronounced as an extra syllable after the sounds ____ and ____.

Speaking

- 7 **BEFORE YOU SPEAK.** Make a timeline of the important dates in your life. Include dates but no other information.



- 8 **PAIRS.** Look at your partner's timeline. Take turns. Ask questions to guess the missing information.

A: Did you get a new job in 2003?

B: No, I met my fiancé in 2003.

- 9 Tell the class something interesting about your partner.

Sabrina met her fiancé in 2003.

Writing

- 10 Oprah Winfrey encourages people to share their life stories on her TV show. What story can you share? Write a paragraph about an important time or event in your life. Use regular and irregular verbs in the simple past.

CONVERSATION TO GO

A: When **did** you **finish** school?

B: In 2002. Then I **got** a job and **bought** a new car.