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Oprah did all this consistently before she turned ten. She got her 10,000 hours of practice very quickly. And her stellar trajectory continued. **She won a full scholarship to Tennessee State University by winning a public speaking contest.** She picked up a radio show aged 17 – on a full salary. In 1973, while only a sophomore, the **19-year-old Winfrey was offered a job as co-news anchor at Nashville's CBS affiliate, WTVF-TV, and became not only Nashville's first female co-anchor but the first black co-anchor as well.**

Phil Donahue's nationally syndicated talk show had won a large following in Baltimore, and the manager wanted to tap the market with a local version. In 1977, "People Are Talking" aired with Winfrey as co-host. Oprah had found her niche. Her uncommon ability to connect intellectually and emotionally with a wide variety of topics made the show an instant success.



"The Oprah Winfrey Show" made its national debut in 1986, and within five months became the third-highest rated show in syndication and the No. 1 talk show, reaching upwards of 10 million people daily in 192 cities.

But where did all of this start? Hard work and hours put in practising, yes. But also, pure luck that she was born with such phenomenal abilities and a strong inclination to develop them, plus caregivers and teachers who encouraged her natural talents to blossom. **Not everyone has a grandmother who diligently teaches them to read from infancy, or a father who regularly takes them to the library or drives them around to put them in front of audiences to speak and build on their talent.** And not everyone who has those opportunities is inclined to relish them like Oprah .