

# David Walliams



## Who Is David Walliams?

David Walliams is a comedian, actor and author. He is also a judge on a TV talent show and writes for TV. David raises money for the charity, Sport Relief, which helps people all over the world.

## David's Childhood

David was born on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1971 in Merton, London. He was the child of Peter and Kathleen Williams. From a young age, he loved dressing up and his older sister Julie would often dress him up in girls' clothes for fun.

David went to school in Surrey, where his love of dressing up grew and his love of acting began. He was also on the school swimming team. At age 11, he acted in his first school play wearing a dress and made everyone laugh. This was the moment he knew that what he wanted to do with his life was make people laugh.

## David the Author

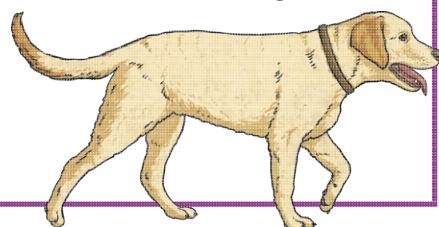
David had a successful TV career and his own TV show. But he wanted to write a book about how it's OK to be different. In 2008, he published 'The Boy in the Dress' about a boy who loves football and wearing dresses. The book sold over half a million copies.

David has now written twelve chapter books for children and six picture books for younger readers. Some of his most famous books are 'Mr Stink', 'Billionaire Boy' and 'Gangsta Granny'. His books are often illustrated by Tony Ross, who also illustrates the 'Horrid Henry' books.



## Did You Know...?

- David changed his name from Williams to Walliams because there was already an actor called David Williams!
- When swimming in the river Thames, David rescued a Labrador dog that had fallen in the river!
- David has sold over eight million books all over the world.





Many of David's books have now been filmed for TV and you can sometimes spot him acting in them too!

### Charity Work

David has raised a lot of money for charity. In 2006, David swam the English Channel (from England to France) to raise money for Sport Relief. He swam 22 miles and raised over one million pounds. In 2011, David swam the length of the river Thames (140 miles) and raised more than two million pounds for Sport Relief. David was awarded an OBE by The Queen in 2017 for his charity work.

# Questions

1. What did David like doing as a child? Tick two.

- running
- dressing up
- writing
- acting

2. When was 'The Boy in the Dress' published? Tick one.

- 2004
- 2006
- 2008
- 2011

3. Draw lines to complete the sentences about David.

David has raised a lot of  
money for charity through

being different.

David wanted to write a  
book about

make people laugh.

David knew early on that  
he wanted to

swimming.

4. Number the events below to show the order in which they happened in David's life.

- David had a successful TV career.
- David was born the son of Peter and Kathleen Williams.
- David published 'The Boy in the Dress'.
- David acted in his first play.
- David enjoyed dressing up with his sister.

5. Fill in the missing words in this sentence.

David raised \_\_\_\_\_ million pounds for charity in 2011 and \_\_\_\_\_ million pounds for charity in 2006.

6. What did David rescue when swimming the river Thames?

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7. Who often illustrates David's books? Why do you think he chose this illustrator?

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# Answers

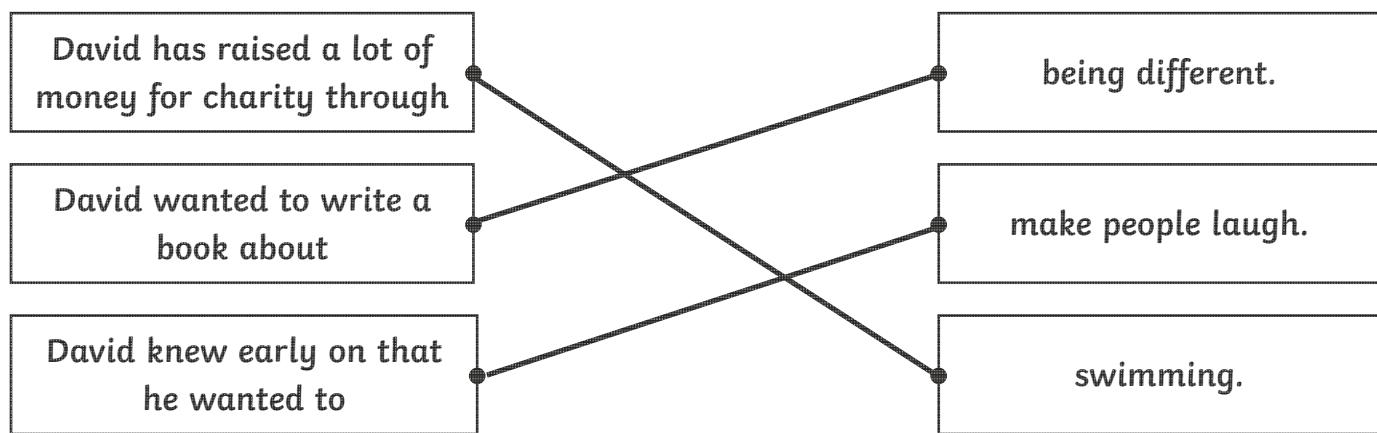
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- 2006
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3. Draw lines to complete the sentences about David.



4. Number the events below to show the order in which they happened in David's life.

- 4 David had a successful TV career.
- 1 David was born the son of Peter and Kathleen Williams.
- 5 David published 'The Boy in the Dress'.
- 3 David acted in his first play.
- 2 David enjoyed dressing up with his sister.

5. Fill in the missing words in this sentence.

David raised **two** million pounds for charity in 2011 and **one** million pounds for charity in 2006.

6. What did David rescue when swimming the river Thames?

**David rescued a Labrador dog when swimming the river Thames.**

7. Who often illustrates David's books? Why do you think he chose this illustrator?

**Tony Ross illustrates David's books. Pupils' own responses for reason, such as: I think David chose this illustrator because he was good at illustrating the 'Horrid Henry' books and David Walliams' books are quite similar.**

# David Walliams

## Who Is David Walliams?

David Walliams is a comedian, actor and children's author. He is also a judge on a television talent show and writes scripts for television. David raises money for the charity Sport Relief, which helps people worldwide.



## David's Childhood

David was born on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1971 in Merton, London. He was the youngest child of Peter Williams, an **engineer**, and Kathleen Williams, a **lab technician**. From a young age he loved dressing up and his older sister Julie would often dress him up in girls' clothes.

David went to school in Surrey, where his love of dressing up continued and his love of acting began. He was also on the school swimming team. Aged 11, he performed in his first school play wearing a dress and made the audience laugh. This was the moment he realised that what he wanted to do with his life was entertain people.

## David the Actor

After studying drama at the University of Bristol, David changed his surname from Williams to Walliams because there was already an actor called David Williams! David finally got his "big break", co-writing and co-starring in a television show.

## David the Author

David had a successful television career but he decided to try something new. He wanted to write a book with the message that it's OK to be different. In 2008, he published 'The Boy in the Dress' about a boy who loves football and wearing dresses. The book sold over half a million copies.



David has now written twelve chapter books for children and six picture books for younger readers, which have sold over eight million copies worldwide. His most famous books include 'Mr Stink', 'Billionaire Boy', 'Gangsta Granny' and 'Ratburger'. He often works with the illustrator Quentin Blake, who also illustrated Roald Dahl's books. Many of David's books have now been filmed for television and he

sometimes appears in these films as an actor!

## Amazing Charity Work



David has raised a lot of money for charity through swimming. In July 2006, David swam the **English Channel** to raise money for Sport Relief. He swam 22 miles, the same distance as 700 lengths of an Olympic-sized swimming pool! He raised over one million pounds.

In September 2011, David swam the length of the river Thames (140 miles) and raised more than two million pounds for Sport Relief.

In 2017, he was awarded an **OBE** for his work in charity and the arts.

### Glossary

**engineer:** A person who designs or builds machines, engines, equipment or bridges.

**English Channel:** The body of water between England and France.

**lab technician:** A person who assists or carries out work in a laboratory.

**OBE:** An award presented by The Queen, standing for Officer of the Order of the British Empire.

# Questions

1. What were David's parents' jobs? Tick two.

- hairdresser
- engineer
- scientist
- lab technician

2. When did David first realise he wanted to entertain people? Tick one.

- when his sister dressed him up
- when he worked on television
- when he performed in a school play
- when he wrote books

3. Draw lines to show different things that David has done at different stages in his life. One has been done for you.

child

He swam the English Channel.

author

He was dressed up by his sister.

charity work

He worked with the illustrator Quentin Blake.

4. Number the events below to show the order in which they happened in David's life.

- David swam the English Channel.
- David went to school in Surrey.
- David published his first book
- David was awarded an OBE.
- David swam the river Thames.

5. Find and copy one word that shows David had been waiting a long time for his "big break".

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6. Fill in the missing words in this sentence. Use the glossary to help you.

David Walliams was awarded an \_\_\_\_\_ by The Queen, making him an Officer of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the British Empire.

7. Which of David's achievements do you think he is most proud of? Give two reasons for your answer.

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8. What do you think David will do next in his career? Give reasons for your answer.

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# Answers

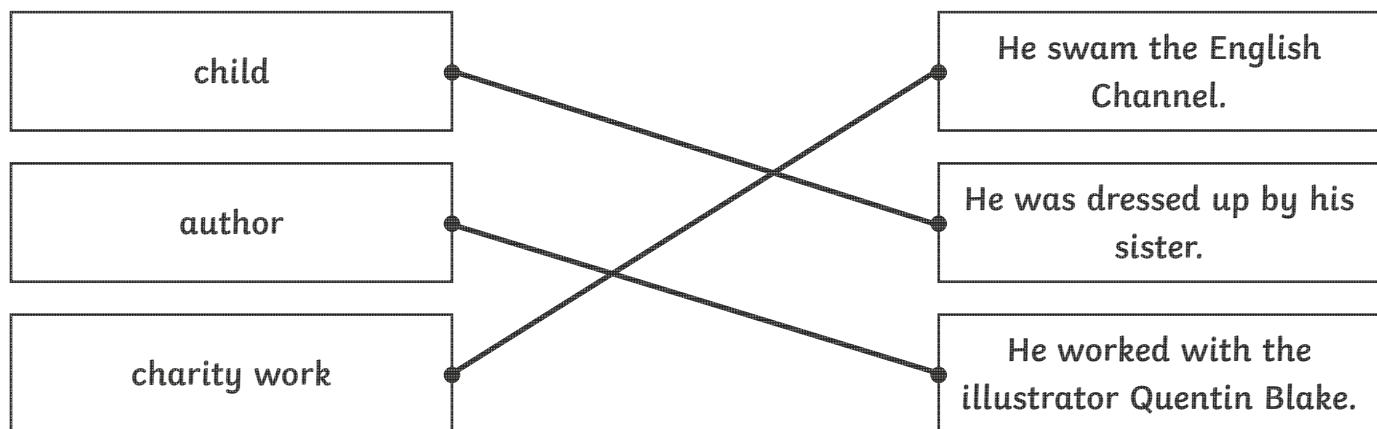
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- when he wrote books

3. Draw lines to show different things that David has done at different stages in his life. One has been done for you.



4. Number the events below to show the order in which they happened in David's life.

- 3** David swam the English Channel.
- 1** David went to school in Surrey.
- 2** David published his first book
- 5** David was awarded an OBE.
- 4** David swam the river Thames.

5. Find and copy one word that shows David had been waiting a while for his "big break".  
**finally**

6. Fill in the missing words in this sentence. Use the glossary to help you.

**David Walliams was awarded an OBE by The Queen, making him an Officer of the Order of the British Empire.**

7. Which of David's achievements do you think he is most proud of? Give two reasons for your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think he is most proud of swimming the river Thames because that's the furthest he has ever swum and he raised a lot of money for charity.**

# David Walliams

David Walliams is a comedian, actor and children's author. He is also a judge on a television talent show and writes scripts for television. David raises money for the charity Sport Relief, which helps people in the world's poorest countries.



## Childhood

David was born on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1971 in Merton, London. He was the youngest child of Peter Williams, an engineer, and Kathleen Williams, a lab technician.

From a young age he enjoyed dressing up; his older sister Julie loved dressing him up in girls' clothes.

David went to a boys' school in Surrey, where his love of dressing up continued and his love of acting was formed. He was also on the school swimming team. Although he never won a race, he loved the freedom of being in the water. Aged 11, he performed in his first school play wearing a dress and made the audience howl with laughter. This was the moment he realised what he wanted to do with his life.

## Career Highlights

After studying drama at the University of Bristol, David changed his surname from Williams to Walliams because there was already an actor with that name. David finally got his "big break" **collaborating** with his friend on a comedy sketch show. The show was extremely popular and David's name instantly became a household name.

David had a successful television career but he decided to try out a new **vocation**. He wanted to write a book with the important message that it's OK to be different.

In 2008, he published 'The Boy in the Dress' about a boy who loves football and wearing dresses. The book sold over half a million copies.



David has now written twelve chapter books for children and six picture books for younger readers. His most celebrated books include 'Mr Stink', 'Billionaire Boy', 'Gangsta Granny' and 'Ratburger'.

He frequently works with the illustrator Quentin Blake, best known for illustrating Roald Dahl's books, or Tony Ross, best known

for illustrating the 'Horrid Henry' books. Many of David's books have now been **adapted** for television and he occasionally appears in these films as an actor!



### Charitable Work

David has raised impressive sums for charity, using his passion for swimming. In July 2006, David swam the **English Channel**, raising over one million pounds for Sport Relief. It took him 10 hours and 34 minutes to swim 22 miles. This distance is equal to 700 lengths of an Olympic-sized swimming pool! In September 2011, David swam the length of the river Thames (140 miles), raising more than two million pounds for Sport Relief.

David was awarded an **OBE** by The Queen in 2017 for his work in charity and the arts.

### Glossary

**adapted:** To make a different version of something, for example making a book into a film.

**collaborating:** Working together on an activity or project.

**English Channel:** The body of water separating southern England and northern France.

**vocation:** A form of employment or job.

**OBE:** An award presented by The Queen, standing for Officer of the Order of the British Empire.

# Questions

1. What were David's hobbies at school? Tick two.

- swimming
- running
- acting
- painting

2. Why did David change his surname? Tick one.

- He thought it was boring.
- Another actor had the same name.
- He thought he wouldn't get jobs.
- It was too long.

3. Who dressed David up in girls' clothes?

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4. Find and copy a word that shows David did not become famous straight away.

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5. What does the word vocation mean? Use the glossary to help you.

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6. Sum up David's main achievements in his life so far.

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7. What do you think David realised he wanted to do with his life aged 11?

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8. Explain why you think David wrote a book about a boy who loves wearing dresses?

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# Answers

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2. Why did David change his surname? Tick one.

- He thought it was boring.
- Another actor had the same name.
- He thought he wouldn't get jobs.
- It was too long.

3. Who dressed David up in girls' clothes?

**David's sister, Julie, dressed him up in girls' clothes.**

4. Find and copy a word that shows David did not become famous straight away.

**finally**

5. What does the word vocation mean? Use the glossary to help you.

**The word vocation means a form of employment or job.**

6. Sum up David's main achievements in his life so far.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: David has had a successful television career, written many children's books, been a talent show judge and raised a lot of money for charity.**

7. What do you think David realised he wanted to do with his life aged 11?

**He realised he wanted to make people laugh and entertain them.**

8. Explain why you think David wrote a book about a boy who loves wearing dresses?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think David wrote a book about a boy who loves wearing dresses because he loved wearing dresses when he was a little boy and he wanted other boys to know that's OK.**