

Vocabulary and listening • Life events

Aim

Listen for specific biographical information.

THINK!

Read out the questions and elicit answers from individual students. Ask more questions to encourage students to say more, e.g. *In what situations is it useful to be very tall? In what situations is it a problem?*

ANSWERS

Students' own answers.

Exercise 1 2.27

Focus on the photos and the table. Ask students to imagine how tall Robert was. Ask students to read the text, ignoring the gaps, and try to work out the meanings of the verbs and phrases in blue. Check answers, and check that students understand all the verbs and phrases. Students write the past simple forms. Play the audio for them to listen and check.

ANSWERS

went to school, left school, went to university, got a qualification, got a job, got married, had children, travelled, died

Exercise 2 2.28

Read out the question and elicit a few possible answers. Encourage students to predict and speculate, and point out that this can help them understand a listening text better. Play the audio. Students listen and check their answers.

ANSWER

People liked him.

Exercise 3 2.28

Students read the skills strategy before doing exercise 3. Allow students time to read the gapped sentences again. Read out each gapped sentence in turn and elicit what kind of information is missing, e.g. a name, number, date, etc. Play the audio again. Students listen and complete the text. Play the audio again, if necessary, for students to check and complete their answers. Check answers with the class.

ANSWERS

1 1918 2 two brothers 3 two sisters
4 normal 5 seventeen 6 spoke
7 800 8 twenty-two 9 feet

7

VOCABULARY AND LISTENING • Life events

I can listen for specific biographical information.

THINK! Do you know any very tall people? What are the good and bad things about being very tall?

Robert Wadlow: The Gentle Giant

The story of the tallest man who ever lived

When was he born?

In February¹..... in Alton, Illinois, in the USA.

Where did he grow up and go to school?

In Alton.

Did he have any brothers and sisters?

Yes, he did. He was the oldest of five children. He had²..... and³..... They were all a⁴..... height.

At what age did he leave school?

He left school when he was⁵.....

Did he go to university?

Yes, he did, but he left and he didn't get a qualification.

How did he become famous?

He appeared in a circus.

What did people call him?

People called him the Giant of Illinois or the Gentle Giant because he⁶..... very quietly.

Where did he get a job?

He got a job with the shoe company that made his special shoes.

Did he get married and have children?

No, he didn't.

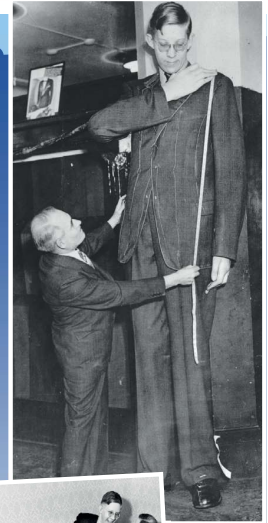
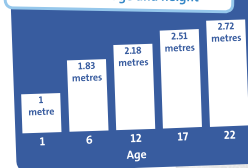
Did he travel much?

Yes, he did. He visited⁷..... different towns in the USA when he travelled for the shoe company.

When did he die?

He died at the age of⁸..... because of a problem with one of his⁹.....

Robert Wadlow: age and height



1 2.27 Read the text about Robert Wadlow and check the meanings of the phrases in blue. Write the past simple form of the verbs. Listen and check.

grew up – grew up

2 2.28 Do you think people in the USA liked or disliked Robert? Listen to a podcast about him and check your answer.

SKILLS STRATEGY

Before you listen again, you should

- read the sentences with the gaps.
- try to predict what the gaps will be.
- listen to the recording while reading the text.
- write down the answers.

3 2.28 Read the Skills Strategy. Then listen again and complete 1–9 in the text.

4 Write sentences about a person in your family. Use the past simple form of the verbs in the text. He grew up in Huô.

5 USE IT! Work in pairs. Compare your sentences in exercise 4.

My dad grew up in Huô.

Really? My dad grew up in Istanbul.

90 Growing up

Optional activity: Listening

Dictate these sentences to the class, or write them on the board:

- 1 Robert was taller than his father by the age of eight.
- 2 At school, they made a special chair for him.
- 3 Robert left university because he didn't enjoy it.
- 4 Robert stopped growing when he was 18.

Play the audio. Ask students to listen again and correct the sentences. Check answers with the class.

ANSWERS

- 1 Robert was taller than his father by the age of six.
- 2 At school, they made a special desk for him.
- 3 Robert left university because it was difficult for him.
- 4 Robert never stopped growing.

Exercise 4

Students write sentences about a person in their family. Encourage them to write both affirmative and negative sentences. Ask some students to read some of their sentences to the class. Correct any errors.

ANSWERS

Students' own answers.

Exercise 5 USE IT!

Ask two students to read out the examples. Point out that we use *Really?* to express surprise. Students compare their sentences in pairs. Ask some students to tell the class something they learned about their partner.

ANSWERS

Students' own answers.

More practice

Workbook page 50

Practice Kit

Assessment

Five-minute test, Teacher's Resource Disk