

**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 February <sup>1</sup>..... 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 had <sup>2</sup>..... and <sup>3</sup>..... They were all a <sup>4</sup>..... height.

At what age did he **leave school**?  
He left school when he was <sup>5</sup>.....

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 he <sup>6</sup>..... very quietly.

Where did he **get a job**?

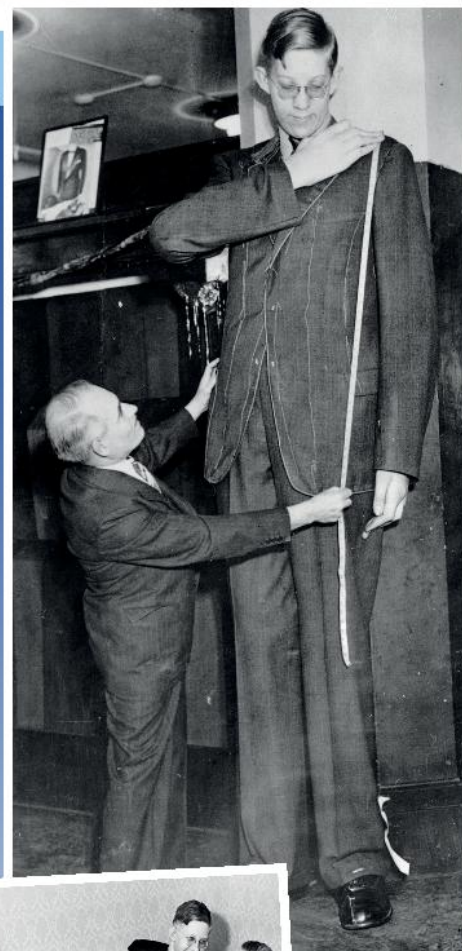
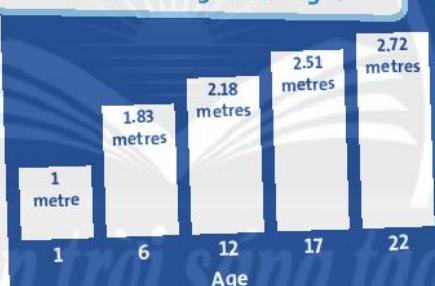
He got a job with the shoe company that made his special shoes.

Did he **get married** and **have children**?  
No, he didn't.

Did he **travel** much?  
Yes, he did. He visited <sup>7</sup>..... different towns in the USA when he travelled for the shoe company.

When did he **die**?  
He died at the age of <sup>8</sup>..... because of a problem with one of his <sup>9</sup>.....

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.

grow 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 Huế.

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

My dad grew up in Huế.

Really? My dad grew up in Istanbul.