

Biographies

- Tell the “**life story**” of a famous person—no longer living—by impersonating him or her, using the 1st person in the **simple past tense** and, if needed, the **pluperfect**.
- There are numerous useful Internet sites: <http://www.famouspeoplelessons.com> and <http://www.wikipedia.com> are two that can be helpful.
- **Do not reveal who you are**—except at the end, when you have finished telling your life story—or at least part of it.
- Write **120-150 words** and use **at least 10 different verbs**.
- Here is an example:

“I **was born** in Germany at the end of the 19th century. Although I **had had** speech difficulties as a young child, I **was** a top student in school. At age 16, I **performed** the first of my famous thought experiments in which I visualized traveling alongside a beam of light. I **went** to university and **studied** Maxwell's electromagnetic theory. At age 17, I **graduated**, and, **renounced** my German citizenship to avoid military service and **enrolled** in the mathematics and physics program at the Polytechnic in Zurich. After graduating I **worked** in a patent office. I **did** research and **suggested** the possibility of stimulated emission, the physical process that **made** it possible to invent the laser. 1921 I **was awarded** the Nobel Prize in Physics. I am known as the father of quantum mechanics and the theory of relativity.”

Who am I? Answer: Albert Einstein (131 words)

- You can look for documents on the Internet or in magazines, but **use only words and the structures you think the other students in your class will understand**.
- Be relatively vague in the beginning so that your classmates will not guess immediately. Give well known facts only at the end.
- If this is a written assignment, send you work by email to your teacher. When your work has been corrected, you should revise it and learn the corrected text by heart.
- The day of the “Biographies” you will recite the text several times to different groups according to the system of “**Rounds**” that will be explained by your teacher.
- The other students will have to guess who you are impersonating. But they are not allowed to say anything until you have recited the entire biography.
- You are not allowed to have any papers other than a list of the **10 different verbs**.