



Jumbled biographies

<p>This famous rapper, whose real name was Christopher Wallace, was born in New York City and was a leader in the New York hip-hop scene.</p>	<p>This American singer, often called "The King" or "Elvis the Pelvis," started his career in 1956 with the rock and roll classic, <i>Heartbreak Hotel</i>.</p>	<p>This British musician was the founding member of the Beatles, a band which started its incredible career in Liverpool, England.</p>	<p>This legendary reggae musician was born in Nine Miles, Jamaica, in 1945 and recorded his first song, <i>Judge Not</i>, at age 16.</p>
<p>The New York rapper, also known as Biggie Smalls, worked as a drug dealer before he started making rap tapes in the basement of friends' houses.</p>	<p>In the late 1950s and 1960s, he appeared in numerous films such as <i>Bossa Nova Baby</i> and <i>Love Me Tender</i>, but he was famous for his singing, not his acting ability.</p>	<p>After the band broke up in 1970, he and his wife Yoko moved to the Dakota apartments in New York City. They worked together to promote world peace and recorded several albums.</p>	<p>He started a band, the Wailers, in 1963 and the Wailers' first song, <i>Simmer Down</i>, was an instant success in Jamaica.</p>
<p>In 1994, he entered the national scene with his million-selling album, <i>Ready to Die</i>. Although his lyrics focused on crime – robbing and killing – he won the Billboard Music Award of 1995 for best rap artist of the year.</p>	<p>He died in 1977, probably due to an overdose of prescription drugs. Fans from all over the world traveled to his Memphis, Tennessee home to pay tribute to the King.</p>	<p>One of the albums contains his most distinctive song, <i>Imagine</i>, recorded in 1971. His last album, <i>Double Fantasy</i>, was released in 1980.</p>	<p>After a long series of successful albums and concert tours, he received the United Nations' Peace Medal in 1978 for his attempt at reconciling two major Jamaican politicians, Prime Minister Manley and opposition leader Seaga.</p>
<p>In 1997, he was shot several times as he was sitting in his car after a party in Los Angeles. After his death, several leading rappers, including Snoop Doggy Dogg and Doug E. Fresh, attended a meeting in Chicago and agreed to a peace tour and an album.</p>	<p>After his death, his home, called Graceland, was opened to the public and is the second most visited home in the United States, after the White House in Washington D.C.</p>	<p>When coming home from a recording session with Yoko in 1980, he was shot five times by a fan, Mark Chapman, in front of his New York City apartment building. He died before reaching the hospital.</p>	<p>Even before the Peace Medal, doctors discovered melanoma cancer in his right foot. He died in Miami in 1981. His body was placed in a mausoleum in Nine Miles.</p>

Unit 10B



Teacher's Notes

Jumbled biographies

Interaction

Group work

Aim

To use the past simple to reconstruct biographies of famous musicians.

Time

15–20 minutes

Skills

Reading
Speaking
Listening

Grammar and functions

Past simple
Connectives

Vocabulary

Language used in biographies

Preparation

Photocopy, cut apart and shuffle the biography cards and pictures. Make sure you have one set of cards for each group of four students in the class.

Answers

The cards are in the correct order on the worksheet.

Procedure

- 1 Introduce the topic by asking some questions about John Lennon, Elvis Presley, Bob Marley and Christopher Wallace, e.g.
Who was ____? What nationality was he? What are some of the things he was famous for? Do you listen to his music?
- 2 Divide the students into groups of four.
- 3 Give a set of cards to each group. Ask students to take five cards each.
- 4 Allow students a few minutes to familiarize themselves with the information and vocabulary on their cards. Answer any questions about vocabulary which students may have. If possible, ask students to look up new words in a dictionary.
- 5 Explain the activity. Students have jumbled information about four different famous musicians. Their task is to sort out the cards and reconstruct the biographies in the correct order.
- 6 Set a time limit of ten minutes and ask students to begin.
- 7 When the time is up, check their answers.
- 8 As a possible follow-up activity, bring in the music of these musicians. Play parts of several songs and see if students can identify who it is.

Option

Divide the students into teams of twenty. Give each student on each team a card. Ask them to read their cards aloud and to form four lines, one for each biography. Students with picture cards should say the name of the person if they can.

Additional ideas

Ask students to form small groups. Tell them to decide on a famous person who is no longer living and write a short paragraph about this person. It can be a musician, actor / actress, politician, athlete or even a famous criminal.