

# Easier said than done

# 6

- Grammar Present Perfect
- Vocabulary Adverbs
- Everyday English Numbers

- Reading Forest man
- Listening Ann Daniels – polar explorer
- Writing Adverbs in Descriptive writing

?

- 1 Look at the photo. How does it fit the unit title? How do you think the man feels?
- 2 Read the quote. Why is it sometimes better to go through a difficulty and not try to get out of it?

‘The best way out of a difficulty is through it.’

Will Rogers



Watch the video introduction



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## Grammar Present Perfect – simple, continuous, passive

STARTER

Work with a partner. Talk about things you have NEVER done.

I've NEVER had a body piercing or tattoo.

I have. I've got a tattoo of a rose on my ankle.

I've NEVER seen a Leonardo DiCaprio film!

Really? I've seen *all* his films. He's my favourite actor!

## Leonardo DiCaprio – actor & UN ambassador

1 Look at these film titles. Have you seen any of them? What do you know about the actor who starred in them, Leonardo DiCaprio?

- **What's Eating Gilbert Grape?** (1993)
- **Romeo and Juliet** (1996)
- **Titanic** (1997)
- **Gangs of New York** (2002)
- **The Great Gatsby** (2013)
- **Catch Me If You Can** (2002)
- **Inception** (2010)
- **The Revenant** (2015)

2 Complete the questions about DiCaprio. Use *did*, *was*, *has* or *have*.

- 1 Where and when \_\_\_\_\_ he born?
- 2 What \_\_\_\_\_ his mother doing when she chose his name?
- 3 When \_\_\_\_\_ he get his first film role?
- 4 What \_\_\_\_\_ he filming when he had the most fun in his life?
- 5 When \_\_\_\_\_ 'Leomania' begin?
- 6 How long \_\_\_\_\_ his foundation been supporting environmental causes?
- 7 When \_\_\_\_\_ he first nominated for an Oscar?
- 8 How many times \_\_\_\_\_ he been nominated?
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ he ever won an Oscar?
- 10 Which famous actors \_\_\_\_\_ appeared with him?
- 11 How many model girlfriends \_\_\_\_\_ he had?
- 12 How much money \_\_\_\_\_ he donated to conservation projects?

3 Read about DiCaprio's life. Which things in his life do the **quotes** refer to?

4 Work with a partner. Ask and answer the questions in 2.

🔊 6.1 Listen and check.

## Leonardo DiCaprio

Well known as an award-winning actor, Leonardo DiCaprio has also worked tirelessly as an environmental campaigner for nearly two decades.

He is a UN Ambassador for Climate Change, and has devoted half of his website to environmental issues.

Born into a poor neighbourhood of Los Angeles, he remained close to both his ('hippy') parents after they separated, and he has often thanked them publicly. 'I'm completely indebted to them in every single way. They listened to their kid saying, "This is what I want to do," and they supported me unconditionally.'

*'I never got the urge to ... rebel ... nothing would have shocked my parents.'*

### AGE LIFE EVENT

**0** Born on **November 11, 1974**, in LA. His pregnant mother **Irmelin** chose his name because he first kicked as she admired a Leonardo da Vinci painting.

**1** Parents separated. Leo lived mostly with his German mother.

*'one of the wisest men I've ever met'*

**3** Tap-danced on stage at a concert his father, **George**, took him to, when the band was late to appear.

**5–17** Appeared in 40 TV adverts and TV serials.

**16** Left school and had his film debut in *Critters 3* in 1991.


**18** Starred in *This Boy's Life* with **Robert De Niro**.

**19** Received the first of his six Best Actor Oscar nominations for *What's Eating Gilbert Grape?*, starring with **Johnny Depp**.

*'it was the most fun I've ever had'*

**22** **Leomania** began after his role as Romeo to **Clare Danes'** Juliet in Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo and Juliet*.





**23** Became world famous after starring with **Kate Winslet** in *Titanic*.

*'I've been to the Amazon, and people with no clothes on know about that film.'*

**24** Founded the **Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation** in 1998, to support environmental causes.

**26–31** Dated Brazilian model **Gisele Bündchen**, the second of seven model girlfriends so far.

**26** Hosted **Earth Day** summit on global warming in 2000.

**28** Starred in *Catch Me If You Can*, directed by **Steven Spielberg**.

**29–33** Wrote and produced *The 11th Hour*, an environmental documentary.

*'I believe mankind has looked at climate change as if it were a fiction.'*

**39** Donated **\$15 million** to **World Wildlife Fund**, part of a total of over **\$70 million** given to conservation projects.

**40** Played the fur trapper **Hugh Glass** in *The Revenant*, for which he finally received his first Oscar for Best Actor in 2016.

*'it was the most difficult film I've ever done'*

**41** Spoke at the **World Economic Forum** in Davos in 2016, receiving the Crystal Award for artists committed to improving the state of the world.

## GRAMMAR SPOT

- 1 Read some more facts about Leonardo. Name the three tenses. Why are they used?
  - a DiCaprio **lives** in an eco-friendly apartment in New York.
  - b He **lived** in Germany for a short time as a child.
  - c He's **lived** in his New York apartment since 2008.
  - d He's **lived** in LA, New York, and Malibu.
- 2 Which sentence talks about an activity? Which is about quantity? Name the two tenses.

His foundation **has been giving** money to environmental causes since 1998.

It **has given** more than \$70m.
- 3 These sentences sound unnatural in the active. Make them passive.
  - a People have nominated him for six Oscars.
  - b Someone has asked him to speak at two Climate Summits.

➔ Grammar reference 6.1–6.6 ➔ p147–8

## Time expressions


- 5 Use the biography to complete these sentences about Leonardo with phrases from the box.

while he was filming <i>The Revenant</i>	
two years after he left school	
when he was 1	in 2002
for four years	since he was 5
between 2000 and 2005	until he was 41

- 1 Leonardo's parents separated \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 He suffered a lot \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 His first starring role came \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 He was directed by Spielberg \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 He worked on *The 11th Hour* \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 He didn't win an Oscar \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 He's been working as an actor \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 He dated Gisele Bündchen \_\_\_\_\_.

## Project

Work in groups of three. Each choose a different film from 1 and prepare to tell your partners what it's about. Do some research on your film if necessary.

 **Go online** for more grammar practice

## Practice

### From bikes to horses

- 1 Look at the pictures. Which is the jockey? Which is the cyclist? Could it be the same person?
- 2 Read the conversation between two friends talking about **Victoria Pendleton**. Complete it with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.



### → Switching Saddles →

- Ann** Sorry, <sup>1</sup> did you say (say) you're going to the races tomorrow?! Since when <sup>2</sup> have you been (you / be) a horse racing fan?!
- Bob** Well, it's more that I <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (always / be) a fan of Victoria Pendleton. She's riding in a big race tomorrow.
- Ann** But she's a cyclist!
- Bob** Well, yes, she was. She <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (win) Olympic gold in Beijing and London. She was amazing, but in fact she <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (not / enjoy) competitive cycling that much, so she retired, and she's a jockey now.
- Ann** Really? I <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (not / know) that. How long <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (she / be) a jockey?
- Bob** She <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (only / be) in a few races so far, but she <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (train) hard for over a year. She'd never sat on a horse before that, though.
- Ann** Wow, that's incredible!
- Bob** It is! For the last year she <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (take part) in a challenge called *Switching Saddles*, to see if she can ride in a top jump race within a year. She <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (train) by the best people right from the start, of course.
- Ann** It's still a huge challenge for a beginner, though. And those jumps always look scary to me. <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (she / have) any falls?
- Bob** Oh yeah, she <sup>13</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (fall off) a few times in training, and she <sup>14</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (come off) in one of her first races. But she <sup>15</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (fall) in love with horse riding completely, and I'm hoping to see her win her first big race tomorrow – or at least stay on!
- Ann** Brilliant! Good luck to her!

\* Note: Victoria didn't fall off in her first big race, and in fact rode very well and came 5th out of 24!

### Discussing grammar

- 3 Work with a partner. Look at the pairs of sentences. Which tenses are used? Why? Discuss the differences in meaning.
  - 1 Victoria Pendleton rode bikes competitively for 11 years. She's been riding horses for two years.
  - 2 I work for a web design company. I've worked for this company since 2016.
  - 3 How long have you been living in Japan? How many different countries have you lived in?
  - 4 Have you ever met anyone famous? Did you meet anyone famous at the film premiere?
  - 5 I've already finished. I haven't finished yet.
  - 6 Who's been eating my chocolates? Who's eaten my chocolates?
  - 7 President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963. Have you heard? President Kennedy's been assassinated!
  - 8 Look at Mike's front door! He's painted it. Look at Mike's clothes! He's been painting his front door.
- 4 Underline the correct verb form.
  - 1 His plane *took off* / *has taken off* a few minutes ago.
  - 2 How many emails *have you received* / *have you been receiving* today?
  - 3 Look at the oil marks on the floor! You've *fixed* / *'ve been fixing* your bike in here, haven't you?
  - 4 The CEO *has resigned* / *has been resigned* and a new CEO *has appointed* / *has been appointed*.
  - 5 I *work* / *'ve been working* here since June. When *did you start* / *have you started*?
  - 6 A huge snowstorm *has hit* / *has been hit* New York. Over 40 centimetres of snow *has fallen* / *has been falling* in the past 12 hours. People *have advised* / *have been advised* to stay indoors.

6.2 Listen and check.

5 Which word(s) in the box can go in each of these sentences? Where do the words go?

just yet already ever never

- I've read that book.
- I've been reading an interesting book.
- Has it been made into a film?
- He's learned to drive.
- The match hasn't finished.
- Have you been to Morocco?

Compare answers with the class.

### Talking about you – Have you ever ... ?

6 Work with a partner. Choose things from the list and ask and answer questions about them.

Have you ever ridden a horse?

No, I haven't. It seems a scary thing to do!

- ride / a horse?
- read / a book in English?
- sting / by a bee or wasp?
- ask / a question after a talk or lecture?
- sleep / in a tent?
- lose / your phone?
- make / a cake?
- go / a fancy dress party?
- win / a competition?
- give / a parking fine?
- stay up / all night?

Tell the class about your partner.

'Maria's never ridden a horse because ...'

### SPOKEN ENGLISH How long ... ?

1 Read the two conversations.

What tenses are used in the two questions?

1 A **How long are you here for?**

B Three days. I arrived yesterday and I leave tomorrow.

2 A **How long have you been here?**

B I've been here a week. I arrived last Friday.

Which question refers to *past up to the present*?

Which question refers to *past, present, and future*?

2 Match these answers to the questions in 1.

- Four more days. We came two days ago.
- Since Monday.
- Over half an hour! Where have you been?
- Until Friday. We're leaving Friday morning.
- We're staying a month altogether.

6.3 Listen and check. Practise with a partner.

## Vocabulary Adverbs

1 Some verbs and adverbs often go together.

drive carefully train hard walk slowly explain clearly

Work with a partner. Match a verb and adverb. Sometimes there is more than one possibility.

verb	adverb
wait love behave	badly peacefully heavily
shine fight leave	smartly patiently fluently
whisper die rain	suddenly deeply brightly
dress speak breathe	passionately softly bravely

Choose three examples and write a sentence with them. Read them out to the class.



### Adverbs that don't end in -ly

2 Sometimes adverbs don't end in *-ly*. Complete the sentences with an adverb from the box. Where do these adverbs always go – after or before the verb?

loud wrong fast close fine right  
straight hard forward late

- Why do you always drive so \_\_\_\_\_! Slow down!
- Your son isn't a natural athlete, but he tries \_\_\_\_\_.
- 'Where's the town hall?' 'Go \_\_\_\_\_ on, and it's on the left.'
- 'How are you?' 'I'm doing \_\_\_\_\_. And you?'
- You always spell that word \_\_\_\_\_! It should be 'weird', not 'wierd'.
- Ooh! Tim and Briony are sitting very \_\_\_\_\_ to each other!
- Don't talk so \_\_\_\_\_! Everyone can hear you!
- Dan always arrives \_\_\_\_\_. He'll be here before long.
- I can never pronounce this word \_\_\_\_\_. It's got too many 's' sounds in it!
- The clocks go \_\_\_\_\_ one hour in March in the UK.

3 Mime some of the verb and adverb combinations in 1 and 2 to the class.

You're fighting bravely!

It's raining heavily!

Go online for more vocabulary practice

## Reading and speaking

### The man who made a forest

- 1 Close your eyes and imagine you're in a forest. What can you see, hear, and smell? What does it feel like?
- 2 Match photos 1–6 with the words in the box.

soil ant snake seeds bamboo sapling



- 3 Look at the photos and read the introduction about **Jadav Payeng**. What do you think he did? Why do you think he did it?
- 4 Read the rest of the article. How did it make you feel?
- 5 Are the statements about the article true (✓) or false (✗)? Correct the false ones.
  - 1 Jadav is a sensitive person.
  - 2 The population of Majuli has fallen to a quarter of what it used to be.
  - 3 Planting bamboo wasn't Jadav's first idea.
  - 4 Jadav asked people to help him water his young trees.
  - 5 He lives alone.
  - 6 Jadav has earned money by selling wood from his trees.
  - 7 The villagers wanted to cut down his trees to make money.
  - 8 Jadav accepts that animals will sometimes get killed in nature.
  - 9 He doesn't own very much.
  - 10 He expects to produce his next forest quickly.

# Forest man

## Don Jackman finds an example of a rare species – an environmental feel-good story.



There's no shortage of gloomy stories about the environment. Most of us have heard alarming reports of climate change and environmental destruction, but we often feel powerless to do anything other than get depressed about it.

**Jadav Payeng** didn't get depressed. His is the heartening story of a man who decided not to give in to that feeling of powerlessness. He has totally transformed the environment around him, single-handedly.

### A dying island

It all began when he was a teenager, in 1979. Jadav grew up on Majuli Island in northern India, the largest river island on Earth, and enjoyed walking along its shores. One day, he saw hundreds of dead snakes on the river bank. Flood waters had washed them there, and there was no vegetation for them to shelter in. 'The snakes died in the heat, without any tree cover. I sat down and wept ...'. Jadav realized how serious the problem of deforestation was – floods were washing away the soil where trees had been cut down. Majuli, with a growing population of 170,000 people, had lost 70% of its land over the last century.

Jadav planted some tree saplings on the barren land, but they died and it seemed nothing would grow there. He didn't want to give up though, and when he talked to some of the older people in his village, they suggested he try planting bamboo.

### The first plantings

So Jadav went out every day, making holes for bamboo plants in the desert-like ground with a stick, and in a few years, large areas of bamboo forest had grown. He learned that red ants improved the condition of the soil, so he carried hundreds of them onto the land. He was stung many times. 'That was an experience!' he says, laughing.

He then decided to try growing proper trees again in the improved soil. The saplings survived this time, but as they grew in number, watering them regularly was a big challenge for one man. He hung



pots of water full of small holes over each one, and the water slowly **dripped** down over several days.

Since then, Jadav has been planting saplings and seeds every day, for nearly 40 years. He gets up at 3.30 a.m. to milk his cows, which provide a living for his wife and children, and then sets out for the forest at 8.30.

### Life returns

As the forest has grown and grown, wildlife has returned – eventually rhinos, tigers, and elephants began to take shelter among the trees. Jadav then had to face his biggest challenge – men. It wasn't only the **loggers** who wanted to cut down his trees, but local villagers, too. They were worried about the elephants and tigers eating their **crops** and attacking their animals. Jadav said they would have to kill him before they killed his forest. He had the idea of planting banana trees for the elephants to eat, and made sure there was enough deer for the tigers to hunt, so they wouldn't need to go into the villages for food. The tigers have taken some of his own cows, but then, says Jadav with a smile, 'they don't know how to farm, do they?'



### Future forest

The forest is now 1,400 acres, nearly twice the size of New York's Central Park. Jadav's story has been made into a film, *The Forest Man of India*, by a Canadian filmmaker, Douglas McMaster. McMaster followed Jadav for a month and says,

'He taught me that you can **accomplish** a lot with very little ... He doesn't even wear shoes. His way of life is extremely pure; free of possessions, yet he is extremely happy and positive.'

Is Jadav himself satisfied with what he's achieved? Well, yes, but his aim now is to create another forest on other barren land nearby. 'It may take another 30 years, but I am optimistic about it,' he says. 'No more global warming if everyone plants forest!'

Text by kind permission of Jadav Payeng, [www.JadavPayeng.org](http://www.JadavPayeng.org)



- Find the highlighted words in the article and try to *guess* their meanings.
- Now match the words with their definitions.

shortage	alarming	single-handedly
to shelter	wept	barren
dripped	loggers	crops
		to accomplish

- fell in small drops of liquid \_\_\_\_\_
- without any help \_\_\_\_\_
- to do something successfully \_\_\_\_\_
- people whose job is cutting trees down \_\_\_\_\_
- not enough of something \_\_\_\_\_
- to protect yourself from bad weather \_\_\_\_\_
- plants grown by farmers \_\_\_\_\_
- very worrying \_\_\_\_\_
- where nothing can grow \_\_\_\_\_
- cried \_\_\_\_\_

### What do you think?

- How would you describe Jadav's character? Why is his story called 'a rare species' in the title? What is amazing about his story?
- What are the biggest environmental problems in your country? Flooding? Water shortages? Pollution?
- What could you do as an individual to help the environment?
- Is it really a problem if some animals become extinct? Why/Why not?

**▶ Watch** a video and learn more about another amazing transformation.



## Listening and speaking

### Ann Daniels – polar explorer

1 What is this advert for? What is surprising about it?

2 Read about Ann Daniels.

- How did she become a polar explorer?
- Why wasn't she an obvious choice for a polar expedition?

#### ORDINARY WOMEN WANTED

To become members of the first all-female relay team to walk to the North Pole. No experience needed.



It was in 1997 that **Ann Daniels** saw a newspaper advert from the Polar Travel Company. It said 'ordinary women'. Well, she was working in a bank, and she was a mother – though of young triplets, which perhaps wasn't so ordinary. As she says, 'I had three children, and I thought, if I can do that, I can do anything.' She certainly had no experience of outdoor activities ('I'd never had a rucksack on my back – I was born in an inner city'), and she borrowed all the clothes and equipment she needed for the first selection weekend. She then had nine months of intensive training, and, as she puts it, 'I was very lucky that some idiot chose me'.

Ann is now one of only two women who have walked to both the North and South Poles as part of an all-female team. She has taken part in scientific expeditions to measure the polar ice cap, so that scientists can work out how long it will last. She is also a popular international speaker.

3 Which of these nouns do you associate with an expedition to the North Pole? Use a dictionary to help.

misery joy agony humour pain wonder  
beauty gloom horror optimism achievement

▶▶ 6.4 Listen to **Part 1** of a BBC radio programme, in which Ann is interviewed by another explorer, Steve Backshall. Tick (✓) the nouns in the box that you hear.

4 ▶▶ 6.4 Listen again and choose the correct words in the statements.

- 1 Steve feels that there are *few* / *many* options when it comes to choosing destinations for great adventures.
- 2 When she reached the Arctic, Ann realized *gradually* / *immediately* that this was something she wanted to keep doing.
- 3 Halfway through her 2002 expedition, *all* / *some* parts of Ann's body were giving her extreme pain.
- 4 Ann feels that for *mothers* / *children*, it's useful to remember the best parts of their experience, rather than the worst.
- 5 Steve talks about a *good* / *bad* memory being an advantage for an explorer.

5 ▶▶ 6.5 Listen to **Part 2**. What is Ann's position in her family? Does Ann agree with Steve's theory about how this helped to make her an explorer?

6 ▶▶ 6.5 Listen again to **Part 2** and answer the questions.

- 1 How old was Ann when she left school? Why?
- 2 What was her career ambition?
- 3 How did she feel compared to her brothers?
- 4 What did she want to be able to do as a child?
- 5 Why did she take so many risks?
- 6 What makes her a good explorer?

#### What do you think?

- Would you answer an advert for ordinary people to go on a polar expedition? Why/Why not?
- Do you think it's right for a mother of small children to risk her life as an explorer? What about a father?
- What effect do you think your position in your family has had on you?



## Everyday English Numbers

1 Work in pairs. Decide or guess which numbers in A go with the statistics in B.

**A**  
 1½    69    492    0.5%    120,000    1 in 8,000  
 48%    2    1 to 1.6 m    1 in 11,000,000

**B**

- the average number of hours a day a giraffe sleeps
- the number of hours it takes to hard boil an ostrich egg
- the number of litres of water stored inside a baobab tree
- the ratio of humans to ants on the planet
- the highest number of children that have been born to one woman
- the chances of dying in a road accident
- the percentage of the world's water that is fresh water
- the number of seconds it takes for sunlight to reach the Earth
- the chances of dying in a plane crash
- the percentage of 18–34-year-olds who check Facebook as soon as they wake up



2 Work with your partner to check the statistics.

- **Student A**, say the numbers in 1 aloud.
- **Student B**, look at p156. Say what the numbers refer to and give your partner some extra information.

**A** One and a half.  
**B** One and a half is the number of hours it takes to hard boil an ostrich egg.  
**A** We were right!  
**B** Or you could make an omelette for 15 people!



3 Match a question with a number. Ask and answer them with your partner.

Questions	Numbers
1 What time does the train to Heathrow leave?	07700 900834
2 How far is it from London to The Bahamas?	21 kilos
3 How long is the flight?	4,342 miles
4 How much is a return ticket?	24°C–29°C
5 What's your credit card number?	£1,171
6 What's the expiry date?	7.5%
7 How much does your suitcase weigh?	9½ hours
8 What's your mobile number?	6356 5055 5137 9904
9 What's the VAT rate in The Bahamas?	13.45
10 What's the average temperature?	07/24

6.8 Listen and check. Practise again.

4 6.9 Listen to Derrick's conversation.

- Where is it taking place?
- Who is he talking to?
- What are the three problems?

5 6.9 Listen again and write down all the numbers you hear. What do they refer to?

860 – flight number

6 Work in groups. Write down some numbers that are important to you. Can the others guess what they refer to? Explain what they are.

Nineteen

Is that how old you are next birthday?

Ha ha! Very funny! No, it's my house number!

### TIP

#### Saying numbers

1 6.6 Listen and repeat the numbers.

150 2,150 680,575

When do we say ...?

- a hundred
- one hundred
- either a or one hundred

2 How do we say 0 in these examples?

07700 900568 0.5 0° centigrade  
 Italy 2 – Germany 0

6.7 Listen and check, and repeat.

Go online for more speaking practice



## Writing Life changes

### Using adverbs in descriptive writing

- 1 What do you remember about Victoria Pendleton (p62)? What did she do as a first career? What has she done since then?
- 2 Read the life story of Andrea Bocelli, the successful Italian tenor, who also made a big career change. Answer the questions.
  - 1 Has Andrea always been blind?
  - 2 Why did he study law at university?
  - 3 Did he enjoy working as a lawyer?
  - 4 Why did Pavarotti say he didn't need to record the song for Zucchero?
  - 5 Why has Bocelli been called a 'crossover' artist?
  - 6 How many albums has he recorded?
  - 7 In what ways has he enjoyed living dangerously?

#### Using adverbs

Using adverbs will make your writing more interesting.

Adverbs don't only describe verbs. Write the highlighted examples in the text in the correct category.

Adverbs can be used to describe:

verbs	<u>studied diligently</u>	_____
adjectives	_____	_____
other adverbs	_____	_____

### Position of adverbs

- 3 Write the sentences in the correct order.
  - 1 quickly / home / very / walked / we
  - 2 difficult / his / was / to / house / find / it / extremely
  - 3 slowly / he / really / drives / always
  - 4 email / carefully / the / I / very / read
  - 5 hot / garden / in / incredibly / it / the / was
  - 6 suddenly / made / we / a / we'd / mistake / realized / what
- 4 Choose one of the people below and research their big career change (or choose someone else you know).

Giorgio Armani	From army medic to fashion designer
Dan Brown	From singer/songwriter to successful novelist ( <i>The Da Vinci Code</i> )
Harrison Ford	From carpenter to actor ( <i>Star Wars</i> and <i>Indiana Jones</i> )
J.K.Rowling	From English teacher to writer of the Harry Potter books

Write their life story in 200–300 words. Try to use a variety of adverbs to make the story more interesting.

[Go online](#) for more writing practice



### Andrea Bocelli: from law to opera

**Andrea Bocelli** grew up on a farm in a village in Tuscany, Italy. Unfortunately, he suffered from poor eyesight from birth, and an accident playing football left him **completely blind** at the age of 12. This didn't stop him living life **very actively**, or singing and playing music passionately.

Andrea's parents supported his musical ambitions, but, he says, 'they wanted me to have a serious education, with real professional opportunities.' He agreed to study law at the University of Pisa. 'Many of my relatives were lawyers, so I went to university and **studied diligently**.' He continued with his music, which wasn't just a passion – it also paid the bills. Andrea played piano in bars in order to pay for his law studies and singing lessons (and it really helped him to meet girls!). After graduating as a Doctor of Law, he practised as a state lawyer. 'It's an interesting job, but when you have a vocation for something, you end up following that.' He decided to focus on becoming a professional singer.

When the Italian rock singer Zucchero was looking for tenors to record his song *Miserere*, he first asked Pavarotti to do it, and sent him a recording of Bocelli singing it. Pavarotti replied, 'Why do you need me? You already have the right singer.' Bocelli has since performed the song as a duet with Pavarotti.

Bocelli has become an international superstar tenor. He's had great success as a 'crossover' artist, bringing classical music to the top of international pop charts. He's recorded over 30 albums of pop, classical music, and operas. His album *Sogno*, which featured a duet with Celine Dion, was **hugely popular** and has sold **extremely well** – more than ten million copies worldwide.

Despite his blindness, Andrea has always liked to **live dangerously**. He rides horses, cycles, skis, surfs, and goes parachute jumping. 'In the middle of the night he rides horses,' his wife Veronica says. 'He's crazy. He's an artist.'

