

Level One: What is a Biography.

A biography is when someone describes the life of another person. It tells of that person's experiences. 🖋️

Singer-songwriter Johnny Cash was born in 1932. In 1950, Cash joined the Air Force and trained in Texas where he met his first wife. After his service and discharge, he formed a band and landed a record deal. By the early 1960s, he was a musical superstar. In 1967, he married June Carter. He recorded his last track of his final album a week before his death in 2003.

Early Life:

Cash was born on February 26, 1932, in Kingsland, Arkansas. The son of poor Southern Baptist sharecroppers, Cash, one of seven children born to Ray and Carrie Rivers Cash, moved with his family at the age of 3 to Dyess, Arkansas, so that his father could take advantage of the New Deal farming programs instituted by President Roosevelt. There, the Cash clan lived in a five-room house and farmed 20 acres of cotton and other seasonal crops.



Related texts are: 🖋️

Autobiography – A writer describes their own life.

Memoire - A writer tells about one aspect or moment of their life.


Typically biographies are structured by:



1. Opening with introducing the subject, explaining how they are known.
2. Having events ordered chronologically (timeline)
3. Ending with a closing statement that tells how this person will be remembered.

Example:

1. Sue Lind was a world renowned female baseball player for the Atlanta White Socks team. In 1975, she hit more home runs for her team than any other player. Later she used her fame to encourage many young women to become active in sports.
2. Sue Lind was born in Atlanta USA in 1948. She was the daughter of Peter and Angela Lind. Sue was their first child. Later in 1950 her younger brother Toby was born. In 1957 Sue played her first baseball game, later in October 1958 she joined a junior team....
3. Sue Lind overcame a severe motorcycle accident, to become one of the greats of baseball. Lind will always be remembered for her sense of humour and strength. She made great advances in female sport in the US.

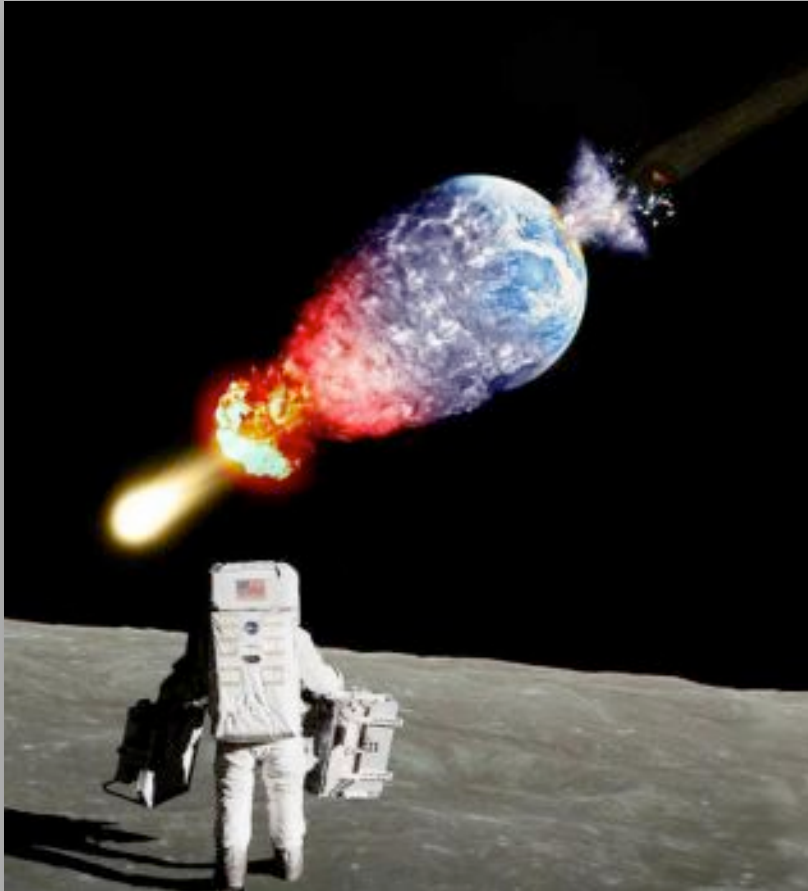
The more interesting biographies tell the life of a well known person who has overcome adversities to achieve their goals. 

“Learning is an ornament in prosperity, a refuge in adversity, and a provision in old age.”

Aristotle

“The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen, they are made by Adversity.”

— Elisabeth Kübler-Ross



Share an adversity that you have overcome.



Create a thought bubble for the astronaut in which they consider overcoming adversity.




Great examples of people who overcame adversity include Beethoven. He was a great classical music composer, who was born in 1770 in Germany. From an early age, Beethoven was introduced to music. His first teacher was his father who was also very strict. Beethoven was frequently beaten for failure to practise correctly. Once his mother protested at his father's violent beatings, but she was beaten too. It is said, Beethoven resolved to become a great pianist so his mother would never be beaten.





Beethoven relied on private donations from various benefactors, but sometimes struggled to raise enough finance. His situation was made more difficult by his mother's early death and his father's descent into alcoholism; this led to Beethoven being responsible for his two brothers.

As a great tragedy for any musician, from his early 20s, Beethoven experienced a slow deterioration in his hearing, which eventually left him completely deaf.

Yet, despite his deafness and the frustration this caused him, Beethoven was still able to compose music of the highest quality. He was still able to inwardly hear the most sublime music.

 How might have Beethoven's childhood helped him face his deafness?

 Did being deaf really matter to Beethoven?

 *"Some people respond to life because of their tragic past and some despite of it"* What does this mean?



Helen Keller was born in 1880. When she was a year old, she was extremely ill, and she lost both her vision and hearing. By the time she was 7, her parents knew they needed help, so they hired a tutor. Helen did not know the meaning of words -until one morning at the backyard water pump Helen's tutor held one of her hands under the water. Then she spelled "W-A-T-E-R" into Helen's other hand. The feeling turned into a word. Immediately, Helen bent down and tapped the ground; Anne spelled "earth". That day, she learned 30 words.



From then on, Helen's mind raced ahead. She learned to speak when she was ten by feeling her tutor's mouth when she talked. She learned to read French, German, Greek, and Latin. When she was 20, she entered College. Her first book, called "The Story of My Life", was translated into 50 languages. Helen also did research, gave speeches, and helped raise money for many organizations for the blind. She visited 39 country's, speaking about the experiences and rights of people who are blind.



How did water help Helen learn to communicate?



What was Helen Keller's concept of reality before she was seven?



Nelson Mandela struggled for the rights of black people in Africa. When he was a young law student in South Africa he grew angry at the injustice of the apartheid policy. This was a series of laws that classed blacks as 2nd class citizens. He began protesting and worked as a lawyer for the rights of blacks. Eventually he helped in violent struggles against the government. In 1962 he was arrested, and sentenced to life imprisonment. Mandela served 27 years in prison. He was kept in isolation with little food and forced to pound rocks into gravel. A reported routine punishment was for Mandela to be buried up to his neck while prison guards urinated on him.



After an international campaign he was released in 1990. Four years later he was elected President. He then created a new constitution and investigated past human rights abuses. He fought poverty, and expanded healthcare services. After quitting politics Mandela became an elder statesman, focusing on charitable work in preventing the spread of diseases. He received more than 250 honours, including the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize. He is often described by the people of South Africa as "the father of the nation".

"No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love" - Mandela



How did Mandela react to his 27 years of imprisonment and abuse?



What was Mandela's source of strength?



What other politician can Mandela be compared to?



Mary Wollstonecraft wrote on the rights of women in a time when they were considered less important as men. Women were not allowed to own property or vote. Most women did not go to school. Born in 1759 Mary's childhood was very difficult. Her father was often violent and drunk. Mary spent much time looking after her sisters and mothers. In 1778, she became a servant for a mean old lady and later she was a governess for a large family. She grew to hate how women were treated as less talented as men and so she decided to write about it. In 1792 she published "A Vindication of the Rights of Women." This was groundbreaking work, as it proposed women were the equal of men. Wollstonecraft wrote that it was only the lack of education for women that meant they seemed to be less intelligent. She was highly critical of the attitudes to women as being only existing to serve men. Such statements were considered too radical and she was often bullied by men and women. Later many women were inspired by her words. Her book encouraged women to fight for their rights.

"Taught from infancy that beauty is woman's scepter, the mind shapes itself to the body, and roaming round its gilt cage, only seeks to adorn its prison."
Wollstonecraft.



Explain this quote and present a strong argument against it.

Explain the different forms of adversity that Mary Experienced.

Test!

A	Biographies
B	Students
C	Overcoming Adversity
D	Structure of a Biography.
E	On the lives of the people in this module.

Questions Menu

Expected Word Count

\$	Provide an extended text :	Yr10	Yr09	Yr08	Yr07
18	on anything.	35	30	20	10
16	on C.	45	40	25	15
14	on B.	55	45	30	20
12	on A.	65	50	35	25
10	using A format on anyone	75	60	40	25
8	on Student & A.	85	70	55	30
6	on A & B	95	80	60	35
4	on improving A B or D.	105	90	65	40
2	on improving this module.	115	95	70	45
0	on E	125	100	75	50

Level Two: Features of a Biography.



Biographies share several features. These include referring to named individuals.

In 1928, Photographer Ansel Adams married **Virginia Best**, the daughter of the Best's Studio proprietor. Adams expanded his repertoire, focusing on detailed close-ups as well as large forms, from mountains to factories. He spent time in New Mexico with artists including **Alfred S___, Miss G. and a certain S from Canada**. He began to publish essays and instructional books on photography.



To protect privacy some biographies might use shortened names, initials or monikers. (fake names)



What connection is there between Adam's profession and his marriage?



Apart from protecting privacy what other reasons might biographers have for not divulging the identities of others?

Biographies should focus on what the person has accomplished.



Adams **taught** himself the piano, which would become his early passion. In 1916, following a trip to Yosemite National Park, he also began experimenting with photography. He **learned** darkroom techniques and **read** photography magazines, **attended** camera club meetings, and went to photography and art exhibits. He **developed** and **sold** his early photographs at Best's Studio in Yosemite Valley.



Using action verbs such as painted, wrote, invented, and discovered, help the biography celebrate the achievements of that person.



Biographies also write about events and link them with dates to other events. This makes the writing more interesting provides context to the subject.



After the internment of Japanese people during World War II, Adams photographed life in the camps for a photo essay on wartime injustice.

Weeks before the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, Adams shot a scene of the moon rising above a village. Adams re-interpreted the image—titled “Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico”—over nearly four decades, making over a thousand unique prints that helped him to achieve financial stability.



What significant world event occurred not long after Adams took his Moonrise photo?



Present to the class a major worldwide event that occurred around the time of your birth.

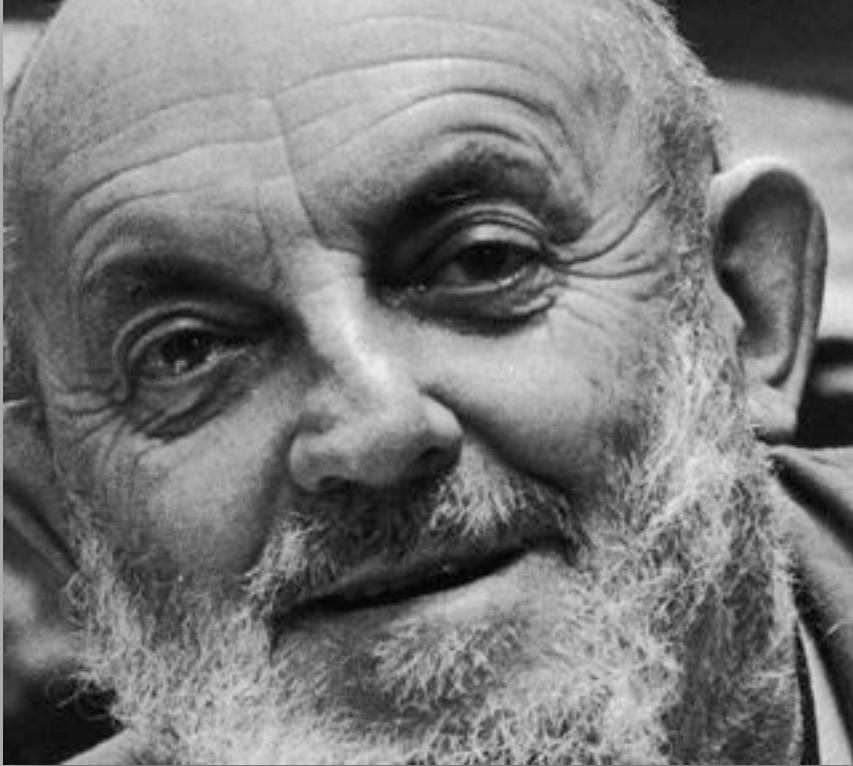
Past tense is used to show events have already happened. Events are anecdotal (story) in style (rather than lists of facts)



Devastating fires broke out in the city and lasted for several days. As a result of the quake and fires, about 3,000 people died and over 80% of the city was destroyed.



Why, when later he could have afforded an operation, do you think Adams did not have his nose set straight?



As a young child, Adams **was** injured in the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, when an aftershock **threw** him into a garden wall. His broken nose **was** never properly set, remaining crooked for the rest of his life.




Sec 1.
Name a tautology in section 1.



Biographies Include direct and indirect speech, to show the subject's feelings and personality. Direct speech is exact quotes indicated with the use of "quotation marks".



Ansel Adams was drawn to the great outdoors with a desire to capture the majesty of nature. **“Landscape photography is the supreme test of the photographer,”** Adams once said, but he was also sure to add, **“- and often the supreme disappointment.”** Landscapes were both rewarding and difficult.

Because biographies are written about the life of another person they are written in 3rd person (**his/her they/their**). Finally, biographies use time connectives to link ideas (**then, before, after, later**). 

Adam's family came to California from New England, **after** having migrated from **their** homeland of Ireland in the early 1700s. **Then** **his** grandfather founded a prosperous lumber business, which Adams' father **eventually** inherited. **Later** in life, Adams would condemn that industry for depleting the redwood forests **they** made money from.

Sec 1.



Rewrite Section 1 so that the time connective 'after' is included and the 3rd person 'they' is removed.



Test!

A	Biographies
B	Students
C	Ansell Adams
D	Student & Photography
E	The features of a biography.

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