

Writing

7 Biographies

- A Read the text about Florence Nightingale. Ignore the gaps and the words in brackets, and put the events in the correct order.

Her story appeared in the newspapers.
She won an award.
She looked after people injured in a war.
She had a disagreement with her family.
She founded a school for nurses.
She worked in a London hospital.
She became known as 'the lady with the lamp'.
She travelled abroad.

- B Now put the words in brackets into the correct form.

Florence Nightingale

Florence Nightingale was born in 1820 and died in 1910. She lived a ¹ _____ (fascinate) life, dedicated to helping the ill and the injured. Nowadays she is recognised as being the founder of modern nursing.

When Florence Nightingale told her family that she wanted to be a nurse, they were ² _____ (extreme) shocked. They thought that nursing was not a job for ³ _____ (respect) women, and strongly objected to her taking up the profession. However, despite their ⁴ _____ (oppose), Florence still went to work in a small London hospital, giving up the ⁵ _____ (secure) of family life.

⁶ _____ (fortunate) she was good at her job. She was so good that she was asked to go to the Crimean War and help wounded British soldiers. She arrived in 1854 with 38 nurses and within a month they had 1000 men to look after. It was a ⁷ _____ (despair) task, but Florence worked 20 hours a day. Every night she visited the wards, and the soldiers called her 'the lady with the lamp'. She made a ⁸ _____ (drama) difference to their lives.

Back in England her story was published in the daily newspapers. Florence became a ⁹ _____ (nation) heroine overnight. During her lifetime she encouraged many other women to become nurses, and in 1860 created a training school for them at St Thomas's hospital. In 1907, three years before she died, she became the first woman ever to be awarded the Order of Merit.



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1 ??? (1874-1965) BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

He came from a famous aristocratic family and became a Member of Parliament at the age of twenty-six. He led Britain through the difficult years of the Second World War and inspired ordinary people with his great speeches. British people today remember him for this – and for his famous wit!



4 (1.22) Listen to more information about the winner. Tick (✓) true and cross (X) false.

- 1 He was a very good pupil at school.
- 2 He stayed with the same political party all his life.
- 3 Not everyone was happy when he became Prime Minister.
- 4 He won a Nobel Prize for peace after the war.
- 5 He didn't have very healthy habits.
- 6 He retired at the age of sixty-one.
- 7 His funeral was quiet and private.

MI WORKBOOK exercise 9 page 103

CD 1, Track 22

The winner of the BBC Great Britons poll, Winston Churchill, was born in 1874, into a famous aristocratic family. He did very badly at school and his father decided that he was stupid, so he sent him into the army!

In 1900, at the age of twenty-six, the young Winston Churchill became a Member of Parliament. He stayed in Parliament for the next forty years but his political career was

not very successful and he changed political parties several times!

Then in 1940, at the age of 66, he became Prime Minister. A lot of people were very surprised and thought he was the wrong person for the job. But Churchill led Britain through the Second World War brilliantly. He was brave and determined during very difficult times and his great speeches helped ordinary people to be brave, too. This is why British people remember him today.

Churchill had many other talents too – all his life he was a brilliant journalist. He was also a historian and a writer. After the war, he won a Nobel Prize for Literature.

Churchill was very happily married and was the father of five children. Sadly, he suffered from depression all his life but he also liked to enjoy himself. He loved gambling, champagne and of course, his famous cigars. And even with all these bad habits, he lived to the age of ninety! He even became Prime Minister again in the 1950s and finally retired at the age of 81. When he died in 1965, over a million people came to London for his funeral and political leaders from all over the world attended.

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