

# WALT DISNEY

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## THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Walt Disney was one of the most famous people ever to have lived. He has touched the lives of millions of children and adults. He holds the record for winning the most Academy Awards (26) and was an innovative film producer and animator. He created some of the most successful characters, movies and theme parks of the 20th Century.

Disney was born in 1901 in Chicago. He developed a great love of drawing as a youngster. When he was ten, he discovered the world of theatre and cinema and fell in love with it. He became the cartoonist for his high school newspaper. In 1920, he set up his own animation company and his "Laugh-O-Gram" cartoons became very popular.

Disney wanted more and so he moved to Hollywood. He developed a character based on a pet mouse he once had. He gave the mouse his own voice and personality. Disney's wife named him Mickey. Disney put Mickey in his first movie with sound, 'Steamboat Willie'. By 1930, Mickey Mouse was the world's most popular cartoon character and Walt Disney was a household name.

Following on from Mickey's success, Disney created characters such as Donald Duck, Goofy, and Pluto. He then produced an animated feature-length version of Snow White, which was the most successful movie of 1938. Dozens more movies followed, including Fantasia and Bambi. Disney built up a global entertainment empire, including his Disneyland theme park. He died of cancer in 1966.

242 words  
Flesch Kinkaid 7.9

**SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the words from the article on the left with their synonyms on the right. Are your answers the same as other students'?

*Paragraphs 1 and 2*

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. famous     | a. well-liked   |
| 2. holds      | b. well-known   |
| 3. innovative | c. youth        |
| 4. youngster  | d. started      |
| 5. set up     | e. has          |
| 6. popular    | f. cutting-edge |

*Paragraphs 3 and 4*

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 7. based on         | g. character      |
| 8. personality      | h. edition        |
| 9. a household name | i. came after     |
| 10. version         | j. centred around |
| 11. followed        | k. organization   |
| 12. empire          | l. famous         |

**PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article.

- |                                   |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. He has touched the             | a. voice and personality         |
| 2. an innovative film             | b. own animation company         |
| 3. He developed a great love of   | c. on a pet mouse                |
| 4. fell in                        | d. name                          |
| 5. he set up his                  | e. producer and animator         |
| 6. He developed a character based | f. entertainment empire          |
| 7. He gave the mouse his own      | g. lives of millions of children |
| 8. Walt Disney was a household    | h. drawing as a youngster        |
| 9. an animated feature-length     | i. fell in love with it          |
| 10. Disney built up a global      | j. version of Snow White         |

**LISTENING GAP FILL:**

Walt Disney was one of the most famous people \_\_\_\_\_. He has touched \_\_\_\_\_ millions of children and adults. He holds the record for winning the most Academy Awards (26) and was an \_\_\_\_\_ producer and animator. He created some of the most successful characters, \_\_\_\_\_ parks of the 20th Century.

Disney was born in 1901 in Chicago. He developed \_\_\_\_\_ drawing as a youngster. When he was ten, he \_\_\_\_\_ world of theatre and cinema and \_\_\_\_\_. He became the cartoonist for his high school newspaper. In 1920, \_\_\_\_\_ animation company and his "Laugh-O-Gram" cartoons became very popular.

Disney wanted \_\_\_\_\_ moved to Hollywood. He developed a character based on a pet mouse \_\_\_\_\_. He gave the mouse his \_\_\_\_\_ personality. Disney's wife named him Mickey. Disney put Mickey in his first movie with sound, 'Steamboat Willie'. By 1930, Mickey Mouse was the world's most popular cartoon character and Walt Disney was \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mickey's success, Disney created characters such as Donald Duck, Goofy, and Pluto. He then produced an animated \_\_\_\_\_ version of Snow White, which was the most successful movie of 1938. \_\_\_\_\_ movies followed, including Fantasia and Bambi. Disney \_\_\_\_\_ entertainment empire, including his Disneyland theme park. He died of cancer in 1966.

## CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs in italics.

Walt Disney was one of the most *famous / fame* people ever to have lived. He has touched the *living / lives* of millions of children and adults. He holds the record *for / by* winning the most Academy Awards (26) and was an innovative film producer and animator. He created some of the most successful characters, movies and theme parks *with / of* the 20th Century.

Disney was born in 1901 in Chicago. He developed a great *lover / love* of drawing as a *youngster / youngish*. When he was ten, he discovered the world of theatre and cinema and *fallen / fell* in love with it. He became the cartoonist for his high school newspaper. In 1920, he set *up / on* his own animation company and his "Laugh-O-Gram" cartoons became very popular.

Disney wanted *more / most* and so he moved to Hollywood. He developed a character based *in / on* a pet mouse he once had. He gave the mouse his own voice and personality. Disney's wife named him Mickey. Disney put Mickey in his first movie *by / with* sound, 'Steamboat Willie'. By 1930, Mickey Mouse was the world's most popular cartoon character and Walt Disney was a *household / house* name.

*Following / Follows* on from Mickey's success, Disney created characters such *was / as* Donald Duck, Goofy, and Pluto. He then produced an animated feature-length version of Snow White, which was the most successful movie of 1938. *Dozens / Dozen* more movies followed, including Fantasia and Bambi. Disney built up a global entertainment *colony / empire*, including his Disneyland theme park. He died of cancer in 1966.

**SPELLING:**

These jumbled words are from the text. Spell them correctly.

*Paragraph 1*

1. oteudch the lives of millions of children
2. He holds the roedrc for winning the most
3. an innovative film cderurop
4. ehmte parks

*Paragraph 2*

5. He edleeopdv a great love of drawing
6. he crevodieds the world of theatre
7. the srcttioona for his high school newspaper
8. he set up his own aaiotinmn company

*Paragraph 3*

9. He developed a character bsdae on a pet mouse
10. his own ciove and personality
11. the world's most ulorapp cartoon character
12. Walt Disney was a oluhhedso name

*Paragraph 4*

13. Finowlolg on from Mickey's success...
14. Dozens more movies lelodowf
15. Disney built up a global entertainment pmiree
16. He died of narecc in 1966

## PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) first movie with sound, 'Steamboat Willie'. By 1930, Mickey Mouse was the world's most
- ( ) Pluto. He then produced an animated feature-length version of Snow White, which was the most successful
- ( ) the lives of millions of children and adults. He holds the record for winning the most
- ( ) the world of theatre and cinema and fell in love with it. He became the cartoonist for his high school
- ( ) newspaper. In 1920, he set up his own animation company and his "Laugh-O-Gram" cartoons became very popular.
- ( ) Disney was born in 1901 in Chicago. He developed a great love of drawing as a youngster. When he was ten, he discovered
- ( ) characters, movies and theme parks of the 20th Century.
- ( ) once had. He gave the mouse his own voice and personality. Disney's wife named him Mickey. Disney put Mickey in his
- ( ) popular cartoon character and Walt Disney was a household name.
- ( ) Following on from Mickey's success, Disney created characters such as Donald Duck, Goofy, and
- ( ) entertainment empire, including his Disneyland theme park. He died of cancer in 1966.
- ( ) Disney wanted more and so he moved to Hollywood. He developed a character based on a pet mouse he
- ( ) movie of 1938. Dozens more movies followed, including Fantasia and Bambi. Disney built up a global
- ( ) Academy Awards (26) and was an innovative film producer and animator. He created some of the most successful
- ( **1** ) Walt Disney was one of the most famous people ever to have lived. He has touched

## SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With your partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. lives has the He of children millions of touched

---

2. created He characters successful most the of some

---

3. drawing youngster a of a developed love as He great

---

4. world of theatre When he was ten , he discovered the

---

5. high his for cartoonist the became He school

---

6. once character a he a on mouse had based pet

---

7. put movie Mickey with in sound his Disney first

---

8. Walt name household a was Disney

---

9. Donald Disney characters as Duck created such

---

10. up global empire built a entertainment Disney

---



## WALT DISNEY DISCUSSION:

### STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What do you know about Walt Disney?
2. Would you like to have met Walt Disney?
3. What would you like to know about Walt Disney and why?
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

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## WALT DISNEY DISCUSSION:

### STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. What did you learn from this text about Walt Disney?
2. What questions would you like to have asked Walt Disney?
3. What would his answers have been to those questions?
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

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# WALT DISNEY SURVEY:

Write five questions about Walt Disney in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.



## HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find more information about Walt Disney. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. WALT DISNEY POSTER:** Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Walt Disney. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all find out similar things?

**4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about Walt Disney. Include an imaginary interview with him. Write about what he did every day and what he thought about.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to Walt Disney. Ask him three questions about his life. Tell him how important he is in today's world. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your "Walt Disney expert" partner(s) will try and answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## SYNONYM MATCH:

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. famous     | a. well-known   |
| 2. holds      | b. has          |
| 3. innovative | c. cutting-edge |
| 4. youngster  | d. youth        |
| 5. set up     | e. started      |
| 6. popular    | f. well-liked   |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 7. based on         | g. centred around |
| 8. personality      | h. character      |
| 9. a household name | i. famous         |
| 10. version         | j. edition        |
| 11. followed        | k. came after     |
| 12. empire          | l. organization   |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |                                   |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. He has touched the             | a. lives of millions of children |
| 2. an innovative film             | b. producer and animator         |
| 3. He developed a great love of   | c. drawing as a youngster        |
| 4. fell in                        | d. love with it                  |
| 5. he set up his                  | e. own animation company         |
| 6. He developed a character based | f. on a pet mouse                |
| 7. He gave the mouse his own      | g. voice and personality         |
| 8. Walt Disney was a household    | h. name                          |
| 9. an animated feature-length     | i. version of Snow White         |
| 10. Disney built up a global      | j. entertainment empire          |

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Look at the text on page 2.