

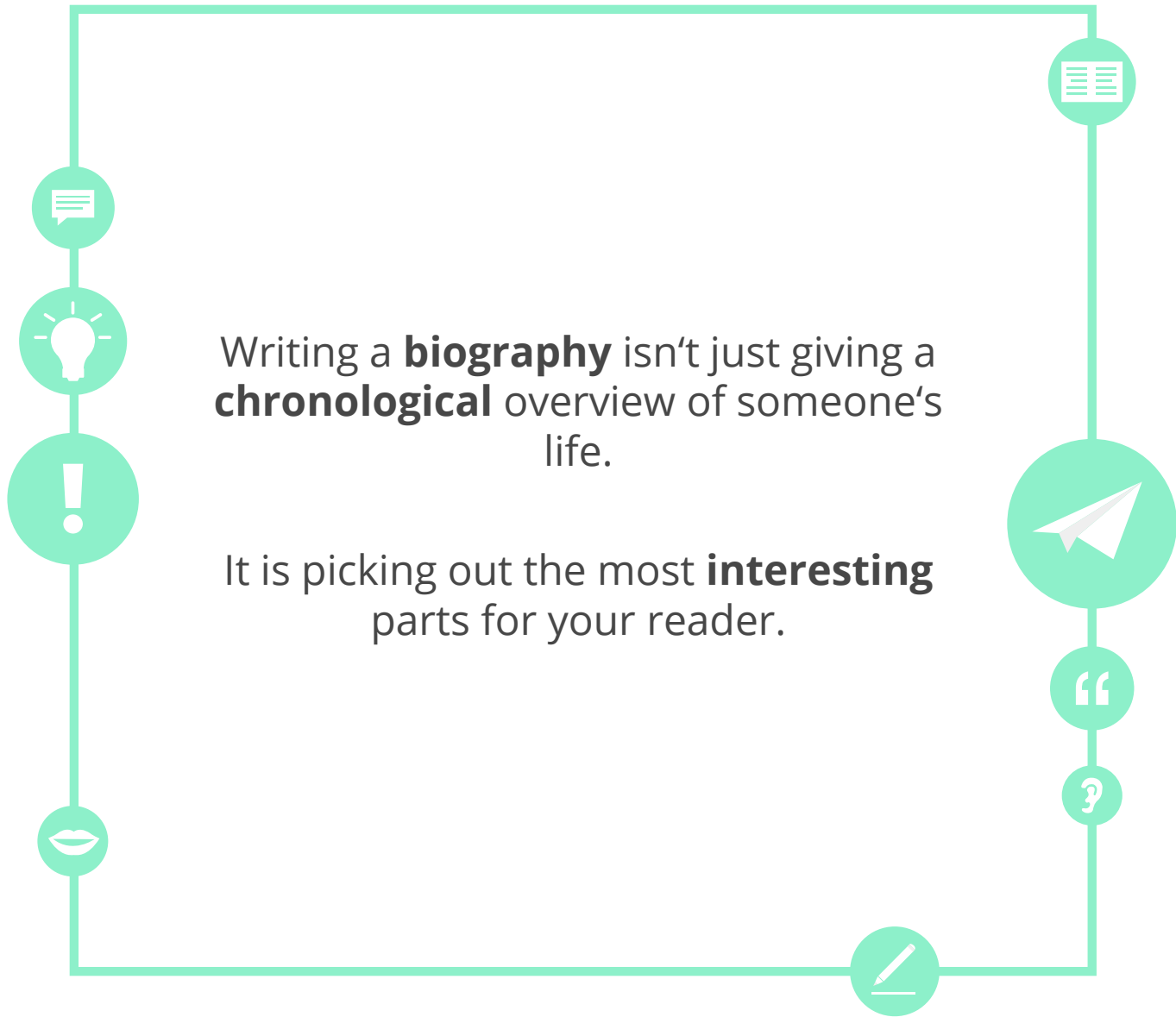




## Goals

- Can list and explain the features of an effective biography.
- Can write a straightforward and well-structured biography of a famous character.





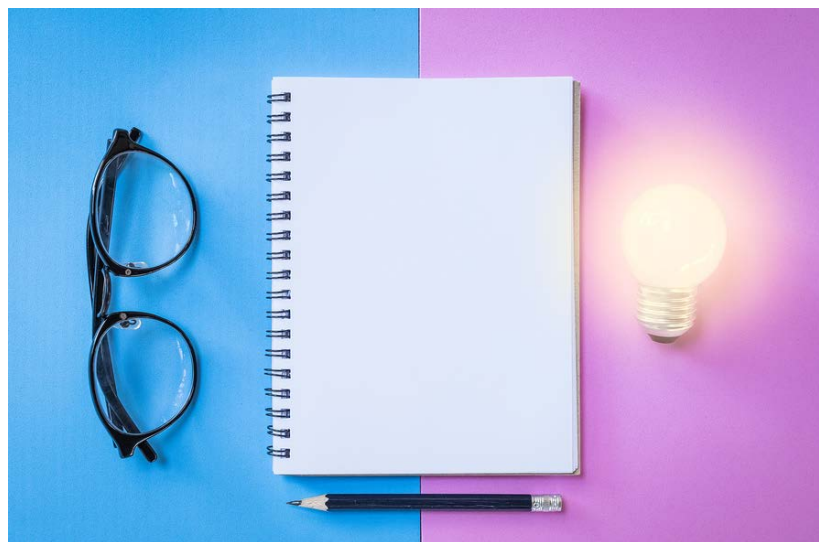
Writing a **biography** isn't just giving a **chronological** overview of someone's life.

It is picking out the most **interesting** parts for your reader.



## Preview and warm-up

- In this lesson you are going to **review** some of the topics from the unit and learn how to **write a biography**.



This famous sportswoman was born...



## Choose your subject

- **Choose your subject** carefully. Make sure the subject had an **interesting life** and lots of **experiences** you can write about.



My subject certainly had an interesting job.



## Organise your biography

- A **biography** is usually written in **chronological order**.
- This doesn't mean that you need to mention every small detail of the person's life.
- You should pick out the **important or interesting parts**.

<b>Birth and childhood</b>	When and where they were born, where they grew up and which adults were important to them, their schooling and behaviour.
<b>Adulthood</b>	Private life: marriage, children, relationships and friendships Career: the highlights of their working life
<b>Old age and death</b>	What they did in their later years, and how and when they died.



## Writing a biography

- When you know the structure, you can move on to **researching** your subject and **finding out** about their life.

- There are usually lots of **sources**, primary and secondary, that you can use to find out about a famous subject.
- You can also do **interviews** with people to find out more about them.
- When you have all of your information, you're ready to **write!**





## Vocabulary review

**olympian**

**paralympics**

**athlete**

**train**



**world-class**

**tournament**

**finalist**

**medal**





## Vocabulary review



Ancient **olympians** used to win a laurel wreath.

**Athletes** work very hard to prepare for the Olympics.



The **Paralympics** are usually held just after the Olympics.

Athletes must **train** hard before they compete.





## Vocabulary review



Gladiators were **world-class** athletes in Ancient Rome.

Many people dream of watching a major sports **tournament**.



Being a **finalist** in a major competition is a huge achievement.

Winning a gold **medal** is the highlight of many athletes' careers.





## Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps with the words below.

Paralympics

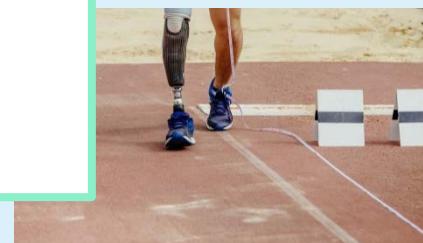
train

medal

world-class

tournament

1. If you win a competition in the Olympics you get a gold \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Olympics and the \_\_\_\_\_ are held in the same stadiums.
3. The World Cup is a major football \_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ athletes are paid a lot of money in some countries.
5. Olympic athletes \_\_\_\_\_ for hours a day before competitions.





## The Olympics and the Paralympics

Write your answers to these questions below.

Do you watch the **Olympics** and the **Paralympics**?

Which events are you most interested in?

Do you have any famous athletes from your country?

A vertical sheet of lined paper with a spiral binding on the left side, intended for writing answers. The paper has several horizontal lines for writing.



## Writing

Write a few sentences about a time you won a medal or reached the final in an event. How did it make you feel? What challenges did you have to complete? When did it happen?

gold medal

second place



A vertical sheet of white paper with a blue vertical line on the left side and a series of circular punch holes. The paper contains several horizontal lines for writing.



## Vocabulary review

**local**

**major**

**sporting**

**lavish**

**literature**



**novelist**

**best-selling**

**author**



## Vocabulary review



Every community has a **local** celebrity. They can be famous for doing good or outrageous things!

**Major** celebrities star in Hollywood films and TV dramas.



Roman gladiators were **sporting** celebrities in their day.

Many celebrities enjoy a **lavish** lifestyle. They can often be seen in magazines enjoying their expensive holidays.





## Vocabulary review



William Shakespeare is a famous figure in **literature**. He invented many sayings which are still popular today.

Leo Tolstoy is a famous Russian **novelist**. There are many famous quotes from his books.



Mark Twain is a **best-selling** novelist. He passed away in 1910.

Virginia Woolf is a famous **author**. Her work has proved inspirational for many people







## Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps with the words on the right.

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ celebrity is only famous in your area.
2. Jane Austen is a \_\_\_\_\_ author.
3. Football and basketball players are \_\_\_\_\_ celebrities.
4. Mark Twain is a famous \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Leo Tolstoy is a famous figure in \_\_\_\_\_.

sporting

local

literature

best-selling

novelist



## Lavish lifestyles

**Do you think best-selling novelists and authors in the past led lavish lifestyles? What might their lives have looked like?**

**Write your answer below.**

A sheet of white lined paper with a blue vertical margin line on the left and a series of punch holes along the left edge. The paper is blank, intended for writing an answer.





## Writing

Write some questions you would like to ask a famous sporting or literary celebrity if you were to meet them.

What was your childhood like?

What is your greatest achievement?



A vertical sheet of white paper with a blue binding edge on the left and several horizontal lines for writing.



## Charles Dickens biography

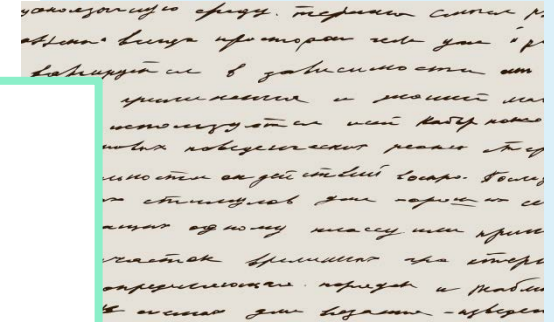
Charles Dickens was an English writer who was born in Portsmouth in 1812. Up until he was 12, Dickens had a very nice childhood, spending his time going to school, reading, and playing outside. When he was 12, his family moved to London and Dickens was **forced** to leave school and work 10 hour days to help pay his family's debts. His experience working in a factory became the basis for a lot of his novels which **criticised** how the working class were **treated** in England in the nineteenth century, and particularly of his novel *David Copperfield*, which was **semi-autobiographical**.





## Charles Dickens biography

He left school **permanently** when he was 15 and later became a political journalist. He **published** a series of short stories, *The Pickwick Papers*, while he was a journalist. The late-1830s were a busy time for Dickens as he got married, had three of his ten children, and published *Oliver Twist*, still one of his most famous works. Dickens was a very popular novelist in his own time, and he published at least 28 novels in his lifetime, including *A Christmas Carol* and *Great Expectations*. He was a critic of **poverty** all his life, and this showed in his novels. Dickens died in 1870 after having a **stroke**. He was working on a **mystery** novel at the time, part of which had been published.





## Fill in the gaps

Choose a different English writer to Charles Dickens and fill in the gaps below. The information does not have to be true – you are just practising!

\_\_\_\_\_ was an English writer who was born in \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_. Up until he was 12, \_\_\_\_\_ had a very nice childhood, spending his time going to school, reading, and playing outside. When he was 12, his family moved to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ was forced to leave school and work 10 hour days to help pay his family's debts. His experience working in a \_\_\_\_\_ became the basis for a lot of his novels which criticised how the \_\_\_\_\_ were treated in England in the nineteenth century, and particularly of his novel \_\_\_\_\_, which was semi-autobiographical.





## Fill in the gaps

He left school permanently when he was 15 and later became a \_\_\_\_\_. He published a series of short stories, \_\_\_\_\_, while he was a \_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_ were a busy time for \_\_\_\_\_ as he got married, had \_\_\_\_\_ of his ten children, and published \_\_\_\_\_, still one of his most famous works. \_\_\_\_\_ was a very popular novelist in his own time, and he published at least \_\_\_\_\_ novels in his lifetime, including \_\_\_\_\_. He was a critic of \_\_\_\_\_ all his life, and this showed in his novels. \_\_\_\_\_ died in \_\_\_\_\_ after having a stroke. He was working on a \_\_\_\_\_ at the time, part of which had been published.



**Read through what you have written and compare it with your classmates.**



## Writing

**Choose a famous writer or sportsperson from your country. Write down as many details as you can about their life. If you are not sure about something, make a guess. Then, write your text.**

Write about:

- their birth and childhood.
- Their career, including their most successful moments.
- Their personal life.
- Their death (if they have passed away).







## Compare your writing

Read through the biography of a famous sportsperson below and compare your writing.

**Maharaja Ranjitsinhji** was born in **India** in 1872. He was a **cricketer** for England and a Prince of a state in India. He was initially named as the **heir** to the throne, but then was **demoted** and sent to a British school in India. He joined Cambridge University in 1889 and became one of the best members of the university cricket **team**, even though he had never played an organised game of cricket before. There was some **opposition** to Ranjitsinhji playing for both Cambridge and England because of his nationality, but he became a member of the England cricket team in 1896. He was one of the best batsmen of all time and he had extremely quick reaction speeds. In 1906 he returned to India where he became Maharaja of a state, though he continued to play cricket at times. He was a popular **leader** in India, despite stories in the press about his financial problems; however, many sources report that he never seemed happy in India and split his time between there and England later in his life. He **died** in India in 1933.



## Guess who?

This person was  
born in...

Think of a famous person that you think most people will know. You can take a few minutes to do some quick research!

Give as many facts about them, by making a short biography, and share this with your classmates and teacher.

They have to guess who you are describing by the biography you have given.

This person was born in England in 1926. Her only sibling, her sister, passed away in 2002. She has 4 children who are all also famous. She was privately educated and she lives in a very famous building and is the second-oldest state leader by age.



## Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

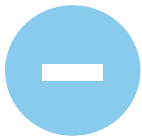
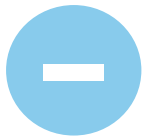
no




## Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.  
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?

If you have time, go over  
the most difficult slides again





## Answer key

**Activity p. 26**

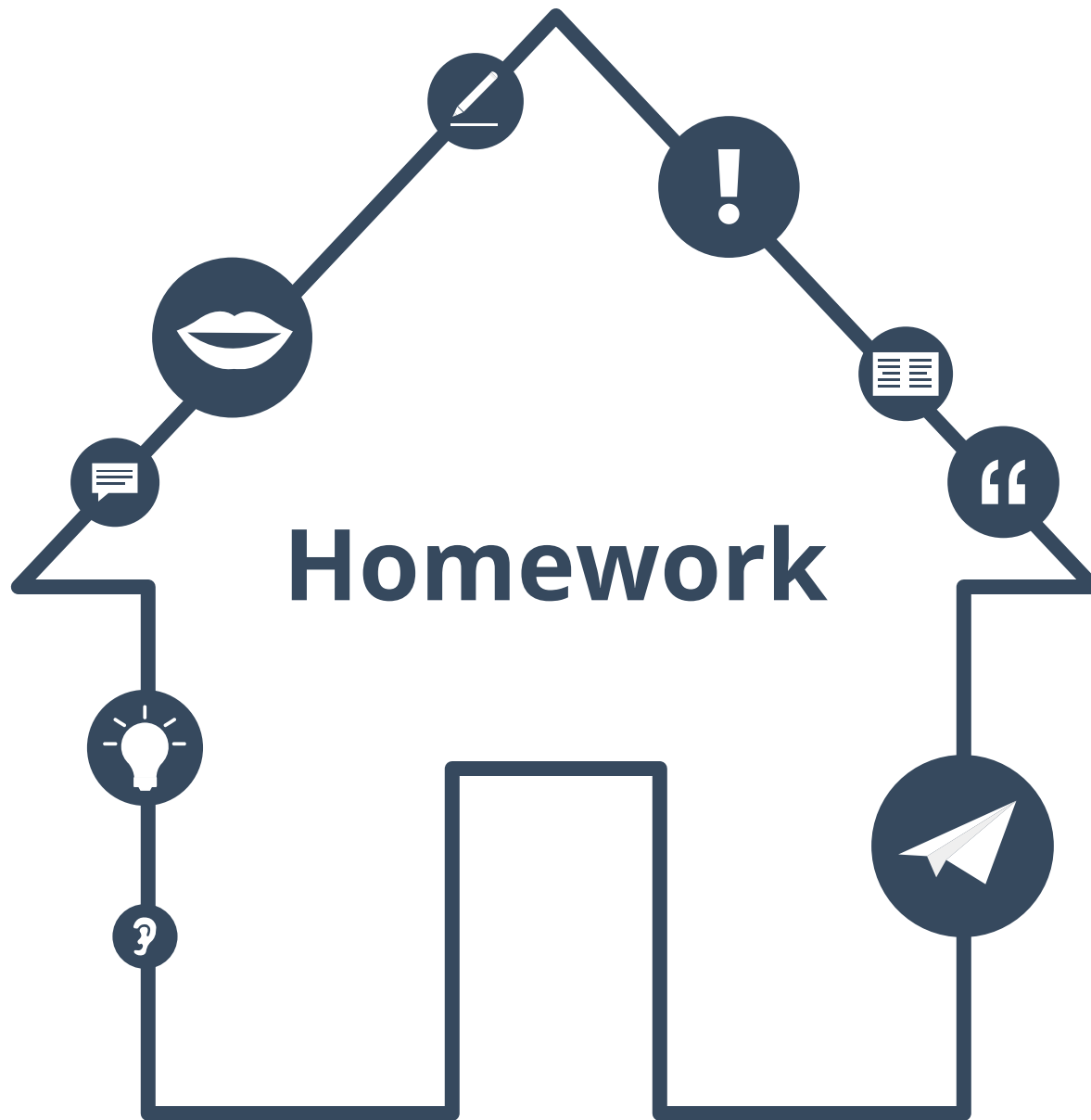
The Queen of England

**Activity p. 17**

local, 2. best-selling, 3. sporting, 4. novelist, 5. literature

**Activity p. 11**

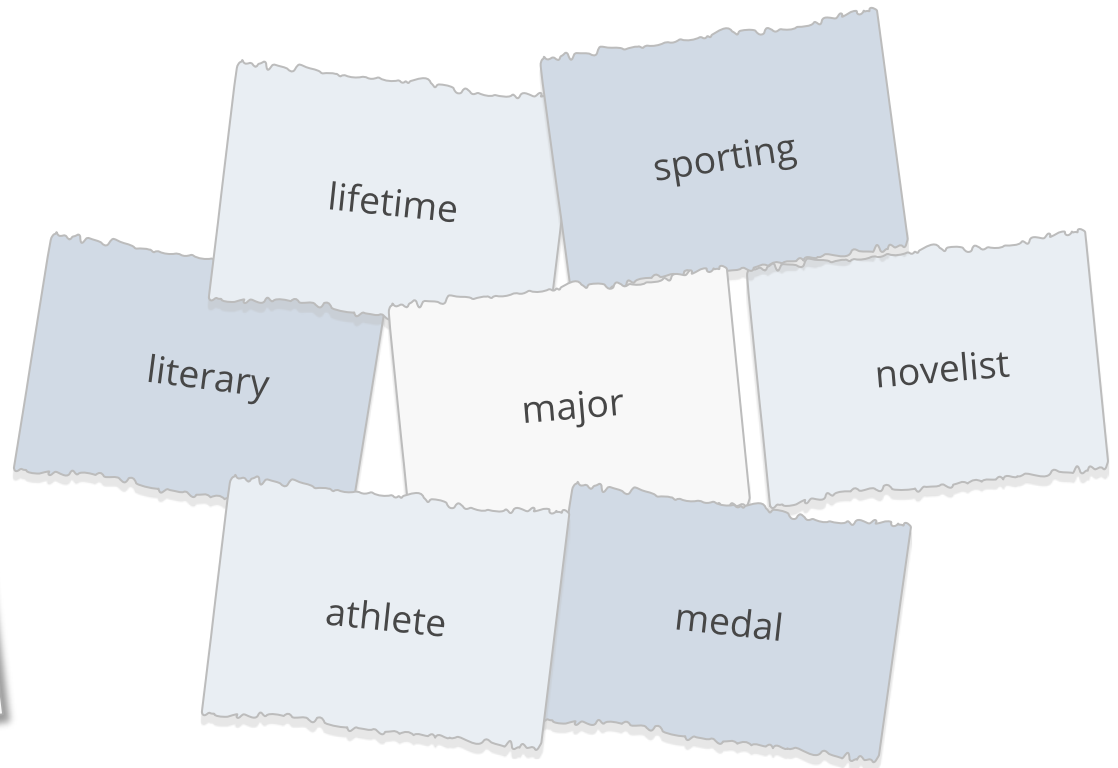
1. medal, 2. Paralympics, 3. tournament, 4. World-class, 5. train





## Planning your writing

Think of another famous person from your country who you would like to write about. Plan a biography here.









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