



David Walliams

David Edward Williams (known as David Walliams) is an English comedian, actor and talent show judge. He is also a children's author and charity supporter. He is best known for his work on a comedy sketch show and for his children's books.

Childhood and Education

David Walliams was born on 20th August 1971 in Merton, London. His father, Peter Williams, was a London Transport engineer and his mother, Kathleen Williams, was a lab technician. He grew up in Banstead, Surrey, with his sister, Julie.

David attended Collingwood Boys' School before going to Reigate Grammar School. While at school, David was a Navy cadet because he liked the uniform! He also discovered his love of comedy when he took part in a school production wearing a dress. When the audience laughed, he knew he wanted to be a comedian!

From 1989 to 1992, he studied at the University of Bristol, where he gained a degree in drama. During university holidays in 1990, David performed with the National Youth Theatre.

When he joined the actors' union, he decided to change his stage name to David Walliams because there was already a member called David Williams.

Career

David's career in television started in 1995 when he wrote for the 'Ant and Dec Show'. He went on to work alongside other new comedians on various sketch shows, before starting his own project. Together they wrote and starred in a popular comedy sketch show which propelled them both to fame.

In 2005, David turned to non-comedy television, presenting a documentary on James Bond. In the following few years, he acted in a variety of different non-comedy roles.

Since 2012, David has been a judge on a popular talent show. In both 2015 and 2018, he was presented with the National Television Award for Best Judge based on his role in the series.



Becoming an Author

In 2008, David published his debut novel, 'The Boy in the Dress'. It was illustrated by Quentin Blake, who also illustrated Roald Dahl's books. It is about a boy who likes football and wearing dresses and it went on to sell over half a million copies! A year later, 'Mr Stink' was released. It was awarded the Children's Award in the People's Book Prize in 2010. Following the success of his first two books, he has gone on to write sixteen more children's books.

Charitable Work

David has been involved with the charity, Sport Relief, since 2006 when he swam the English Channel, which is a 22 mile stretch of sea between England and France, in 10 hours and 34 minutes. He raised over one million pounds for the charity. Later that year, David was awarded the Pride of Britain Award for the Most Influential Public Figure in recognition of his efforts.

In 2010, David cycled the length of Great Britain for Sport Relief and then, in September 2011, he swam the length of the river Thames (140 miles), raising over two million pounds for Sport Relief.

David was awarded an OBE by The Queen in 2017 for his work in charity and the arts.

Did You Know...?

During his Thames swim, David rescued a Labrador dog that had fallen into the river!



Questions

1. **Following the success of his first two books, he has gone on to write sixteen more children's books.**

What does **success** mean? Tick one.

- failure
 achievement
 start
 end

2. Match the event to where it happened:

David rescued a Labrador dog.	University of Bristol
David was born.	Merton, London
David gained a degree in drama.	river Thames

3. Name two jobs that David Walliams has had.

1. _____
 2. _____

4. Fill in the missing words.

He also discovered his love of _____ when he took part in a school production wearing a _____. When the audience _____, he knew he wanted to be a comedian!

5. Find and copy a word or phrase which tells you that people like the work that David does.

6. Why do you think that David changed his name?

7. Summarise David's charity work in 30 words or less.

8. Which part of David's life do you find the most interesting? Explain your answer.

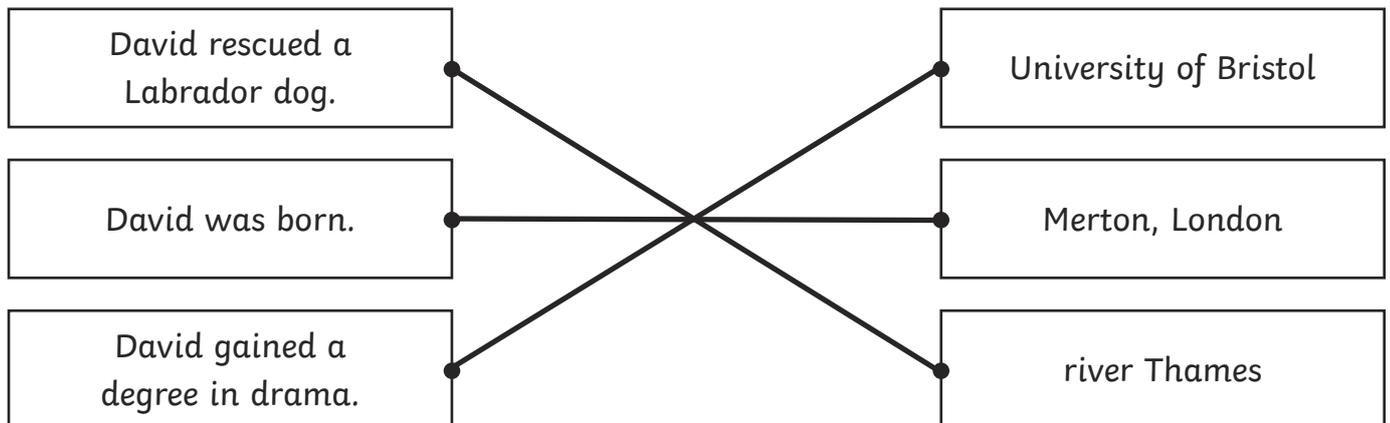
Answers

1. **Following the success of his first two books, he has gone on to write sixteen more children's books.**

What does **success** mean? Tick one.

- failure
 achievement
 start
 end

2. Match the event to where it happened:



3. Name two jobs that David Walliams has had.

Accept any two of the following: comedian, actor, talent show judge, children's author, he wrote for the 'Ant and Dec Show', acting on various sketch shows, writing and starring in a popular comedy sketch show, presenting a documentary, acting in non-comedy roles.

4. Fill in the missing words.

He also discovered his love of **comedy** when he took part in a school production wearing a **dress**. When the audience **laughed**, he knew he wanted to be a comedian!

5. Find and copy a word or phrase which tells you that people like the work that David does.

Accept any of the following: popular (comedy sketch show); his work on the show was recognised at the National Television Awards when he was presented with the award for Best Judge for his role in the series; it went on to sell over half a million copies; it was awarded the Children's Award in the People's Book Prize; success (of his first two books).

6. Why do you think that David changed his name?

Pupils' own responses, such as: There was already an actor with the same name and, if he became famous, David Walliams wanted to make sure that he was recognised for the work he did.

7. Summarise David's charity work in 30 words or less.

Accept any reasonable summary, such as: David has raised over three million pounds for Sport Relief by completing various difficult tasks, including swimming and cycling long distances.

8. Which part of David's life do you find the most interesting? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I find David's childhood interesting because he wasn't afraid to be himself and be a bit different – he liked getting laughs as a child and knew what he wanted to be when he grew up.