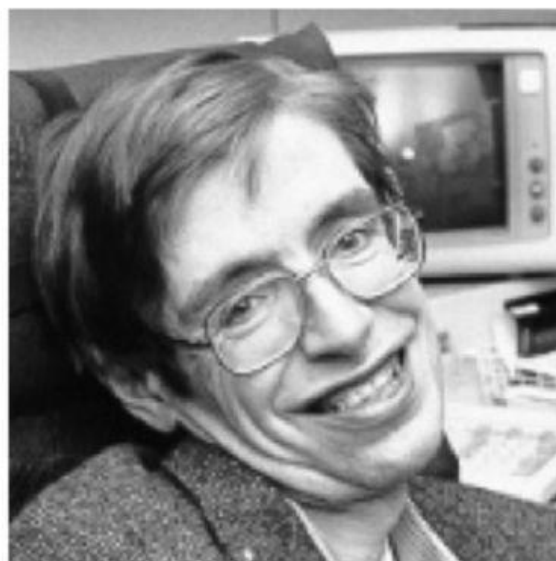


STEPHEN HAWKING



1

Warm-up

What do you know about Stephen Hawking?

2

Key words

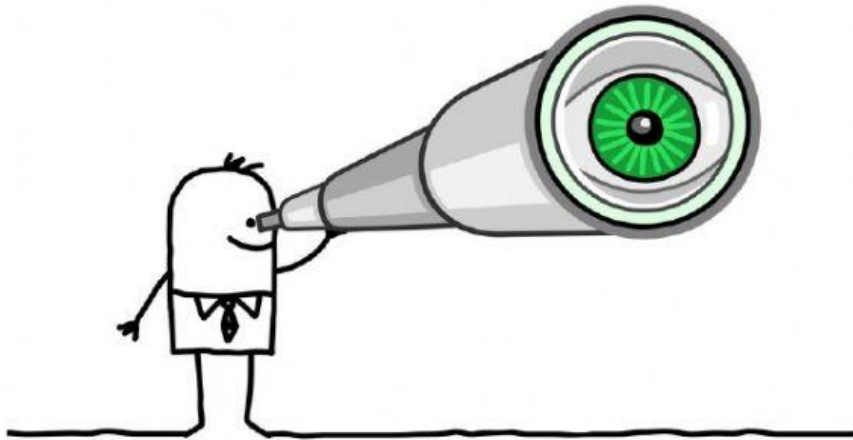
Match the terms on the left to the definitions on the right.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. a disability | a. a clear understanding of a complicated problem |
| 2. a tribute | b. an award given that allows the person to use the title 'sir' or 'dame' |
| 3. an insight | c. a physical condition or injury that makes it difficult for somebody to do things that are normal for most people |
| 4. fade | d. expressing a strong opinion without worrying what other people think |
| 5. a phenomenon | e. something someone says or writes to show they respect and admire a person |
| 6. contradict | f. something unusual that can be seen but is difficult to understand |
| 7. outspoken | g. to disappear gradually |
| 8. a knighthood | h. to say the opposite of what someone else says is true |

Find the information

You are going to read an article about the life and death of Stephen Hawking. Guess the answers to the questions below, then scan the text on the next page to confirm or correct your answers.

1. How old was Stephen Hawking when he died?
a. 76 b. 86 c. 96
2. At what age was he diagnosed with a serious illness?
a. 15 b. 21 c. 27
3. How many years did doctors give him to live?
a. 2 b. 10 c. 20
4. How many copies were sold of his book *A Brief History of Time*?
a. 2 million b. 5 million c. 10 million



Stephen Hawking Dies

14 March 2018

1. Stephen Hawking, the world famous British physicist, author and professor, has died at the age of 76.
2. His family said that he died peacefully at his home in Cambridge early on Wednesday morning.
3. At the age of 21 he was diagnosed with a rare form of motor neuron disease. Doctors gave him only a few years to live. He survived for another 55.
4. For much of his life he communicated with the aid of a voice computer, but he did not let his disabilities stop him from achieving the things he wanted, one of which was explaining the universe to millions.
5. "My goal is simple," he once said. "It is complete understanding of the universe, why it is as it is and why it exists at all."
6. Hawking wrote several popular science books including *A Brief History of Time*, which instantly made him famous in 1988. It made the Guinness Book of Records after it stayed on bestseller lists for 237 weeks. 10m copies were sold and it was translated into 40 different languages.
7. In a statement, his children Lucy, Robert, and Tim, said: "We are deeply saddened that our beloved father passed away today."
8. "He once said: 'It would not be much of a universe if it wasn't home to the people you love.' We will miss him for ever."
9. In his 2013 memoir Prof Hawking described how he felt when doctors told him about his illness:
10. "I felt it was very unfair - why should this happen to me?" he wrote. "At the time, I thought my life was over and that I would never realise the potential I felt I had. But now, 50 years later, I can be quietly satisfied with my life."
11. Tributes poured in from around the world after the announcement of his death.
12. The actor Eddie Redmayne, who played him in the 2014 film *The Theory of Everything*, said: "We have lost a truly beautiful mind, an astonishing scientist and the funniest man I have ever had the pleasure to meet. My love and thoughts are with his extraordinary family."
13. The scientist also gained popularity outside the academic world, appearing in several TV shows.
14. His most famous scientific insight related to black holes. He discovered they leak energy and then fade to nothing, a phenomenon which later become known as Hawking radiation. The proposal stirred up passionate debate, as it contradicted what many physicists believed.
15. Hawking was never afraid of controversy. He was often accused of being sexist, and was also outspoken about religion.
16. Towards the end of his life he became part of an initiative to find life outside our planet, and frequently warned of the danger that AI poses to humanity.
17. He won many awards during his lifetime, but never the Nobel Prize. In the late 1990s, it was reported that he was offered a knighthood, but he turned it down over issues with the British government's funding of science.
18. Hawking lived a life that many would be satisfied with. When questioned about dying he said:
19. "I'm not afraid of death but I'm in no hurry to die. I have so much I want to do first."

Sources: BBC, The Guardian, The Telegraph, The Mirror

4

Checking understanding

Read the text again and put 'T' (true) or 'F' (false) next to each statement below.

1. Stephen Hawking died in France.
2. Hawking's most famous book is only available in English.
3. He was pessimistic about the future when he first learned about his disease.
4. He didn't like to offend people.
5. He made a groundbreaking discovery about black holes.
6. He rejected a Nobel Prize.

5

Find the words

Find a word or phrase in the text which means ...

1. records of the most popular books (**two word noun, P.6**): _____
2. died (polite expression) (**phrasal verb, P.7**): _____
3. achieve all that someone is capable of (**collocation, P.10**): _____
4. came in large numbers (**phrase - past form, P.11**): _____
5. caused (sth) (**phrasal verb - past form, P.14**): _____
6. disagreement about something that is important to a lot of people (**noun, P.14**): _____
7. refused to accept (sth) (**phrasal verb - past form, P.17**): _____

6

Talking point

Discuss any of the questions below in pairs or groups.

1. Have you read any of Hawking's books? If so, what did you think of them? If not, would you like to?
2. Do you think that Hawking's disease was the reason he achieved so much in life? Why or why not?
3. Do you agree with Hawking that AI is a danger to humanity? Why or why not?