

Read the article. Match headings A–F to paragraphs 1–5. There is one extra heading that you do not need.

- A It's never too late
- B A question of height
- C Getting it right from the start
- D Second time lucky
- E A late developer with a curious mind
- F He never knew success

A false start

Many people who have found success started out by failing. Below are five of the most famous.

1

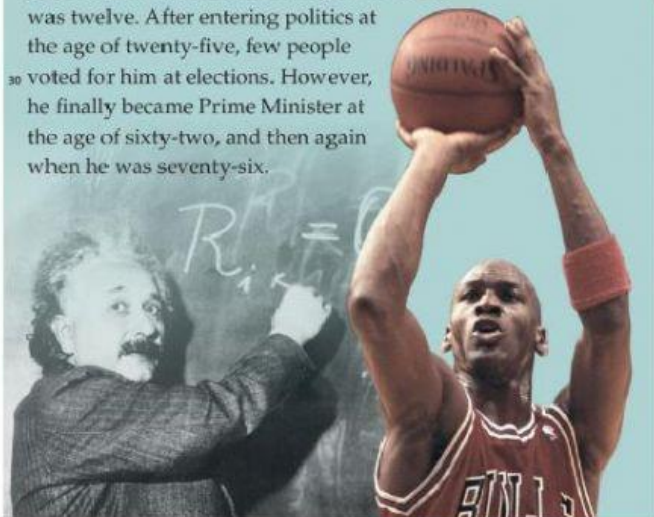
Everyone says that Albert Einstein is one of the most intelligent men that have ever lived. However, people thought differently in the past. Einstein didn't start speaking until he was four years old and he couldn't read until he was seven. His teachers said he had learning difficulties and eventually he was expelled from school. Einstein went on to become one of the most important physicists of the twentieth century and won a Nobel Prize in 1921.

2

Everyone has heard of the hugely successful Japanese electronics company Sony, but few people know the story of the company's first product. This was a rice cooker, but unfortunately it didn't work properly. Instead of cooking the rice, the rice cooker burned it, which did not make it popular with consumers. Sony sold less than a hundred rice cookers, but had much more success with their next product, which was a radio.

3

Ask anyone to tell you the name of the greatest British Prime Minister of all time and many will say it was Winston Churchill. But people haven't always admired Mr Churchill. At school, he was a poor student and he failed the year when he was twelve. After entering politics at the age of twenty-five, few people voted for him at elections. However, he finally became Prime Minister at the age of sixty-two, and then again when he was seventy-six.



$$E=mc^2$$

4

One of the unluckiest artists in the world is the Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh. Only one person bought a painting from him during his life, and that person was a friend who paid very little money for it. However, the painter continued with his work and completed over eight hundred pictures before he died. Today, you can see his paintings in the most important art galleries in the world and they sell for millions of euros.

5

It's hard to believe that the school basketball coach didn't choose Michael Jordan to play in the team, but that's exactly what happened. At the time, Jordan was only one metre and eighty centimetres tall, and the coach thought he was too short for the team. Luckily for Jordan, he grew eighteen centimetres over the next few years and by the time he was twenty-one, he was playing for the Chicago Bulls. During his basketball career, he was NBA champion six times. Today, many people think of Michael Jordan as the best basketball player ever.