

SPORTS PRESENTER READING



Read the text and answer the questions.

Anna Gomez

Anna Gomez is a successful TV sports presenter, but most people still think of her as the famous women's ice-skating champion who won several important competitions when she was younger. "As a child, my dream was actually to become a ballet dancer - I didn't own any skates until I was nine, and didn't become really keen on skating until I was fourteen, says Anna. She went on to university where, despite ice-skating almost all the time, she left with an excellent degree. "I felt I owed it to my parents. They supported me through university, and expected me to do well there - I didn't feel I could disappoint them."

In a sport where most stars become famous as teenagers, Anna was unusual in being in her twenties before she won any major titles. "When I was younger, I got very angry at competitions, shouting at judges if I disagreed with them. That made me unpopular, especially with other skaters. My technique was just as good as theirs and I had a very encouraging coach at the time. The problem was in my head -- I just didn't think I had what it takes to be a champion. That changed as I won more competitions, and I was performing at my best by the age of twenty-five."

Anna retired from professional ice-skating five years later, having achieved great success during that period. "It was a difficult decision. As you get near the end of your career, people always ask when you're going to stop. At the time, I wasn't sure that I was actually ready to give up. But, looking back, I'm glad I stopped when I did. You shouldn't think too much about the past - just move on to the next thing."

1 What is the writer doing in the text?

- A discussing the influence of Anna's early life on her career.
- B giving Anna's reasons for choosing to become a TV presenter
- C describing the progress of Anna's professional life in sport
- D explaining why Anna was such a successful ice-skater

2 What do we learn about Anna's time at university?

- A Her parents expected her to do better in her studies.
- B She spent too much time ice-skating.
- C She managed to get good results
- D Her parents wanted her to keep up her ice-skating.

3 Why does Anna believe she failed to win competition's as a teenager?

- A She annoyed too many people.
- B She was not confident enough in her ability
- C She needed to improve her technique
- D She did not have the right coach

4 What does Anna say about her retirement from skating?

- A She has no regrets about giving up when she did
- B She had wanted to stop for a long time
- C She was persuaded by others that she should retire
- D She missed some things about her life as an ice-skater

5 Which of the following appeared on a website about Anna?

- A Anna Gomez, 20, achieves her life-long ambition of becoming the national women's ice-skating champion
- B TV presenter and former sportswoman Anna Gomez announces her return to professional ice-skating after five years.
- C Teenage star Anna Gomez wins another top title, and thanks her many friends in the ice-skating world.
- D After five years at the top, ice-skating star Anna Gomez retires and takes up a new job in television.