

Reading Comprehension

More than a hobby

- Do you recognize any of the people in the photo? Why are they famous?
- Match the photos to the people's names. Then, read the text to check.

Winston Churchill

Paul McCartney

Woody Allen

Luciano Pavarotti

Gordon Ramsey



When Wallace Stevens walked into his office every morning, his colleagues didn't know about his secret. Stevens lived a double life. By day, he worked for an insurance company. The rest of his life was spent becoming one of the greatest American poets of the twentieth century.

Secret talent is more common than we think, even with people who are already famous in one area. Take Luciano Pavarotti, one of the world's greatest classical singers. Not many people knew that before he became a singer, he was an outstanding football player. The same is true of TV chef Gordon Ramsey, who is now well known for his brilliant cooking and his bad language. Ramsey played professional football for Rangers, one of Scotland's best teams.

A number of politicians first made their name in other jobs. Silvio Berlusconi, prime minister of Italy and a businessman, once sang professionally on cruise ships. Winston Churchill, prime minister of Great Britain, also had another talent: he wrote great history books. Churchill's books won him the Nobel Prize in literature in 1953. Vaclav Havel, who was the first president of the Czech Republic, was also a great writer.

There are also musicians and actors who have secret talents. Paul McCartney and David Bowie are both painters. Paul Newman was a racing car driver, and actor Omar Sharif was one of the world's greatest cards players. And only those who go to a little hotel bar in New York City every Monday would know that one of the best clarinet players in town is actor and film director Woody Allen. He certainly plays the clarinet better than Bill Clinton plays the saxophone.

- Are the following statements true or false? Write T or F in the space provided.

1. The people in the text are famous for one thing, but also good at another thing.
2. Wallace Stevens' colleagues didn't know he was a poet.
3. Gordon Ramsay was a chef before he became a famous footballer.
4. Churchill and Havel were both actors and politicians.
5. Woody Allen plays the clarinet and the saxophone.

- Select the correct meaning for the words and phrases from the text.

1. lived a double life (paragraph 1)

- a) had two very different lifestyles
- b) had a difficult life

2. The same is true of (paragraph 2):

a) this situation is very different from ...

b) this situation is very similar to ...

3. bad language (paragraph 2):

a) speaking badly about another person

b) saying bad words

4. made their name (paragraph 3):

a) became famous

b) learnt to do something

• **Do you have a hidden (secret) talent?**