A Biography

Put the verbs in brackets in the past simple or present perfect

MATT DAMON



Matt Damon is an American actor and film producer. He ..... (be born) in 1970 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. His father Kent worked in finance, and his mother Nancy was a university professor. His Parents ..... (divorce) when he was two years old, and he .....(live) with his mother and brother in a large house with five other families.

Matt Damon .....(become) interested in acting when he was at high school, and he .....(appear) in several school theatre productions. When he 18 he ..... (go) to Harvard University to study English. He ..... (write) a film script as part of his course- the script was for the film *Good Will Hunting.* Matt and his friend Ben Affleck ..... (star) in the film and it made them famous. They both ..... (win) an Oscar for Best Original Screenplay for their work on the script. Matt decided to become an actor and he ..... (not finish) university.

Since then, Matt Damon .....(become) on of the most successful actors in Hollywood. He ..... (appear) in over 70 films, but he is most famous for playing Jason Born, a CIA assassin, in the Bourne films. He ..... (receive) a Golden Globe for Best Actor for his performance in *The Martian.* He ..... (be) married to Luciana Barroso since 2005. They live in Los Angeles with their four daughters.

Writing a biography – use of tenses

If you write a biography of a person who is dead, the verbs will all be in the **past simple**.

If the person is alive, all finished actions will be in the **past simple** (such as the person's early life, e.g. *He was born, He went to university,* etc. or specific actions in their life, e.g. *He got married, He moved to another country,* etc.).

However, you must use the **present perfect** for unfinished actions which started in the past and are still true now (and which might change), e.g. *He has lived in Los Angeles since his wedding.* (= he lives there now)
He has appeared in a lot of films. (= he might appear in more in the future)

Use the **present simple** (or **present continuous**) to talk about the present day, e.g. *He lives in Los Angeles. He's working on a new film.*