



BIOGRAPHIES

STEPHEN HAWKING

*"My body may be stuck in a chair,
but my mind can go to the ends of the universe."*

1. Write the past tense of the verbs in brackets to complete the story.

Stephen Hawking _____ (be born) on January 8, 1942. **Although** he was known as "Einstein" at school, he was not very successful from an academic point of view **at first**. With time, **however**, he _____ (begin) to show his ability for scientific subjects. Hawking's father, who was a doctor, advised him to study medicine, **because** he _____ (think) that there were few jobs for mathematics graduates, **but** he decided to study physics.

At university, Hawking was diagnosed with motor neurone disease. The doctors told him he had little hope of living beyond the age of 25 and he _____ (fall) into a depression. However, although Hawking _____ (have) difficulty to walk without help and it was difficult to understand what he _____ (say), his disease progressed more slowly than doctors predicted and he _____ (keep) working. His scientific work included research on the origins and structure of the universe, from the Big Bang to black holes.

He was Professor of Mathematics at the University of Cambridge between 1979 and 2009. He _____ (win) a lot of international prizes. His book *A Brief History of Time* was **also** a best-seller. In it, he managed to put his ideas about complicated concepts like time, gravity, relativity and the origin of the universe, in a style and a language that any educated person could understand.



He was incredibly clever man, but he was also very much in touch with ordinary people and he was a fun person with a great sense of humour. He _____ (make) a guest appearance in an episode of *The Simpsons* and played himself in an episode of *Star Trek* and in *The Big Bang Theory*. Hawking enjoyed Formula One racing, classical music and also pop music.

Hawking's illness gradually paralyzed him. However, even after he _____ (lose) his speech, he was able to communicate through a speech-generating device, using a hand switch at first and using a single cheek muscle **later**.

He _____ (get) married twice and he had three children. He died on 14 March 2018.



Glossary:

Beyond: más allá de

Speech: habla

Advise: aconsejar

Research: investigación

Device: aparato, dispositivo

Graduate: licenciado

Manage: arreglárselas

Match the words and their meanings:

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| device | touch |
| intelligent | prizes |
| contact | machine |
| disease | cultivated |
| awards | illness |
| educated | clever |

True or False?

- Hawking was a wonderful student at school. ____ TRUE / ____ FALSE
- Hawking's father thought mathematicians didn't get good jobs.
____ TRUE / ____ FALSE
- He was diagnosed with a rare disease when he finished university.
____ TRUE / ____ FALSE
The doctors were wrong about the progress of his disease.
____ TRUE / ____ FALSE
It is very difficult for common people to understand his books.
____ TRUE / ____ FALSE
- He appeared in several TV shows. ____ TRUE / ____ FALSE
- In his final years it was impossible for him to communicate.
____ TRUE / ____ FALSE