

# Oprah Winfrey

went downhill setbacks stroke of luck up-and-coming went from strength to strength

One of America's most powerful women, Oprah Winfrey had to overcome *a myriad of* obstacles throughout her life. She was born into a poverty in rural Mississippi to a teenage mother and things 1) \_\_\_\_\_ when her parents split up. At 13, after suffering what she described as year of abuse, Winfrey ran away from home. She got pregnant aged 14, but her son died shortly after birth. Her life began to *turn around* when she moved in with her father in Nashville.

At school, Oprah was always top of the class and became an honours student with *a full-ride scholarship to* college. She was still in her sophomore year when she began working in local media. At that time, she was both the youngest and the first African-American female news anchor on TV.

In 1984 Oprah relocated to Chicago and, as an 2) \_\_\_\_\_ newsreader, attracted the attention of a talk show producer. She was invited to host a low-rated half-hour morning talk show "AM Chicago" and 3) \_\_\_\_\_ quickly. Within months after she *took over*, the show went from the last place in the ratings to overtaking "The Phil Donahue Show" as the highest-rated talk show in Chicago. It was then renamed "The Oprah Winfrey Show" and expanded to a full hour. But a real 4) \_\_\_\_\_ was her interview with a group of child abuse survivors that *propelled her to stardom* and won her an Emmy. From that moment on, Oprah's career 5) \_\_\_\_\_ and she has *never looked back*.

By the mid-1990s, Winfrey had reinvented her show with a focus on literature, self-improvement, mindfulness, and spirituality. Though she has been criticized for *unleashing a confession culture*, promoting controversial self-help ideas and having an emotion-centered approach, she has also been praised for overcoming 6) \_\_\_\_\_ to become a benefactor to others. She is famous for her charity work and has given millions of dollars to good causes.

Today, Oprah is a *household name* in America and her show went on to become one of the most successful TV shows of all time, earning Oprah a fortune of \$2.7 billion and making her one of the world's most influential women. She's also an accomplished actress, producer, and philanthropist, and has her own network, OWN (the Oprah Winfrey Network), which she launched in 2011.

