

Complete the text with the verbs in brackets. Use the past simple, past perfect, past continuous or past perfect continuous form of the verbs.

▶▶ 2.41 Listen and check.

Christopher Reeve 1952–2004

KNOWN PRINCIPALLY as an actor, Reeve

(1) (have) many other talents and interests, including directing, which he (2) (do) for some years at the time of his death in 2004.

Born in September 1952, Reeve was heavily influenced through his life by his novelist and poet father, F D Reeve. As a child he (3) (begin) acting stories with his little brother, and by the age of eight he (4) (already/appear) in several school plays.

He studied music and English at Cornell University, and while he (5) (study) in his final year, he was accepted into the renowned Juilliard School of the Performing Arts. He (6) (perform) both in film and on the stage for a few years when he (7) (accept) the part for which he is most remembered, Superman, in 1978.

Always active and a keen sportsman, Reeve (8) (do) all his own stunts. In sports terms, his interests focused on horse-riding, and he (9) (compete) in events

for a few years when, in 1995, he was thrown from his horse and broke his neck. From a man who (10) (be) at the peak of his powers, he was now paralysed from the neck down. Perhaps because he (11) (be) so active, he was determined to continue making something of his life, and despite his severe injuries, he (12) (continue) to act and he started directing. In October 2004 Reeve (13) (promote) a film that he (14) (recently/direct) – *The Brooke Ellison Story* – when he suffered a sudden and unexpected heart attack and fell into a coma. He (15) (die) the following day, aged only 52, leaving a wife and three children.

