

Read the text.



The Story of WhatsApp

A Jan Koum was born in 1976 in Kiev, Ukraine. His family was poor and their house didn't have hot water or electricity. When Koum was 16, he and his mother went to live in California, U.S. Life was hard and they didn't always have money for food. Koum worked in a store to earn money, but he also studied computer science from books. He went to San José State University, but he didn't finish his studies.

B In 1997, Koum found a job with the I.T. company Yahoo! and met Brian Acton. Koum and Acton worked together for nine years and became friends. In 2007, they left Yahoo! and traveled to South America. When they returned to California, Koum and Acton applied for jobs at Facebook, but didn't get them.

C In 2009, Koum bought a smartphone and used apps for the first time. This gave him an idea. On Koum's 33rd birthday, he started WhatsApp with Acton. The company didn't make money right away, but Koum and Acton knew they had a good idea, so they didn't give up. And they were right. In 2015, they sold WhatsApp for \$19 billion.

Activity 1

Look up the meaning of these words (in the dictionary or Google) and fill in the blanks.

poor – earn- right away- **applied for**- give up

- 1 formally ask for (a job) apply for
- 2 stop trying to do something give up
- 3 not rich, not having much money poor
- 4 get (money) from working earn
- 5 immediately right away

Activity 2

Read again. Answer the questions.

- 1 Where was Koum born?
He was born in Kiev, Ukraine.
- 2 When did he and his mother move to the U.S.?
When he was 16.
- 3 Where did he learn about computers?
At San José State University.
- 4 Where did he work after he left college?
At a store.
- 5 What did he do in 2007?
He started WhatsApp with Brian Acton.
- 6 When did he and Acton sell their company?
In 2015.