

1) Read Bruno Mars' biography

Who Is Bruno Mars?

Bruno Mars, whose real name is Peter Gene Hernandez, was born on October 8, 1985, in Honolulu, Hawaii.

At the age of two, he was nicknamed "Bruno" by his father, because of his resemblance to a famous wrestler.

Mars is one of six children and came from a musical family. His mother was both a singer and a dancer, and his father performed rock and roll music.

Early Life

Growing up around entertainers, Mars began picking up musical instruments from early childhood. "I've always had a drum set, a piano, a guitar ... and never got trained to play. It was just always there," he later recalled. "That's just how I learned, just being surrounded by it my whole life."

At the age of four, Mars began performing five days a week with his family's band, The Love Notes, as an Elvis impersonator and quickly become one of the stars of the show. He continued to perform with his family throughout his childhood, and as he approached adolescence he added Michael Jackson to his impersonation repertoire.

Mars attended Roosevelt High School, where he and several friends formed a band, the School Boys, performing classic oldies hits alongside his family's act at the Ilikai Hotel in Honolulu. Mars credits his fearless stage presence to his unusual childhood. "Performing from such a young age just got me so comfortable on stage," he said.

Move to Los Angeles

After graduating from high school, Mars decided to leave Hawaii for Los Angeles, California. Over his first few years in L.A., he struggled to make a breakthrough in the music industry. Mars grew frustrated with waiting for his career to move forward. It was during this period that Mars first turned to songwriting.

Career Breakthrough

Mars presented a song he had written and recorded to a record label, who liked it but wanted one of their own artists to perform it. Initially, Mars was disappointed, but it proved to be an awakening experience. "The light bulb went off," he explained. "I decided to push the artist thing aside and get into the business this way. I just really focused my energy into writing for other artists. That's how it all began."

After several years as one of the pop music industry's premier songwriters, Mars finally broke out as a singer in his own right with the 2010 hit "Nothin' on You."

The track proved an enormous hit, skyrocketing to No. 1 on the Billboard singles chart, and instantly transforming Bruno Mars from a behind-the-scenes composer into a pop performer.

From then on, for Mars' career only the sky's the limit.



2) Read the text again and complete the chart.

Real name	
Place of birth	
Childhood	His mum was a _____ and his dad _____. Their band was called _____ He performed as _____
High school	He attended _____. There he played in _____
Early career	He _____ Los Angeles. He became a _____
First hit / year	

3) Match the definitions with verbs from the text.

- a. _____: entertained an audience by playing a piece of music, acting in a play, etc. (pa 3)
- b. _____: developing into an adult. (pa 4)
- c. _____: getting information or a skill by chance rather than by making a deliberate effort. (pa 4)
- d. _____: believe or say that somebody is responsible for doing something, especially something good. (pa 6)
- e. _____: completing a course in education, especially at high school. (pa 7)
- f. _____: tried very hard to do something, especially a difficult thing. (pa 7)
- g. _____: gave attention, effort, etc. to one particular subject, situation or person rather than another. (pa 8)
- h. _____: started suddenly. (pa 9)
- i. _____: rising quickly to a very high level. (pa 10)