

Martha Lane Fox – co-founder of lastminute.com

She has been named one of the 20 most powerful people in technology today. She's a dotcom multi-millionaire who believes passionately that Internet access should be for everyone, young and old. She has had amazing success but has also known tragedy.



She was born in Oxford, England, in 1973 and **(1) studied / was studying** at Oxford University. After university, in 1994, she joined an IT company, 'Spectrum', and she **(2) is working / has been working** in digital technology since then. While she **(3) was working / has worked** at 'Spectrum' she met Brent Hoberman, and in 1998 these two entrepreneurs founded an online travel company called **lastminute.com**. It was hugely successful, making them millionaires. Eventually, in 2005, they **(4) sold / have sold** it for £577 million!

However, in 2004, tragedy struck. Martha **(5) drove / was driving** with friends in Morocco when they had a terrible car crash. She was flown back to England, where she spent six months in hospital and had 28 operations. She **(6) recovered / has never fully recovered** from the accident, and still walks with a stick. However, she hasn't stopped work. Since 2007, she **(7) is doing / has been doing** a lot of work for charities, and in 2012, she founded a digital skills charity, Go On UK.

Overall, she **(8) has had / has been having** an amazing career. In 2013, she was made a life peer in the House of Lords – the youngest female peer ever. She **(9) is / has been** chancellor of the Open University since 2014 and director of Twitter since 2016 – she **(10) has / is having** over 186,000 followers on Twitter.



She now lives in London with her partner, Chris Gorell Barnes. In 2016, they had twin boys, Milo and Felix. Martha couldn't have children herself because of the crash, so they were born to a surrogate mother in the US.