

Video Teaching Notes: Report Units 1–3

Shakespeare

Report Summary

Topic: The Report is about the English poet and playwright William Shakespeare. It gives information about his life and his career.

Preparation: Ask some questions, *Where is the nearest theater and what is it called? Do you or your family ever go to the theater? What plays or poetry do you study at school?*

Check students understand these words: *gloves, playwright, retired*

Background: In the period that Shakespeare was writing, English grammar, spelling, and pronunciation were less standardized than they are today. It is believed that Shakespeare introduced between 1,500 and 2,000 words to the English language. His creative use of language helped shape modern English, and many of the phrases and metaphors he wrote are still used today. Expressions such as “to wait with bated breath” (*Merchant of Venice*), “for ever and a day” (*The Taming of the Shrew*), “a sorry sight” (*Macbeth*), and “to wear my heart upon my sleeve” (*Othello*) have become part of everyday speech and remain in use today.

Before You Watch

Read the questions with the class and elicit answers from individual students. Encourage students to guess the answers they don't know and use their suggestions to start a class discussion.

ANSWER

Students' own answers.

Comprehension Check

- Watch the Report. Choose the correct answers.
Pre-watching: Go through the questions with the students.
 - Where was Shakespeare born?
 - Who did he marry?
 - What is the name of the theater in London he helped to build in London?



Play the whole Report. Students choose the correct answers. Check their answers.

ANSWERS

2. a 3. b

- Watch the Report again. Check (✓) the statements you hear.

Pre-watching: Ask students to read the statements carefully and check the ones they hear. Check their answers with the Comprehension Check.



Play the Report again to check answers. Pause after each statement.

ANSWERS

- The family were quite wealthy, and we think the young Shakespeare used to sleep in this room.
 - Shakespeare's work soon became very popular.
 - He died at his house in New Place three years later.
- Watch the Report again. Correct the words in bold to make true statements.
Pre-watching: Ask students to read the statements carefully and to replace the words in bold with the correct words.



Play the Report again to check answers. Pause where necessary.

ANSWERS

- glove 3. three 4. poor 5. 1613
- Watch the Report again. Match the statements (1–6) with the dates (a–f).
Pre-watching: Ask students to match the statements and dates if they can before watching the Report again.



Play the Report again to check answers.

ANSWERS

2. e 3. d 4. c 5. f 6. a

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY Write the present year on the board, e.g. (2015). Then write four more dates in a timeline, making sure not to go more than ten years previous to the current date, e.g.:

2015 2012 2010 2007 2006 2005

Point to a date and give information, e.g. *In 2007, I used to have short / long hair. In 2005, I didn't use to wear glasses.* Students work in pairs and write their own timeline, and take turns to give each other information.

Language Check

- Look at the chart.
Then watch the Language Check.

Gerunds

We don't know exactly when Shakespeare **started writing** plays ...

used to / didn't use to

He **used to make** gloves in this room.

... people **didn't use to move** home as often as they do now.

Pre-watching: Revise the grammar points by brainstorming some verbs on the board and eliciting the gerunds from the class. Practice as a spelling game in teams or as an open class activity.

Remind students that we use the gerund as the direct object after certain verbs such as *like, love, enjoy, dislike, hate, start, stop, and suggest*. Give an example, e.g. *I stopped playing the piano when I was ten. My father hates working on the weekend.* Practice with more statements.

Revise *used to* and *didn't use to*. Write gapped statements on the board and elicit the correct affirmative and

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negative forms. *Laura [used] to live in Australia, she didn't [use to] live in the United States.* Practice with more statements.



Play the Language Check and pause when examples of the language appear. Ask students to listen and repeat.

6. Complete the statements with the gerund of the verb in parentheses.

Ask students to complete the sentences with the gerund of the verb in parentheses.

Go through the answers with the class.

ANSWERS

2. visiting 3. reading 4. performing 5. watching
6. studying

7. Complete the statements with the correct words.

Ask students to read the statements carefully and then circle the correct words in each answer.

Go through the answers with the class.

ANSWERS

2. use to 3. used to 4. use to 5. used to 6. used to

About You!

8. Answer the questions about you.

Read the questions with the class and elicit answers from individual students.

ANSWER

Students' own answers.

SCRIPT

William Shakespeare is the most famous writer in the English language. He was born on April 23rd 1564, and he died on the same day in 1616.

Shakespeare was a poet, a playwright, and an actor for most of his life. He wrote an amazing 38 plays and 154 sonnets, or short poems. Today, he is as famous as ever, and people all over the world still read his work.

Shakespeare was born in this house in Stratford-upon-Avon. His father was a glove maker, and he used to make gloves in this room. Today, you can see the house as it was in Shakespeare's time. The family were quite wealthy, and we think the young Shakespeare used to sleep in this room.

When he was eighteen, Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway, the daughter of a local farmer. The couple lived together in Stratford-upon-Avon, and had three children.

We don't know exactly when Shakespeare started writing plays, but we do know that sometime in the late 1580s or early 1590s he moved from Stratford-upon-Avon to London. This was unusual at the time because people didn't use to move home as often as they do now.

But Shakespeare wanted people to watch his plays, and he knew that London was the best place to go. At the time, theater was very popular in the capital and people in London used to go to plays all the time. The rich people used to sit in balconies and the poor people used to stand in front of the stage.

Shakespeare's work soon became very popular. By 1599, Shakespeare's playing company – the Lord Chamberlain's Men – were so popular that they began building their own theater – The Globe. This is a recreation of the same theater in modern-day London. It opened in 1997.

Today, lots of people come to see Shakespeare's plays the way people used to watch them 400 years ago.

Shakespeare probably retired in 1613 and came back to Stratford-upon-Avon from London. He died at his house in New Place three years later.

Today, Stratford-upon-Avon is proud of its most famous son. Britain's Royal Shakespeare Company – one of the most famous theater companies in the world – has its home here.

And tourists come here every day to see the birthplace of one of the most famous writers in history.