

BILL GATES

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THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

William Henry Gates III was born on October 28, 1955. He is one of the world's richest people and perhaps the most successful businessman ever. He co-founded the software giant Microsoft and turned it into the world's largest software company. He is the best-known entrepreneur of the PC revolution. He has also written two best-selling books and started his own charity with his wife.

Gates was fascinated with electronics from a young age. In 1975 he read about a small technology company. He contacted them to see if they were interested in a computer programme he had written. This led to the creation of Microsoft. Gates later struck a deal with IBM that put Microsoft's Windows on IBM computers. This deal made Microsoft a major player in the IT industry.

Gates was in charge at Microsoft from 1975 until 2006. He was an active software developer at the beginning. He had a vision that computers could change everyone's life. He helped make this vision come true and developed many products that are now part of modern life. His management style has been studied and copied around the world.

Gates stepped down as Microsoft CEO in June 2008. He now spends his time with his wife, Melinda, focusing on their charitable foundation. They provide funds for global problems that are ignored by governments and other organizations. 'Time' magazine voted Gates as one of the biggest influences of the 20th Century. Scientists named the Bill Gates flower fly after him.

248 words
Flesch Kinkaid 8.1

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the words from the article on the left with their synonyms on the right. Are your answers the same as other students'?

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. richest | a. formation |
| 2. giant | b. interested |
| 3. entrepreneur | c. agreement |
| 4. fascinated | d. monster |
| 5. creation | e. wealthiest |
| 6. deal | f. businessman |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 7. beginning | g. quit |
| 8. vision | h. passed over |
| 9. style | i. dream |
| 10. stepped down | j. give |
| 11. provide | k. start |
| 12. ignored | l. approach |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. He co-founded the software | a. player in the IT industry |
| 2. He is the best-known entrepreneur | b. down as Microsoft CEO |
| 3. Gates was fascinated with | c. of the PC revolution |
| 4. a computer programme he | d. charge at Microsoft |
| 5. a major | e. by governments |
| 6. Gates was in | f. electronics |
| 7. He had a vision that computers could | g. flower fly after him |
| 8. Gates stepped | h. giant Microsoft |
| 9. global problems that are ignored | i. had written |
| 10. Scientists named the Bill Gates | j. change everyone's life |

LISTENING GAP FILL:

William Henry Gates III was born on October 28, 1955. _____ world's richest people and perhaps the most successful businessman ever. He co-founded the software giant Microsoft _____ the world's largest software company. He is the best-known entrepreneur of the PC revolution. He has also written two best-selling books _____ charity with his wife.

Gates was fascinated with electronics _____. In 1975 he read about a small technology company. He contacted them _____ interested in a computer programme he had written. This led to the creation of Microsoft. Gates later struck _____ Microsoft's Windows on IBM computers. This deal made Microsoft a major player in the IT industry.

Gates _____ Microsoft from 1975 until 2006. He was an active software developer at the beginning. _____ computers could change everyone's life. He helped make this vision come true and developed many products _____ modern life. His management style has been studied and copied around the world.

Gates stepped down as Microsoft CEO in June 2008. _____ his wife, Melinda, focusing on their charitable foundation. They provide funds for global problems _____ governments and other organizations. 'Time' magazine voted Gates as one of the biggest influences of the 20th Century. Scientists named the Bill Gates _____.

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs in italics.

William Henry Gates III was born on October 28, 1955. He is one of the world's richest people and perhaps the *most* / *best* successful businessman ever. He co-founded the software *giant* / *gigantic* Microsoft and turned it into the world's largest software company. He is the best-known entrepreneur *of* / *for* the PC revolution. He has also written two best-selling books and started his *owner* / *own* charity with his wife.

Gates was fascinated with electronics from a young *era* / *age*. In 1975 he read about a small technology company. He *contracted* / *contacted* them to see if they were interested in a computer programme he had written. This led to the *creation* / *creator* of Microsoft. Gates later struck a *dealt* / *deal* with IBM that put Microsoft's Windows on IBM computers. This deal made Microsoft a major player in the IT industry. Gates was in *change* / *charge* at Microsoft from 1975 until 2006. He was an active software developer *at* / *on* the beginning. He had a vision that computers could change everyone's life. He helped make this vision *come* / *go* true and developed many products that are now part of modern life. His management *style* / *stylish* has been studied and copied around the world.

Gates stepped *down* / *under* as Microsoft CEO in June 2008. He now *spends* / *spent* his time with his wife, Melinda, focusing on their charitable foundation. They provide *finds* / *funds* for global problems that are ignored by governments and other organizations. 'Time' magazine voted Gates as one of the biggest influences of the 20th Century. Scientists *named* / *naming* the Bill Gates flower fly after him.

SPELLING:

These jumbled words are from the text. Spell them correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. haerpsp the most successful businessman ever
2. the software tgani Microsoft
3. the world's largest warosfte company
4. started his own carthyi with his wife

Paragraph 2

5. Gates was ntadisefca with electronics
6. He oantcetcd them
7. This led to the icaoenrt of Microsoft
8. a major player in the IT nurydits

Paragraph 3

9. He was an active software lvderopee
10. He had a siovni
11. products that are now part of roednm life
12. management lsyet

Paragraph 4

13. Gates ppdeset down as Microsoft CEO
14. They pdreivo funds for global problems
15. the biggest csiueelnfn of the 20th Century
16. the Bill Gates oflewr fly

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () successful businessman ever. He co-founded the software giant Microsoft and turned it into the world's largest
- () ignored by governments and other organizations. 'Time' magazine voted Gates as one of the biggest influences
- () Gates was in charge at Microsoft from 1975 until 2006. He was an active software developer
- () Gates stepped down as Microsoft CEO in June 2008. He now spends his time with his wife, Melinda, focusing on
- () true and developed many products that are now part of modern life. His management
- () best-selling books and started his own charity with his wife.
- () software company. He is the best-known entrepreneur of the PC revolution. He has also written two
- () their charitable foundation. They provide funds for global problems that are
- () them to see if they were interested in a computer programme he had written. This led to the creation of Microsoft. Gates
- (**1**) William Henry Gates III was born on October 28, 1955. He is one of the world's richest people and perhaps the most
- () later struck a deal with IBM that put Microsoft's Windows on IBM computers. This deal made Microsoft a major player in the IT industry.
- () at the beginning. He had a vision that computers could change everyone's life. He helped make this vision come
- () style has been studied and copied around the world.
- () of the 20th Century. Scientists named the Bill Gates flower fly after him.
- () Gates was fascinated with electronics from a young age. In 1975 he read about a small technology company. He contacted

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With your partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. giant software the co-founded He Microsoft

2. He best-selling has also written books two

3. from was a fascinated young with age electronics Gates

4. deal IBM later a with Gates struck

5. made Microsoft a major player in the IT industry This deal

6. active beginning software He developer was at an the

7. change He vision could life a computers everyone's had that

8. stepped in down June as 2008 Microsoft Gates CEO

9. for funds provide They problems global

10. him Gates Scientists flower named fly the after Bill

BILL GATES DISCUSSION:

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What do you know about Bill Gates?
2. Would you like to meet Bill Gates?
3. What would you like to know about Bill Gates and why?
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

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BILL GATES DISCUSSION:

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. What did you learn from this text about Bill Gates?
2. What questions would you like to ask Bill Gates?
3. What would his answers be to those questions?
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

BILL GATES SURVEY:

Write five questions about Bill Gates in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITING:

Write about Bill Gates for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about Bill Gates. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. BILL GATES POSTER: Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Bill Gates. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all find out similar things?

4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Bill Gates. Include an imaginary interview with him. Write about what he does every day and what he thinks about.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to Bill Gates. Ask him three questions about his life. Give him three suggestions on what he should do in his future. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your "Bill Gates expert" partner(s) will try and answer your questions.

ANSWERS

SYNONYM MATCH:

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. richest | a. wealthiest |
| 2. giant | b. monster |
| 3. entrepreneur | c. businessman |
| 4. fascinated | d. interested |
| 5. creation | e. formation |
| 6. deal | f. agreement |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

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| 8. vision | h. dream |
| 9. style | i. approach |
| 10. stepped down | j. quit |
| 11. provide | k. give |
| 12. ignored | l. passed over |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. He co-founded the software | a. giant Microsoft |
| 2. He is the best-known entrepreneur | b. of the PC revolution |
| 3. Gates was fascinated with | c. electronics |
| 4. a computer programme he | d. had written |
| 5. a major | e. player in the IT industry |
| 6. Gates was in | f. charge at Microsoft |
| 7. He had a vision that computers could | g. change everyone's life |
| 8. Gates stepped | h. down as Microsoft CEO |
| 9. global problems that are ignored | i. by governments |
| 10. Scientists named the Bill Gates | j. flower fly after him |

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Look at the text on page 2.