

COCO CHANEL

http://www.famouspeoplelessons.com/c/coco_chanel.html

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THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel was born in France in 1883 and died in 1971. She was a pioneering fashion designer who revolutionized women's fashion. She designed modern and simple clothes that were often based on menswear. She was so important that she was the only designer named in 'Time' magazine's list of the 100 most influential people of the 20th century.

Chanel had a very poor upbringing. Her mother worked in the poorhouse where Gabrielle was born. She died when Gabrielle was six and then her father abandoned her. She adopted the name Coco while she was a cafe singer in 1905. Two lovers funded her first store in Paris in 1910. They also helped her hats become popular with rich women.

In the 1920s, Chanel rose to become Paris' top fashion designer. Her comfortable, yet elegant clothes were popular across Europe. Women found her mannish clothes to be liberating. In 1922 Chanel introduced her perfume, Chanel No. 5, which is still highly profitable. Her famous Chanel suit has also stood the test of time and is part of the modern woman's wardrobe.

At the beginning of World War II she moved into the Ritz Hotel in Paris, which became her home for 30 years. During the Nazi occupation of Paris she had a lover, a German spy. This relationship made her unpopular for a decade after the war. Her 1954 collection did badly in France. Today, however, her name is the biggest in fashion.

243 words
Flesch Kinkaid 8.2

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. pioneering | a. financed |
| 2. revolutionized | b. groundbreaking |
| 3. influential | c. transformed |
| 4. upbringing | d. important |
| 5. abandoned | e. deserted |
| 6. funded | f. childhood |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| 7. elegant | g. invasion |
| 8. mannish | h. collection of clothes |
| 9. wardrobe | i. boyfriend |
| 10. occupation | j. stylish |
| 11. lover | k. love affair |
| 12. relationship | l. masculine |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. a pioneering | a. wardrobe |
| 2. simple clothes that were often | b. fashion designer |
| 3. Chanel had a very poor | c. her unpopular |
| 4. her father | d. the name Coco |
| 5. She adopted | e. abandoned her |
| 6. Chanel rose to become Paris' | f. based on menswear |
| 7. Her famous Chanel suit has also stood | g. biggest in fashion |
| 8. part of the modern woman's | h. upbringing |
| 9. This relationship made | i. top fashion designer |
| 10. her name is the | j. the test of time |

LISTENING GAP FILL:

Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel was born in France in _____ 1971. She was a pioneering fashion designer who revolutionized women's fashion. She designed modern and simple clothes _____ based on menswear. _____ important that she was the only designer named in 'Time' magazine's _____ most influential people of the 20th century.

Chanel _____ upbringing. Her mother worked in the poorhouse where Gabrielle was born. She died when Gabrielle was six _____ father abandoned her. She _____ Coco while she was a cafe singer in 1905. Two lovers funded her first store in Paris in 1910. They also _____ become popular with rich women.

In the 1920s, Chanel _____ Paris' top fashion designers. Her comfortable, _____ were popular across Europe. Women found her mannish clothes to be liberating. In 1922 Chanel introduced her perfume, Chanel No. 5, _____ highly profitable. Her famous Chanel suit has also _____ of time and is part of the modern woman's wardrobe.

At the beginning of World War II she _____ Ritz Hotel in Paris, which became _____ 30 years. During the Nazi occupation of Paris she had a lover, a German spy. This relationship made her unpopular _____ after the war. Her 1954 collection _____ France. Today, however, her name is the biggest in fashion.

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:

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

Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel was born in France in 1883 and *death / died* in 1971. She was a pioneering fashion designer *whom / who* revolutionized women's fashion. She designed modern and simple clothes that were often based *on / in* menswear. She was so important that she was the only designer *named / called* in 'Time' magazine's list of the 100 most influential people of the 20th century.

Chanel had a very poor *growing up / upbringing*. Her mother worked in the poorhouse where Gabrielle *has / was* born. She died when Gabrielle was six and then her father abandoned her. She adopted the name Coco while she was a cafe singer in 1905. Two lovers *funded / funding* her first store in Paris in 1910. They also *helped / hoped* her hats become popular with rich women.

In the 1920s, Chanel *rose / raised* to become Paris' top fashion designers. Her comfortable, *yet / still* elegant clothes were popular across Europe. Women found her mannish clothes to be *liberation / liberating*. In 1922 Chanel introduced her perfume, Chanel No. 5, which is still highly profitable. Her famous Chanel suit has also stood the *test / taste* of time and is part of the modern woman's wardrobe.

At / On the beginning of World War II she moved into the Ritz Hotel in Paris, which became her *house / home* for 30 years. *During / While* the Nazi occupation of Paris she had a lover, a German spy. This relationship made her unpopular for a decade after the war. Her 1954 collection *did / got* badly in France. Today, however, her name is the biggest in fashion.

SPELLING:

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

Paragraph 1

1. She was a igprneneoi fashion designer
2. She designed enmodr and simple clothes
3. based on rsmenaew
4. She was so aotrpmtni

Paragraph 2

5. Chanel had a very poor gginunpirb
6. her father enbodaand her
7. She eoddtpa the name Coco
8. her hats become aulropp with rich women

Paragraph 3

9. comfortable, yet entleag clothes
10. hnsainm clothes
11. In 1922 Chanel introduced her uremepf
12. part of the modern woman's ewarrodb

Paragraph 4

13. At the nebngiing of World War II
14. rgiuDn the Nazi occupation of Paris
15. This alhiopnestir made her unpopular
16. Her 1954 itoloclenc did badly

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () revolutionized women's fashion. She designed modern and simple clothes that were often based on
- () the test of time and is part of the modern woman's wardrobe.
- () when Gabrielle was six and then her father abandoned her. She adopted the name Coco while
- (**1**) Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel was born in France in 1883 and died in 1971. She was a pioneering fashion designer who
- () she was a cafe singer in 1905. Two lovers funded her first store in Paris in 1910. They also
- () after the war. Her 1954 collection did badly in France. Today, however, her name is the biggest in fashion.
- () the Nazi occupation of Paris she had a lover, a German spy. This relationship made her unpopular for a decade
- () At the beginning of World War II she moved into the Ritz Hotel in Paris, which became her home for 30 years. During
- () Chanel had a very poor upbringing. Her mother worked in the poorhouse where Gabrielle was born. She died
- () elegant clothes were popular across Europe. Women found her mannish clothes to be liberating. In 1922 Chanel introduced
- () helped her hats become popular with rich women.
- () menswear. She was so important that she was the only designer named in 'Time' magazine's list of the
- () In the 1920s, Chanel rose to become Paris' top fashion designer. Her comfortable, yet
- () her perfume, Chanel No. 5, which is still highly profitable. Her famous Chanel suit has also stood
- () 100 most influential people of the 20th century.

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

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

1. pioneering a was She designer fashion

2. on based often were that clothes simple menswear

3. upbringing poor very a had Chanel

4. was a cafe singer She adopted the name Coco while she

5. Paris in store first her funded lovers Two

6. designer fashion top Paris' become to rose Chanel

7. stood the test of time Her famous Chanel suit has also

8. wardrobe woman's modern the of part

9. her made relationship This decade a for unpopular

10. however , her name is the biggest in fashion Today ,

COCO CHANEL DISCUSSION:

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

1. What do you know about Coco Chanel?
2. Would you like to have met Coco Chanel?
3. What would you like to know about Coco Chanel and why?
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

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COCO CHANEL DISCUSSION:

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

1. What did you learn from this text about Coco Chanel?
2. What questions would you like to have asked Coco Chanel?
3. What would her answers have been to those questions?
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

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COCO CHANEL SURVEY:

Write five questions about Coco Chanel 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.

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 Coco Chanel. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. COCO CHANEL POSTER: Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Coco Chanel. 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 Coco Chanel. Include an imaginary interview with her. Write about what she did every day and what she thought 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 Coco Chanel. Ask her three questions about her life. Tell her how important she is in today's world. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your "Coco Chanel expert" partner(s) will try and answer your questions.

ANSWERS

SYNONYM MATCH:

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
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| 2. revolutionized | b. transformed |
| 3. influential | c. important |
| 4. upbringing | d. childhood |
| 5. abandoned | e. deserted |
| 6. funded | f. financed |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- | | |
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| 9. wardrobe | i. collection of clothes |
| 10. occupation | j. invasion |
| 11. lover | k. boyfriend |
| 12. relationship | l. love affair |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. a pioneering | a. fashion designer |
| 2. simple clothes that were often | b. based on menswear |
| 3. Chanel had a very poor | c. upbringing |
| 4. her father | d. abandoned her |
| 5. She adopted | e. the name Coco |
| 6. Chanel rose to become Paris' | f. top fashion designer |
| 7. Her famous Chanel suit has also stood | g. the test of time |
| 8. part of the modern woman's | h. wardrobe |
| 9. This relationship made | i. her unpopular |
| 10. her name is the | j. biggest in fashion |

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Look at the text on page 2.