

WILL SMITH

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CONTENTS:

The Reading / Tapescript	2
Synonym Match and Phrase Match	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
Choose the Correct Word	5
Spelling	6
Put the Text Back Together	7
Scrambled Sentences	8
Discussion	9
Student Survey	10
Writing	11
Homework	12
Answers	13

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Willard Christopher "Will" Smith, Jr. is an actor and rapper. He first became famous in the late 1980s as the rap artist Fresh Prince. He made a very successful move into movies. He is the only actor in Hollywood history to make eight consecutive films that earned \$100 million in the USA. 'Newsweek' magazine called him the most powerful actor on the planet.

Smith was born in 1968 and raised in Philadelphia. His mother was a school administrator and his father was a refrigeration engineer. He began rapping as a teenager. His friends nicknamed him The Prince. He met D.J. Jazzy Jeff and the duo became hip-hop stars in the 1980s and early 1990s. In 1988, they won the first ever Grammy in the Rap category.

In 1990, the NBC television network signed Smith to star in the sitcom 'The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air', which launched his acting career. Smith decided he would become "the biggest movie star in the world" and began studying box office successes. His studying paid off. His movies 'Independence Day' (1996) and 'Men In Black'(1997) were both box office hits.

Smith is now one of Hollywood's hottest actors. His movies make huge amounts of money and appeal across age, race, and gender. He has been nominated for a Golden Globe, two Academy Awards, and has won many Grammys. He has also appeared in movies with his son Jaden, in 'The Pursuit of Happyness', and his daughter Willow, in 'I Am Legend'.

247 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. first | a. switch |
| 2. move | b. brought up |
| 3. consecutive | c. grouping |
| 4. raised | d. initially |
| 5. duo | e. back-to-back |
| 6. category | f. pair |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 7. sitcom | g. worked |
| 8. launched | h. most popular |
| 9. paid off | i. comedy |
| 10. hottest | j. sex |
| 11. appeal | k. started |
| 12. gender | l. interest |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. He made a very successful move | a. a teenager |
| 2. make eight | b. in the 1980s and early 1990s |
| 3. He began rapping as | c. network signed Smith |
| 4. the duo became hip-hop stars | d. off |
| 5. they won the first ever Grammy | e. in the Rap category |
| 6. In 1990, the NBC television | f. with his son |
| 7. began studying box | g. into movies |
| 8. His studying paid | h. office successes |
| 9. His movies make huge | i. consecutive films |
| 10. He has also appeared in movies | j. amounts of money |

LISTENING GAP FILL:

Willard Christopher "Will" Smith, Jr. is _____. He first became famous in the late 1980s as the rap artist Fresh Prince. He made a very successful _____. He is the only actor in Hollywood history to make _____ films that earned \$100 million in the USA. 'Newsweek' magazine called him the most powerful _____.

Smith was born in _____ Philadelphia. His mother was a school administrator and his father was a refrigeration engineer. He began _____. His friends nicknamed him The Prince. He met D.J. Jazzy Jeff _____ hip-hop stars in the 1980s and early 1990s. In 1988, they won the first ever Grammy _____.

In 1990, the _____ signed Smith to star in the sitcom 'The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air', which _____ career. Smith decided he would become "the biggest movie star in the world" and began studying _____. His studying paid off. His movies 'Independence Day' (1996) and 'Men In Black'(1997) were _____.

Smith is now one of Hollywood's _____. His movies make huge amounts of money and _____, race, and gender. He has been _____ Golden Globe, two Academy Awards, and has won many Grammys. He has also appeared _____ son Jaden, in 'The Pursuit of Happyness', and his daughter Willow, in 'I Am Legend'.

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:

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

Willard Christopher "Will" Smith, Jr. is an actor and rapper. He *initial / first* became famous in the late 1980s as the rap artist Fresh Prince. He made a very successful *moved / move* into movies. He is the only actor in Hollywood history to make eight consecutive films that *earned / earnings* \$100 million in the USA. 'Newsweek' magazine called him the most *power / powerful* actor on the planet.

Smith was born in 1968 and *risen / raised* in Philadelphia. His mother was a school administrator and his father was a refrigeration engineer. He began rapping *was / as* a teenager. His friends nicknamed him The Prince. He met D.J. Jazzy Jeff and the *duo / duet* became hip-hop stars in the 1980s and early 1990s. In 1988, they won the first *even / ever* Grammy in the Rap category.

In 1990, the NBC television network signed Smith to *star / stardom* in the sitcom 'The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air', which launched his acting career. Smith decided he *will / would* become "the biggest movie star in the world" and *began / begun* studying box office successes. His studying paid *back / off*. His movies 'Independence Day' (1996) and 'Men In Black'(1997) were both box office hits.

Smith is now *one / none* of Hollywood's hottest actors. His movies make huge *amounts / amount* of money and appeal across age, race, and gender. He has been nominated for a Golden Globe, two Academy Awards, and has *won / beat* many Grammys. He has also *appealed / appeared* in movies with his son Jaden, in 'The Pursuit of Happyness', and his daughter Willow, in 'I Am Legend'.

SPELLING:

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

Paragraph 1

1. an actor and rapepr
2. He made a very fuessucslc move into movies
3. eight consecutive films that nderae \$100 million
4. the most powerful actor on the eptanl

Paragraph 2

5. born in 1968 and eairsd in Philadelphia
6. his father was a refrigeration enrniege
7. He began rapping as a eenretag
8. the first ever Grammy in the Rap tygeaocr

Paragraph 3

9. the NBC television oekrnwt
10. dhalneuc his acting career
11. box office uceesscss
12. His yisngdtu paid off

Paragraph 4

13. Hollywood's otetths actors
14. appeal across age, race, and gernerd
15. He has also eprdapea in movies with his son
16. his greudath Willow

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () called him the most powerful actor on the planet.
- () Smith is now one of Hollywood's hottest actors. His movies make huge amounts of money and appeal across
- () Smith was born in 1968 and raised in Philadelphia. His mother was a school administrator and his father was a
- () In 1990, the NBC television network signed Smith to star in the sitcom 'The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air', which launched
- (**1**) Willard Christopher "Will" Smith, Jr. is an actor and rapper. He first became famous in the late 1980s as the rap
- () the duo became hip-hop stars in the 1980s and early 1990s. In 1988, they won the first ever Grammy in the Rap category.
- () off. His movies 'Independence Day' (1996) and 'Men In Black'(1997) were both box office hits.
- () make eight consecutive films that earned \$100 million in the USA. 'Newsweek' magazine
- () won many Grammys. He has also appeared in movies with his son Jaden,
- () artist Fresh Prince. He made a very successful move into movies. He is the only actor in Hollywood history to
- () age, race, and gender. He has been nominated for a Golden Globe, two Academy Awards, and has
- () refrigeration engineer. He began rapping as a teenager. His friends nicknamed him The Prince. He met D.J. Jazzy Jeff and
- () his acting career. Smith decided he would become "the biggest movie star in the world" and began
- () in 'The Pursuit of Happyness', and his daughter Willow, in 'I Am Legend'.
- () studying box office successes. His studying paid

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

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

1. 1980s late the in famous became first He

2. consecutive 100 films million that make earned eight \$

3. a as rapping began He teenager

4. 1980s became hop the duo - in the hip stars

5. first the category Rap the in Grammy ever

6. the Smith NBC In television 1990 network , signed

7. the star world become movie the would biggest in he

8. hottest Hollywood's of one now is Smith actors

9. movies huge of His make amounts money

10. has with also his appeared son in He movies

WILL SMITH DISCUSSION:

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

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

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WILL SMITH DISCUSSION:

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

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

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WILL SMITH SURVEY:

Write five questions about Will Smith 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 Will Smith. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. WILL SMITH POSTER: Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Will Smith. 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 Will Smith. 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 Will Smith. 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 "Will Smith expert" partner(s) will try and answer your questions.

ANSWERS

SYNONYM MATCH:

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. first | a. initially |
| 2. move | b. switch |
| 3. consecutive | c. back-to-back |
| 4. raised | d. brought up |
| 5. duo | e. pair |
| 6. category | f. grouping |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 7. sitcom | g. comedy |
| 8. launched | h. started |
| 9. paid off | i. worked |
| 10. hottest | j. most popular |
| 11. appeal | k. interest |
| 12. gender | l. sex |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. He made a very successful move | a. into movies |
| 2. make eight | b. consecutive films |
| 3. He began rapping as | c. a teenager |
| 4. the duo became hip-hop stars | d. in the 1980s and early 1990s |
| 5. they won the first ever Grammy | e. in the Rap category |
| 6. In 1990, the NBC television | f. network signed Smith |
| 7. began studying box | g. office successes |
| 8. His studying paid | h. off |
| 9. His movies make huge | i. amounts of money |
| 10. He has also appeared in movies | j. with his son |

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Look at the text on page 2.