

1. Who is Mary McAleese? What do you know about her?

Read this short article about President Mary McAleese and see how much of your information is correct.

Mary McAleese – A Short Biography

Mary McAleese was born in Belfast on 27 June 1951. Her maiden name was Leneghan. Her father was a shopkeeper.

Mary grew up in the Ardoyne and went to school in St. Dominic's High School. Her family was Catholic but the area where they lived was Protestant. When the Troubles started in 1969 life became difficult for them. Her father's shop was attacked by gunmen and her brother was badly beaten up. Eventually the family was forced to leave their home and move to another part of Northern Ireland.

When she left school she went to Queen's University in Belfast, where she studied law. She graduated in 1973. Three years later she married Martin McAleese, who is a dentist. They first met when they were still in secondary school. They have three children – Emma, and twins Saramai and Justin.

After she qualified as a lawyer Mary moved to Dublin. First she worked as a lecturer in Trinity College and then as a journalist for RTE. In 1997 she was elected President of Ireland. She has been president for eight years. She lives in Áras an Uachtaráin in the Phoenix Park .

2. Answer these questions. Mark T or F in the boxes below

True or False

1. Mary McAleese's father's name was Leneghan.
2. The Leneghans lived in a Protestant area of Belfast.
3. Mary was an only child.
4. Mary's family left Northern Ireland because of the violence
5. Mary studied law at Trinity College.
6. When Mary first moved to Dublin she worked as a journalist.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | | | | | |

3. Here are the answers to some questions about Mary McAleese. Can you write the questions?

| Question | Answer |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. _____ | 1951 |
| 2. _____ | Leneghan |
| 3. _____ | He was a shopkeeper |
| 4. <i>Where did Mary grow up?</i> | In the Ardoyne |
| 5. _____ School | St Dominic's High |
| 6. _____ | Law |

7. What year did she graduate ? 1973
8. _____ He's a dentist
9. _____ Three- two girls and a boy
10. _____ For eight years

4. Choose a famous person and write a short biography of them.

President Mary MacAleese

MODULE: Media

LEVEL: R1T

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|--|---|
| Time: 60 minutes | Focus: Reading |
| Class organisation: Full group. Pairs | Type of activity: True or False comprehension. Question formation in past simple |
| Can be adapted to: | Prerequisites: Knowledge of past simple |
| FETAC: level 4 Reading | |
| ELP: A2 Read short news articles and identify the important information | |

For this activity you need...

Class set of worksheets

N.B.

In Class Procedure at a Glance

1. Find out if anybody in the class knows the name of the president . Put any answers on the board. This may create an opportunity for a little Irish general knowledge discussion if students come up with other names (Mary Robinson, Mary Harney, Bertie Aherne, Michael MacDowell!) so don't immediately confirm what the correct answer is.
2. Once You've established that the President is Mary MacAleese see how much the students know about her. If you think they are likely to know a few details you could put them in pairs to pool their knowledge but if they are likely to know very little, do it as a whole group brainstorming. Put any information proffered on the board regardless of whether it is correct or not. If students are unwilling to guess encourage them with questions – where do they think she was born? What was her job before she became President, does she have children.

3. Tell students they are going to read a short article (adapted from Wikipedia) The first time they read it they should check if what information on the board is correct.
4. Invite students to come to the board in turn to wipe off any information that is not correct. Encourage students to speak as they remove the incorrect information (*Mary wasn't born in Dublin. She was born in Belfast*)
5. Get students to read the article a second time. This time they must answer the true or false questions. Let them compare answers in pairs before checking for the whole group.
6. Get students to write the questions for the answers given. Let them work individually. Go around checking. Encourage any students who are having problems with the formation of the structure to consult the grammar reference in their portfolios or grammar books.
7. Students compare their questions in pairs or small groups. Encourage discussion and peer explanation where there are divergent answers.
8. The writing exercise can be done in class collaboratively or individually, or set as homework.