

David Walliams

Who Is David Walliams?

David Walliams is a comedian, actor and children's author. He is also a judge on a television talent show and writes scripts for television. David raises money for the charity Sport Relief, which helps people worldwide.



David's Childhood

David was born on 20th August 1971 in Merton, London. He was the youngest child of Peter Williams, an **engineer**, and Kathleen Williams, a **lab technician**. From a young age he loved dressing up and his older sister Julie would often dress him up in girls' clothes.

David went to school in Surrey, where his love of dressing up continued and his love of acting began. He was also on the school swimming team. Aged 11, he performed in his first school play wearing a dress and made the audience laugh. This was the moment he realised that what he wanted to do with his life was entertain people.

David the Actor

After studying drama at the University of Bristol, David changed his surname from Williams to Walliams because there was already an actor called David Williams! David finally got his "big break", co-writing and co-starring in a television show.

David the Author

David had a successful television career but he decided to try something new. He wanted to write a book with the message that it's OK to be different. In 2008, he published 'The Boy in the Dress' about a boy who loves football and wearing dresses. The book sold over half a million copies.



David has now written twelve chapter books for children and six picture books for younger readers, which have sold over eight million copies worldwide. His most famous books include 'Mr Stink', 'Billionaire Boy', 'Gangsta Granny' and 'Ratburger'. He often works with the illustrator Quentin Blake, who also

illustrated Roald Dahl's books. Many of David's books have now been filmed for television and he sometimes appears in these films as an actor!



Amazing Charity Work

David has raised a lot of money for charity through swimming. In July 2006, David swam the **English Channel** to raise money for Sport Relief. He swam 22 miles, the same distance as 700 lengths of an Olympic-sized swimming pool! He raised over one million pounds.

In September 2011, David swam the length of the river Thames (140 miles) and raised more than two million pounds for Sport Relief.

In 2017, he was awarded an **OBE** for his work in charity and the arts.

Glossary

engineer: A person who designs or builds machines, engines, equipment or bridges.

English Channel: The body of water between England and France.

lab technician: A person who assists or carries out work in a laboratory.

OBE: An award presented by The Queen, standing for Officer of the Order of the British Empire.

Questions

1. What were David's parents' jobs? Tick two.

- ☐ hairdresser
- ☐ engineer
- ☐ scientist
- ☐ lab technician

2. When did David first realise he wanted to entertain people? Tick one.

- ☐ when his sister dressed him up
- ☐ when he worked on television
- ☐ when he performed in a school play
- ☐ when he wrote books

3. Draw lines to show different things that David has done at different stages in his life. One has been done for you.

child

He swam the English Channel.

author

He was dressed up by his sister.

charity work

He worked with the illustrator Quentin Blake.

4. Number the events below to show the order in which they happened in David's life.

- ☐ David swam the English Channel.
- ☐ David went to school in Surrey.
- ☐ David published his first book
- ☐ David acted in films of his own books.
- ☐ David swam the river Thames.

5. Find and copy one word that shows David had been waiting a long time for his "big break".

6. Fill in the missing words in this sentence. Use the glossary to help you.

David Walliams was awarded an _____ by The Queen, making him an Officer of the _____ of the British.

7. Which of David's achievements do you think he is most proud of? Give two reasons for your answer.

8. What do you think David will do next in his career? Give reasons for your answer.
