

READING

Winston Churchill

Sir Winston Churchill was a famous British politician and author. He was the British Prime Minister during World War II and he led Britain to victory over Nazi Germany.

Winston Churchill was born to an aristocratic family on November 30, 1874. At school, he was an independent and rebellious student. He didn't do well and in April 1888, he was sent to Harrow School, a boarding school near London. His father decided to enter him into an army career. It took Winston three tries to pass the entrance exam to the Royal Military College, but when he got there, he was a good student.

In 1895, Churchill's father died. In the same year, Churchill joined the British Army and served in India and Africa. In 1899, Churchill left the army and worked as a war correspondent. He recorded his experiences in *The Story of the Malakand Field Force* (1898) and *The River War* (1899).

In 1900, Churchill became a Member of Parliament for the Conservative Party. In 1904, he switched to the Liberal Party. When he was the First Lord of the Admiralty, he helped modernize the British Navy. He was also enthusiastic about flying and warplanes. In the final year of World War I, he became the Minister of Munitions.

In 1922, Churchill left the Liberal Party and rejoined the Conservative Party. He served as the Chancellor of the Exchequer. In 1929, the Conservative Party lost the elections and Churchill was out of government. He spent the next few years concentrating on his writing and worked on his book *A History of the English Speaking Peoples*.

In the 1930s, Churchill saw the danger of Hitler's Germany. On September 3, 1939, Churchill was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty. On May 10, 1940, Churchill became the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence. He placed intelligent and talented men in key positions. He worked closely with U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Soviet Union leader Joseph Stalin. The Allies won the war in 1945.

After the war, Churchill spent six years as the leader of opposition. He warned against Soviet domination in Eastern Europe. In 1951, he returned to the government and was a Member of Parliament until 1964. In 1953, he got the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Winston Churchill died at his London home on January 24, 1965, at the age of ninety.

1 Read the text and answer the following questions.

- 1 How many times did Winston Churchill try to pass the entrance exam to the Royal Military College? _____
- 2 What happened to Churchill in 1900? _____
- 3 What did Churchill do when he was the First Lord of the Admiralty? _____
- 4 When did Winston Churchill become the Prime Minister? _____
- 5 When did World War II end? _____
- 6 What did Churchill warn against after World War II? _____
- 7 When did Churchill get the Nobel Prize? _____

2 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Winston Churchill's father died in 1888. _____
- 2 Churchill served in Africa and India. _____
- 3 Churchill wasn't interested in planes. _____
- 4 In the last year of World War I, Churchill became the Minister of Munitions. _____
- 5 Churchill changed political parties during his career. _____
- 6 Winston Churchill got the Nobel Peace Prize. _____
- 7 Winston Churchill lived a long life. _____

KEY

1 Read the text and answer the following questions.

- 1 How many times did Winston Churchill try to pass the entrance exam to the Royal Military College? **three times**
- 2 What happened to Churchill in 1900? **he became a Member of Parliament for the Conservative Party**
- 3 What did Churchill do when he was the First Lord of the Admiralty? **he modernized the British Navy**
- 4 When did Winston Churchill become the Prime Minister? **on May 10, 1940**
- 5 When did World War II end? **in 1945**
- 6 What did Churchill warn against after World War II? **against Soviet domination in Eastern Europe**
- 7 When did Churchill get the Nobel Prize? **in 1953**

2 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Winston Churchill's father died in 1888. **F (in 1895)**
- 2 Churchill served in Africa and India. **T**
- 3 Churchill wasn't interested in planes. **F (he was enthusiastic about flying and warplanes)**
- 4 In the last year of World War I, Churchill became the Minister of Munitions. **T**
- 5 Churchill changed political parties during his career. **T**
- 6 Winston Churchill got the Nobel Peace Prize. **F (he got the Nobel Prize for Literature)**
- 7 Winston Churchill lived a long life. **T (he was 90 when he died)**