

# 7 People: past and present

**READING SKILLS** Using original sources

**RESEARCH** Using the Internet • Developing a search plan

**WRITING SKILLS** Adding extra information • Organizing ideas (2) • Writing from research

## READING Three famous writers

1 Think of two books you have read recently. Who wrote them? What were they about? Why did you read them? Discuss with a partner.

2 Look quickly at extracts a–g on page 41. Which ones are about ... ?

☐ ☐ William Shakespeare ☐ ☐ Agatha Christie ☐ ☐ Ahmed Shawqi

3 Scan the extracts from websites and complete the notes in the chart.

### Read Study Skill

### STUDY SKILL Using original sources

Decide what information you need from a source. Scan the text to find the relevant part.

Original sources often have difficult language and unknown vocabulary, so don't worry about not understanding *everything*. You can:

- guess the meaning of unknown words from context (See Study Skill p17).
- use a dictionary.
- try a different source.

	Shakespeare	Agatha Christie	Ahmed Shawqi
country			
born			
early life and family			
profession			
famous for			
death			

4 Match the dictionary definitions with a word in bold from the texts.

- 1 A \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who writes poetry.
- 2 If a subject is \_\_\_\_\_, there is very little written information about it.
- 3 A \_\_\_\_\_ is a book that is bought by a very large number of people.
- 4 If you have a book \_\_\_\_\_, you have it prepared and printed for sale.
- 5 A \_\_\_\_\_ is a play that has a sad ending.
- 6 An \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who writes books.
- 7 A \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who writes plays.
- 8 A \_\_\_\_\_ is a play or film that makes you laugh.



William Shakespeare



Agatha Christie



Ahmed Shawqi



@ [http://encarta.msn.com/text\\_761562101\\_0/Shakespeare.html](http://encarta.msn.com/text_761562101_0/Shakespeare.html)

**a** William Shakespeare (1564–1616), English **playwright** and poet, recognized in much of the world as the greatest of all dramatists . . . For someone who lived almost 400 years ago, a surprising amount is known about Shakespeare's life. Indeed we know more about his life than about almost any other writer of his age . . . Shakespeare wrote nearly all of his plays from 1590 to 1611. The great **tragedies** – including Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, and Macbeth – were written during the first decade of the 1600s. Shakespeare died on April 23, 1616.

@ <http://homepage.mac.com/larrynickel/Bani%20Adam%20-%20part%202.html>

**b** Ahmad Shawqi was born in Cairo in 1868 to a middle class family which was related to the royal family. He was raised by his grandmother . . .

@ [http://www.online-literature.com/agatha\\_christie/](http://www.online-literature.com/agatha_christie/)

**c** Agatha Christie (1890–1976), British **author** of mystery novels and short stories, is especially famous as the creator of Hercule Poirot, the Belgian detective, and Miss Jane Marple.

Agatha Christie was born in Torquay, in the county of Devon. Her father died when she was a child. Christie was educated at home, where her mother encouraged her to write from a very early age. At sixteen she was sent to school in Paris where she studied singing and piano.

In 56 years Christie wrote 66 detective novels, among the best of which are The Murder of Roger Acrotyd, Murder On The Orient Express (1934), Death On The Nile (1937) . . .

In 1967 Christie became president of the British Detection Club, and in 1971 she was made a Dame of the British Empire. Christie died on January 12, 1976. With over one hundred novels and 103 translations into foreign languages, Christie was by the time of her death the best-selling English novelist of all time.

@ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmed\\_Shawqi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmed_Shawqi)

**d** Ahmed Shawqi (1868–1932) (Arabic: \_\_\_\_\_); Egyptian **poet** and dramatist . . . Shawqi produced distinctive poetry that is widely considered to be the most prominent of the 20th century Arabic literary movement.

. . . his family was well-connected with the court of the Khedive of Egypt. He attended law school, obtaining a degree in translation. Shawqi was then offered a job in the court of the Khedive Abbas II, which he immediately accepted. After a year working in the court of the Khedive, Shawqi was sent to continue his studies in Law at the Universities of Montpellier and Paris for three years.

#### Plays

Shawqi was the first in Arabic literature to write poetic plays. He wrote five tragedies . . . and two **comedies**.

#### Poetry

Ash-Shawqiyyat, his selected works, in four volumes, including Nahj al-Burda, a tribute to the prophet Muhammed.

@ <http://www.answers.com/topic/ahmed-shawqi>

**e** Ahmed Shawqi is known as 'the poet of Arabism and Islam',

His collection of poetry, Al Shawkiyat, **published** initially in 1890, remains a classic of Islamic literature.

His family's connection to Khedive's palace led him to spend his early life in luxurious conditions. After completing his education in law in Paris in 1893 and spending an additional six months in France, he returned to Egypt. Celebrating the publishing of the second edition of Al Shawkiyat, in April 1927, Shawqi was named Poet Laureate of Egypt.

@ [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic\\_figures/shakespeare\\_william.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/shakespeare_william.shtml)

**f** Shakespeare's reputation as dramatist, poet and actor is unique . . . Sadly his life-story remains **ill-documented**. We do know that Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire, England, and that he was probably educated in the town's free grammar school. Then in 1582 he married Anne Hathaway.

The first collected edition of Shakespeare's works was published after his death in 1623 and is known as the First Folio. The plays fall into the categories of history, tragedy, comedy and tragicomedy.

@ [http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia\\_761574878/Agatha\\_Christie.html](http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761574878/Agatha_Christie.html)

**g** Agatha Christie (1890–1976), English novelist, who was a prolific writer of mystery stories. She was born in Torquay. The Mysterious Affair at Styles (1920) began her career. Hercule Poirot is the hero of many of her works, including the classic **bestseller** The Murder of Roger Ackroyd (1926).

In 1930, while travelling in the Middle East, Christie met the noted English archaeologist Sir Max Mallowan. They were married that year, and from that time on Christie accompanied her husband on annual trips to Iraq and Syria.

In 1971 she was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire.



## RESEARCH Information on the Net

1 Read the two extracts about Shakespeare. What do you notice?

### Read Study Skill

- 1 For someone who lived almost 400 years ago, a surprising amount is known about Shakespeare's life. Indeed we know more about his life than about almost any other writer of his age.
- 2 Sadly, his life-story remains ill-documented.

### STUDY SKILL Using the Internet

The Internet is a huge resource, so get to know different types of sites for finding information.

- **Search engines:** [www.google.com](http://www.google.com), [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com) to find a fact, such as *the boiling point of mercury*.  
Some sites, [www.ask.uk.com](http://www.ask.uk.com), for example, are designed so that you type in a question, such as *What is the boiling point of mercury?*
- **Online encyclopaedias:** [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org), [www.bartleby.com](http://www.bartleby.com) for more complete factual information, such as *the lifecycle of a mosquito*.
- **Subject directories:** [www.bubl.ac.uk](http://www.bubl.ac.uk), [www.rdn.ac.uk](http://www.rdn.ac.uk) for specialist online and written resources linked to a specific subject (economics, history, etc.) such as *World History 500–1799 + country*.

Remember that information from websites is not always reliable, so check information on two or more sites.

2 **Read Study Skill** Look at the three questions. Use a search engine to find the answers.

- 1 What is Chopin famous for?  
(Search: **Chopin**)
- 2 When did Jane Austen write *Persuasion*?  
(Search first: **Jane Austen**, search second: *Persuasion*)
- 3 What is Angola's main export?  
(Search phrase: **Angola's main export**)



3 What type of Internet site would answers questions 1–6? Identify and underline the keywords, and then look up the information. Compare answers from at least two different sites. Is the information the same?

- 1 What is the average summer temperature in Amman?
- 2 How far is the Sun from the Earth?
- 3 When was the English author Charles Dickens born?
- 4 What percentage of the human body is water?
- 5 What is the average rainfall in the Amazon in May and December?
- 6 What are the main stages of the life cycle of a butterfly?

### STUDY SKILL Developing a search plan

To make an Internet search more efficient and reliable, develop a search plan.

Ask yourself questions:

- What is the general search topic?
- What information do I need to find out?
- What keywords and phrases will help me?

List the keywords and phrases in order of importance.

4 Read the notes about the two famous people. Three facts about each person are incorrect. Can you guess which ones?

5 Use the Internet to find and correct the mistakes. Underline key words or phrases to search for.



**Marie Curie** – born in France – 1867.

- the first woman to win two Nobel Prizes.
- famous for discovery, with husband Pierre, of radium – couple got the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1903.
- after husband's death continued working – 1921, won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry.



**Zinedine Zidane** – born – 1975 – Paris, France.

- one of the best footballers of all time – played for France many times.
- scored two goals in 1998 World Cup Final v. Argentina (France won 3–0), and one goal in 2006 World Cup Final.

## WRITING Biographies

1 Read the biography of Roger Federer. Answer the questions.

- 1 When and where was he born?
- 2 When did he win his first 'Grand Slam' title?
- 3 Which three competitions did he win in 2004?
- 4 Who has also won four Wimbledon finals in a row?
- 5 What is the name of Federer's special project?

**Roger Federer** is probably the best and most famous tennis player in the world today. He was born in Basle, in Switzerland in 1981. His parents, <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, encouraged him to start playing tennis when he was eight years old. He won his first Wimbledon title, the Wimbledon Junior, at the age of sixteen. Over the next few years he played all over the world, including in Australia, <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.

However, it was in the year 2003 that he really began to show just how good he was. He started the year by winning two tournaments in a row, in Dubai and Marseilles. He also won his first Grand Slam title at the Wimbledon Championships. In 2004 he won three out of four Grand Slam titles, in the Australian Open, Wimbledon, and the US Open. In 2006 he equalled Pete Sampras's record of winning Wimbledon four times in a row. However, he is still one championship behind Björn Borg.

<sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. When he is not playing tennis, Federer is busy with his special project, the Roger Federer Foundation, <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. He is also a Goodwill Ambassador to Unicef, which also helps poor children around the world.



2 Here is some extra information about the tennis player. Write it in the correct place in the text. **Read Study Skill**

- who won five consecutive finals at Wimbledon
- where he represented Switzerland in the 2000 Olympics Games
- which helps disadvantaged children
- who met when Roger's father was in South Africa on business

### STUDY SKILL Adding extra information

One way of adding extra information is to use a non-defining relative clause.

- *Roger Federer is a very famous tennis player. He was born in Basle.*
- *Roger Federer, who was born in Basle, is a very famous tennis player.*
- *Roger Federer, who is a very famous tennis player, was born in Basle.*

Use commas and relative pronouns *who* (for people), *which* (for things and animals), and *where* (for places, but omit 'there').

*Basle is a city in Switzerland. Roger Federer was born there.*

*Basle, where Roger Federer was born, is a city in Switzerland.*



3 Join the two sentences using a relative clause with *who*, *which*, or *where*.

1 Arthur Conan Doyle was a Scottish doctor. He wrote the Sherlock Holmes stories.

2 The film *Amadeus* is about the life of Mozart. It won eight Oscars.

3 Stratford-upon-Avon is a beautiful little town. Shakespeare was born there.

4 **Read Study Skill** Put the biographical information about Nelson Mandela into chronological order.

#### **STUDY SKILL** Organizing ideas (2)

Always consider carefully the most appropriate way to organize the information in your writing.

When writing, a biography, for example, it is usual to follow a chronological order, that is, time order.

#### **Nelson Mandela** – most famous politician in the world

- actively involved in the African National Congress and the fight against apartheid – the separation of black and white people
- became first democratically elected president of South Africa in 1994
- Mandela – born in South Africa in 1918 – became the most famous statesman in the world
- retired from politics in 2004, moved back to Qunu – he was born there
- was released from prison after 27 years in 1990, won the Nobel Peace Prize – shared with President de Klerk



5 Use the information from exercise 4 to write a short biography of Mandela (approximately 100 words). Use relative pronouns.

#### **Writing from research**

6 Write a biography of a famous person from your academic field or from your country (150 words). Research five central facts: birth, early life, career, what he/she is most famous for, what he/she is doing today, and add extra information.

## RESEARCH Crediting sources

- 1 **Read Study Skill** Look carefully at the book references. Are the statements true (T) or false (F)?

Curnick, L. (2005). *Biology Made Easy*. Crawford Press.  
Marsden, P. (2004). *Life in Rural Egypt*. Axminster University Press.

- 1 There is a comma after the author's family name.
- 2 The author's first name is written in full.
- 3 There is a full stop after the author's initial.
- 4 The year of publication is in brackets.
- 5 There is a comma after the year of publication.
- 6 The title of the book can be underlined or written in italics.
- 7 There is a full stop after the title of the book.
- 8 There is a comma at the end of the reference.

- 2 Write out the references as entries in a bibliography.

<i>The Greatest Inventions of All Time</i>	John Reading	Axminster Uni. Press	2001
<i>I is for Information</i>	Helen Campbell	Uni. of Ashford Press	2005
<i>A History of the Periodic Table</i>	Fern Daniell	Crawford Press	2004
<i>A Student's Guide to Study Skills</i>	Christine Dix	Edinburgh Book Press	2001
<i>What is Information Technology?</i>	Simon Naylor	Rogers and Sons	2005

- 3 Look carefully at the website acknowledgement. Notice the style.

"Avicenna" Wikipedia. The Free Encyclopedia  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn\\_Sina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_Sina) (15 June 2006).

Find and correct one style mistake in each of the web references 1–3.

- 1  
"History Trail: Archaeology" BBC  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/lj/archaeologylj/preview/shtml> (1 May 2006)
- 2  
"Periodic Table" Webelements  
<http://www.webelements.com/> (6 November 2006)
- 3  
"United Arab Emirates" WorldAtlas.com  
<http://worldatlas.com/webimage/countries/asia/ae.htm> 22 October 2006

## STUDY SKILL Acknowledgements

Writing an essay often involves using information taken from other sources, e.g. books or websites. It is important to acknowledge these sources in a bibliography at the end of your essay.

Styles vary in different departments. Check your department's style and use the same.

### For books:

- list the sources by author's surname in alphabetical order.
- give the author's name, the title, the publisher, the year of publication.
- use the same order and punctuation for each reference.

### For websites:

- give the author's name if known.
- give the title of an article in inverted commas and underline or italicize the source of the work.
- give the full address.
- give the date you accessed the web page in brackets.