

The British statesman who led Britain during World War II

Winston Churchill did not do well at school. He joined the army and had many adventures in Cuba, India and the Sudan. In 1899 Churchill left the army and went to South Africa as a newspaper reporter during the Boer War. He was captured by the Boers but he managed to escape.

In 1900 he was elected to parliament. He held several government posts. During the First World War he served as head of the Admiralty.

During the 1930s Churchill was not in the government. He warned that there was a danger of another world war, but many people ignored him. However, when the Second World War came the prime minister, Neville Chamberlain, put Churchill in charge of the Admiralty again.

When German armies were overrunning Europe in May 1940, King George VI asked him to be prime

minister. His courage and his speeches inspired the people of England to withstand air raids and military defeats, and carry on to victory. His speeches were a triumph over difficulties, for in his early years Churchill had a stutter, and he had to fight hard to cure it.



Churchill remained prime minister until the election of 1945, just before the war ended. He became prime minister again from 1951 to 1955. He gave up politics in 1964 and died in 1965.

Churchill was also a writer. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1953 for such books as „The Second World War“.

Multiple Choice:

Winston Churchill

- wasn't very good at school.
- didn't go to school at all.
- was trained as a school teacher.

Churchill

- was a French officer.
- was a German sailor.
- was a British soldier.

Churchill was a good speaker,

- but couldn't write at all.
- and also a good writer.
- and a good photographer.

Churchill worked

- as a reporter for a newspaper.
- as a clergyman in a South African church.
- as a doctor in Germany.

The Admiralty

- is a new card game.
- is concerned with ships.
- is a British newspaper.

In May 1940

- German troops won the war against France.
- British troops conquered Berlin.
- Chamberlain became prime minister.

Churchill wrote:

- "Alone At Home"
- "The Second World War"
- "War Of The Worlds"

In his early years Churchill had a stutter, that is

- he spoke fluently.
- he didn't speak fluently.
- he didn't speak at all.

When did Churchill give up politics?

- When he was a young man.
- Long before he died.
- One year before he died.

Churchill was awarded the Nobel Prize

- for peace.
- in physics.
- in literature.

Churchill's famous hand gesture in which he raised two fingers for a V sign symbolizes

- Valentine.
- vodka.
- victory.

The Boer War was

- before the First World War.
- between the two wars.
- after the Second World War.

In the Second World War Britain fought against

- France.
- Germany.
- the USA.

Some of Churchill's famous sayings:

I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat.

(*On the Battle of Britain:*) Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.

The greatest lesson in life is to know that even fools are right sometimes.

(*Speech in House of Commons, May 1940:*) What is our aim?...Victory - victory at all costs, victory in spite

of all terror, victory however long and hard the road may be; for without victory there is no survival.

Bessie Braddock (a socialist politician): Mr Churchill, you are drunk.

Winston Churchill: And you madam, are ugly. But I shall be sober tomorrow.

(*Speech in March 1946:*) From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic an iron curtain has descended across the Continent.