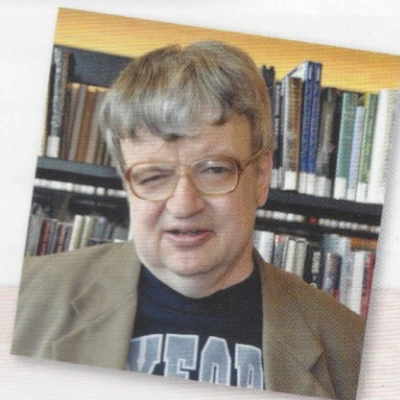


# Welcome section A

- \* Grammar: past tense review; *be/get used to* + gerund vs. *used to* + infinitive
- \* Vocabulary: personality adjectives; *make* and *do*

## 1 Read and listen

- a** Read about Laurence Kim Peek. How was he special?



## The Real Rain Man

Laurence Kim Peek was born in Salt Lake City on 11 November 1951. It was clear from an early age that he was not like other children. A scan showed that the two halves of his brain were not connected in the usual way. As a result, Laurence developed the most amazing memory skills. From as early as two, he showed a fascination with books. He used to pick up books, read them and put them back on the shelf upside down to show that he had finished reading them. He remembered everything he had read.

He soon began to memorise huge amounts of information on subjects such as history, geography, sport, music and literature. He also had an incredible ability with numbers and dates.

He developed a special technique to help him read quickly. He read the left page with his left eye and the right page with his right eye. He could read at a speed of about ten seconds a page and, by reading two pages at the same time, it would take him less than an hour to read a whole book. By the age of 30 he had memorised the contents of around 12,000 books.

However, other areas of his development were not so advanced. He did not walk until the age of four and had problems with ordinary motor skills such as doing up a button or tying his shoe laces. He had poor social skills and was extremely sensitive when meeting new people. He also did badly in intelligence tests.

In 1984, Peek and his father were attending a convention, when they met Hollywood film writer Barry Morrow. He was fascinated by Peek and began to write a new script based loosely on his experiences. The result was *Rain Man*, a film which won four Oscars, including best film, in 1988. The film made a big difference to Peek's life. His new-found fame helped him to become more self-confident and independent. He quickly got used to being the centre of attention and made several appearances on TV. He also travelled extensively around the country with his father to raise awareness of the condition he suffered from. Morrow gave his Oscar statuette to Peek to take with him. It became known as the 'most loved Oscar ever', as Peek insisted that everyone he met should take a turn at holding it. He died, sadly, of a heart attack at the end of 2009.

- b** ▶ **CD1 T02** Read the text again and listen. Mark the statements *T* (true) or *F* (false).

- 1 The right and left sides of Peek's brain were not connected. ☒ **T**
- 2 Peek had an amazing memory. ☐
- 3 Peek could read two different things at the same time. ☐
- 4 Peek had trouble carrying out basic physical actions. ☐
- 5 Peek won an Oscar. ☐
- 6 Peek was never comfortable with his fame. ☐

## 2 Past tense review

Complete the text with the correct past tense of the verbs.

Gilles Trehin was born in France in 1972. When he was eight, his family <sup>1</sup> moved (move) to the USA. While they <sup>2</sup> ..... (live) in America, doctors <sup>3</sup> ..... (diagnose) Gilles with autism. Over the years he <sup>4</sup> ..... (develop) a great talent for music, mental calculation and drawing. He <sup>5</sup> ..... (begin) to draw plans of an imaginary city called Urville in 1984.

While he <sup>6</sup> ..... (work) on plans for the modern form of the city he <sup>7</sup> ..... (start) creating a culture and history for it. Gilles says that the Romans <sup>8</sup> ..... (give) Urville its name, but it was founded by the Phoenicians who <sup>9</sup> ..... (call) it Sea Horse City before the Roman invasion.