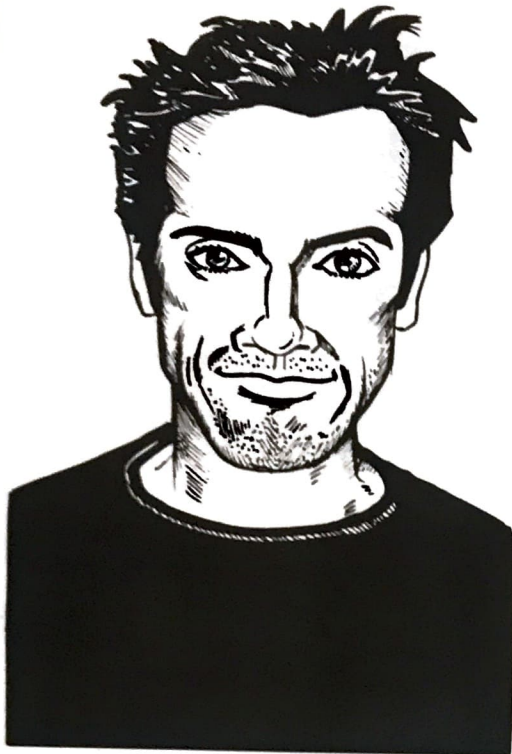


Summarising - 2

Read the biography.

DAVID COPPERFIELD

Master of illusions



David Copperfield was born David Seth Kotkin on 16 September 1956, in New Jersey, USA.

From a young age David had a passion for magic and entertaining. He was performing magic to audiences in his home town when he was twelve and by sixteen he was teaching magic at the University of New York.

Two years later, David won the lead role in a Chicago-based Broadway musical, 'The magic man', which broke box office records. He continued to work, tirelessly touring, performing his magic and illusions to audiences across America. This led to his own television show. 'The magic of David Copperfield' became an extremely popular and regular television special across the globe. David performed his greatest magical illusions such as walking through the Great Wall of China, making the Statue of Liberty disappear and levitating across the Grand Canyon. He also survived a plunge over Niagara Falls and was the first person to escape Alcatraz Penitentiary.

David claims that he uses no camera tricks or visual effects and that each illusion takes about two and half years to perfect. His incredible 'flying' illusion was the result of seven years' work.

The world recognised David Copperfield's amazing talent with many awards, a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and a lifelike wax figurine of himself at Madame Tussaud's in London.

David created the International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts, which houses many of the world's collections of historical documentation and artefacts about magic. He also developed Project Magic, which is run in over 1000 hospitals across the United States. The project helps to rehabilitate people, assisting them regain the use of their hands and improve their hand-eye coordination, by teaching them magic tricks to practise.

In April 2006 in Florida, David and two of his assistants were robbed at gunpoint. The assistants gave the gunmen their money and other valuables but, in a police statement, David explained how he used his famous 'sleight-of-hand' trick to make his wallet disappear. The men were identified and later arrested.

David continues to do approximately 500 performances each year and has been named as one of the world's highest paid celebrities, with earnings of approximately 57 million dollars a year. David Copperfield combines storytelling, spectacular illusions and entertaining theatre to be one of the world's greatest illusionists.

Summarising



Try it out

Use the strategies you learnt and practised in *Trapped miners freed after 14 days* to summarise information.

- Make sure you understand the question and underline keywords.
- Look for information in the text, decide what is important and how it is connected.
- Omit any unnecessary or unconnected information.
- Always check all the possible answers before making a decision.

1. Which sentence would you leave out of a summary of how David Copperfield became the 'Master of illusions'?

- (a) David had a passion for magic and entertaining at a young age.
- (b) David taught magic at the University of New York.
- (c) David became well known by performing his magic shows across the country.
- (d) David has his own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The best answer is .

2. Make a summary of David Copperfield's most spectacular illusions.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

3. Which sentence best summarises how David creates his illusions?

- (a) He finds the ideas for the illusions in his antique books about magic.
- (b) He bases his illusions around famous landmarks.
- (c) He spends a lot of time perfecting the illusions without using camera tricks.
- (d) He tries to think of illusions that are extremely dangerous.

The best answer is .

4. Write a short summary of the events that occurred in April of 2006.

- _____
- _____

5. Write a paragraph that summarises David Copperfield's greatest achievements.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Think!
Read the text and underline David's achievements. Choose the ones which are the most important and write your summary.