

Speaking Card 29

Famous British People

● Can you tell me about some famous British authors in history?

William Shakespeare is one of the most famous writers / playwrights ever. He wrote plays like *Hamlet* / *Romeo and Juliet*. He wrote comedies and tragedies for a theatre in London called The Globe. J. R. R. Tolkien wrote fantasy novels such as *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. Agatha Christie was a famous crime writer. She wrote books about a detective called Hercule Poirot. Charles Dickens wrote about poor children in London. His most famous novels are *A Christmas Carol* and *Oliver Twist*.

● Do you know any modern British authors?

Roald Dahl wrote children's books like *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. J. K. Rowling is famous for writing books about a wizard called Harry Potter. Philip Pullman wrote the fantasy trilogy *His Dark Materials*.

● Which British sportspeople do you know?

David Beckham is a famous footballer / football player who played for England and Manchester United. Wayne Rooney and Rio Ferdinand are famous footballers. Andy Murray from Scotland is a tennis champion / tennis player. Lewis Hamilton is a famous racing driver who races in Formula 1.

● Tell me about some important politicians in British history.

Sir Winston Churchill was a famous British politician. He was prime minister during the Second World War. Margaret Thatcher was the first female prime minister in the UK. Today David Cameron is the prime minister of the UK.

● Do you know any famous British musicians or pop stars?

The Beatles and The Rolling Stones were famous bands in the 1960s. Today One Direction are the biggest British pop band. Other bands are / include Take That / Mumford and Sons / Coldplay. Singers like Adele / Ellie Goulding / Charlie XCX / Robbie Williams, and Amy Winehouse are also popular / have lots of fans.

● Can you think of any famous British actors?

Benedict Cumberbatch who plays Sherlock Holmes / Kate Winslet who starred in / acted in *Titanic* and the *Divergent* series. Other well-known actors are Emma Watson (Hermione in the Harry Potter films) / Colin Firth (*The King's Speech*) / Rowan Atkinson (Mr Bean) / Robert Pattinson (Twilight films).

● Do you know any famous British inventors or thinkers?

Sir Isaac Newton wrote about the theory of gravity in the 1700s. A Scot called Sir Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1876. Robert Stephenson is famous for the first steam engine called The Rocket. Charles Darwin wrote an important book called *On the Origin of Species*, all about evolution and animals, in the 1800s. John Logie Baird invented the television in 1925. Professor Stephen Hawking is a physicist who writes about the universe and black holes.

● Can you tell me about the British royal family?

The royal family has a long history. King Henry VIII was a famous king who had six wives in the 1500s and he started the Church of England (= anglikánská cirkev). Queen Victoria ruled for 64 years – and lots happened during this time: Britain became a very powerful country around the world, more people lived in proper houses and children started to go to school. Queen Elizabeth II is now the queen; one of her sons is Prince Charles, and her grandson Prince William is married to Kate Middleton.

● Do you know any important British explorers?

In the 1570s Sir Francis Drake was the second person to sail around the world. Captain Cook explored Australia / New Zealand in the 18th century. Captain Scott explored the Antarctic and was the second person in the world to reach the South Pole.

● Are there any other modern famous British people you can think of?

Simon Cowell is a very successful record producer who started the *X Factor* and many TV talent shows. Kate Moss / Cara Delevingne / Naomi Campbell are famous models. Banksy is a famous graffiti artist.



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02



03



Prince Charles

Princess Charlotte

Prince George

Prince William

Catherine Middleton

Queen Elizabeth II

04



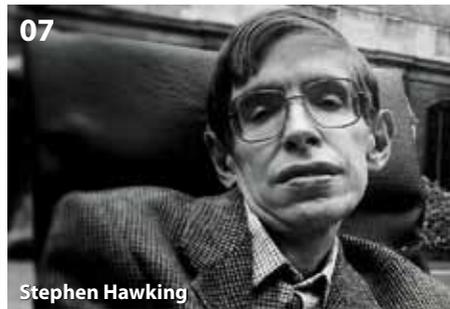
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David Cameron



06

Wayne Rooney



07

Stephen Hawking



08

Benedict Cumberbatch



09

Coldplay



10

Emma Watson



11

Kate Moss