

PROPUESTA 1

THE YOUNG ELVIS

Elvis Presley was born in a two-room house in Tupelo, Mississippi, an area that can experience extremes of weather, from hot summers to unbelievably cold winters. His twin brother, Jessie, was dead at birth, leaving Elvis to grow up as an only child. From an early age, Elvis showed a tendency for music. For his 11th birthday, as a gift from his parents, Elvis chose an acoustic guitar. The Tupelo Hardware Store on Main Street, where the guitar was purchased, is famous to this day and is visited by thousands of fans. The owners are proud of their Elvis connection.

Elvis used to spend all evenings sitting around on his family porch and trying to master the rudiments of guitar playing. Dreaming, imagining, but never in his wildest dreams knowing where his passion for music would lead him. Folks who knew Elvis at that time remember that he often gave away whatever toys he had to other children.

In 1946 Elvis commenced at Junior High School in Tupelo, entering the 6th grade class in which he looked very much out of place, the only pupil wearing overalls. By 7th grade, he used to take his guitar to school daily and play in the lunch and break periods, trying to impress his classmates. While he was in the 8th grade, school bullies cut the strings of his guitar, but classmates collected enough money to buy him new ones.

The only few photos that exist of Elvis during the time he lived in Tupelo and attended the school give very little inkling of the devastatingly handsome looks that would wow millions of female fans once he became a worldwide phenomenon.

Adapted from *The Elvis Archives*. Todd Slaughter

Answer the following questions using the information given in the text.

1. Where was Elvis born?
2. What is the weather like in Tupelo?
3. How many brothers did Elvis have when he was a teenager?
4. What present did Elvis get for his 11th birthday?
5. Why is Tupelo Hardware Store visited by thousands of tourists nowadays?
6. How did Elvis use to spend his evenings in Tupelo?
7. Was Elvis generous when he was a kid?
8. Why did Elvis take his guitar to school?
9. What problem did Elvis have when he was in the 8th grade?
10. Was Elvis a good-looking boy during the time that he lived in Tupelo?

PROPUESTA 2

ENGLISH IN THE WORLD

When Shakespeare was young, English was known almost exclusively to native speakers and there were only seven millions of them.

The contrast with the position of English four hundred years later is extraordinary: now it is in daily use by seven hundred million people, and only half of them are native speakers of the language. It is the language on which the sun does not set, whose users never sleep. For between 1600 and 1900, speakers of English pushed themselves into every part of the globe, so that at this present time, English is the chief language of more countries than any other language is or has ever been.

Though not so relevant, there is another contrast between 1600 and nowadays. In the 17th Century almost no one who was not actually brought up speaking English even bothered to learn it. However, English is at present in daily use among over five hundred million people who were not brought up speaking English as their native language. Most of them live in countries requiring English for "external purposes": contact with people in other countries, trade and scientific advance. We refer to these countries as EFL (English as a Foreign Language) countries.

There are also many people who live in countries where English is not a native language, but where English is in widespread use for "internal purposes": in administration, in broadcasting, in education. In countries like India English is, rather than a foreign language, a second language, that is, one of the national languages, along with indigenous ones.

English has become the world's lingua franca in the globalized world of the 21st Century, in the same way as Latin was the main language for communication in the ancient world.

Adapted from *English in the World*. R. Quirk and H.G. Widdowson

Answer the following questions using the information given in the text.

1. Who spoke English when Shakespeare was young?
2. What is the main contrast between English in 1600 and English nowadays?
3. Why is English the language "on which the sun does not set, whose users never sleep"?
4. Did people use to learn English four hundred years ago?
5. How many non-native speakers of English are there nowadays?
6. What do you understand by "EFL"?
7. What do people who live in EFL countries want English for?
8. Why is English considered as a second language and not a foreign language in India?
9. Is Latin a lingua franca nowadays?
10. What do English and Latin have in common?