

## THE IELTS GRIND. A FAMOUS PERSON FROM HISTORY. TRANSCRIPT

The prompt today is describe a person from history you admire.

Okay, so I'm cheating a little bit here because I love history so this is going to be okay for me, but how would we approach this task? When you go into the exam, the examiner is going to give you the prompt, they're going to give you a pen, they're going to give you a piece of paper and they're going to give you one minute to prepare what you want to say. After that point you have to talk for two minutes on that topic, and it's really within that one minute that you're coming up with ideas to talk about. You shouldn't be coming up with sentences or a full script, it's really just to help you talk about the topic, but it's not really reading from the prompt.

With the story method what we're going to do is to come up with some notes and we're going to tell the examiner a story and within that we're trying to use uncommon vocabulary, we're also trying to use a mix of simple and complex grammar. If we do that, among other things, we're going to get a pretty good score in the IELTS exam.

*Describe a person from history you admire.*

*You should say:*

*who they were*

*why they were important*

*when you first heard about them*

*how they influenced you.*

Douglas Bader was born back in 1910. He's a very famous British pilot, and he was born in England, but spent much of his childhood growing up in India, but also he was separated from his family when he was sent back to the UK to go to a public school. Now a public school is a private school and this is one where you have to pay a lot of money, so he was quite well off.

Eventually, after not being a very good student in his primary and secondary school, he actually found a love of flying and he wanted to join an organization called The Royal Air Force (The RAF) and there's a very famous training school or training academy, it's called Cranwell and he joined that in the early 1920s and there's a famous story from his book which is called 'Reach For The Sky', where he rides to his first day at school in the RAF on his motorcycle and he actually falls off the motorcycle and he damages his bowler hat, because he's had it over the headlight and when he goes into the military school, Cranwell, he has to march and his hat stands up on end.

Unfortunately, he had an accident in 1920 ish, 1930 I think, where he actually lost his legs. They had to be amputated, so he was very famous as being the only pilot, one of the only pilots in the second world war who had no legs and this is why he's so famous.

## **VOCABULARY**

amputate (verb) - to cut off somebody's arm, leg, finger or toe in a medical operation

bowler hat (noun) - a hard black hat with a curved brim and round top, worn, for example, in the past by men in business in Britain

headlight (noun) - a large light, usually one of two, at the front of a vehicle; the beam from this light

ish (adverb) - used after a statement to make it less definite

march (verb) - to walk with stiff regular steps like a soldier

prisoner of war (noun) - a person, usually a member of the armed forces, who is captured by the enemy during a war and kept in a prison camp until the war has finished

prompt (verb) - to make somebody decide to do something; to cause something to happen

script (noun) - a written text of a play, film, broadcast, talk, etc.

well off (adjective) - having a lot of money