



ELVIS PRESLEY

You are going to listen to a brief history of the American singer Elvis Presley. Complete the exercises below. Try not to read the text until you have completed the exercises. Remember, you can listen as many times as you need to, so don't worry if it seems difficult to understand when you listen for the first time.

I. BEFORE YOU LISTEN.

Match the words in A with the definitions in B. Use a dictionary to check your answers.

A

B

mourning

made the streets full so nothing could move

jammed the streets

a large and expensive American car

be surrounded by

sudden serious medical condition when the heart stops working

Cadillac

a feeling of sadness when someone dies

heart attack

always have something around you



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2. LISTEN TO THE RECORDING.

Answer the questions below.

a) Who was the president of the United States when Elvis Presley died?

b) How old was Elvis when the family moved to Memphis?

c) What did Elvis do in the summer of 1953?

d) Where did Elvis meet his future wife, Pricilla Presley?

e) Who inherited Elvis's money when he died?



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3. LISTEN AGAIN.

What is the significance of these numbers?

a) 100 000 000

b) 20 000

c) 35 000

d) 5000

e) 14

f) 750 000



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4. LISTEN AGAIN.

Write the correct year to complete the information below about Elvis Presley's life and career.

Year	Event
<u>1935</u>	Born January 8 th , Tupelo, Mississippi.
_____	Family moved to Memphis, Tennessee.
_____	Left school and became a truck driver.
_____	Recorded <i>That's All Right</i> in July.
_____	Colonel Tom Parker became manager; contract sold to RCA.
_____	Recorded <i>Heartbreak Hotel</i> ; made first Hollywood film.
_____	Joined army in March.
_____	Left the army.
_____	Pricilla Presley left Elvis.
_____	Died of a heart attack in August.



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5. LISTEN AND READ.

Listen again to the conversation and read the text to check your answers the questions above.

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When Elvis Presley died on 16th August, 1977, radio and television programmes all over the world were interrupted to give the news of his death. President Carter was asked to declare a day of national mourning. Carter said: 'Elvis Presley changed the face of American popular culture.... He was unique and irreplaceable.' Eighty thousand people attended his funeral. The streets were jammed with cars, and Elvis Presley films were shown on television, and his records were played on the radio all day. In the year after his death, 100 million Presley albums were sold.

Elvis Presley was born on January 8th, 1935, in Tupelo, Mississippi. His twin brother, Jesse Garon, died at birth. His parents were very poor and Elvis never had music lessons, but he was surrounded by music from an early age. His parents were very religious, and Elvis regularly sang at church services. In 1948, when he was thirteen, his family moved to Memphis, Tennessee. He left school in 1953 and got a job as a truck driver.



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In the summer of 1953 Elvis recorded two songs for his mother's birthday at Sam Phillips' Sun Record studio. Sam Phillips heard Elvis and asked him to record *That's All Right* in July 1954. 20,000 copies were sold, mainly in and around Memphis. He made five more records for Sun, and in July 1955 he met Colonel Tom Parker who became his manager. In November, Parker sold Elvis's contract to RCA Records. Sun Records got \$35,000 and Elvis got \$5,000. With the money he bought a pink Cadillac for his mother. On January 10th 1956, Elvis recorded *Heartbreak Hotel*, and a million copies were sold.

In the next fourteen months he made another fourteen records, and they were all big hits. In 1956 he also made his first film in Hollywood.

In March 1958 Elvis had to join the army. He wanted to be an ordinary soldier. When his hair was cut thousands of women cried. He spent the next two years in Germany where he met Priscilla Beaulieu, who later became his wife. In 1960 he left the army and went to Hollywood where he made several films during the next few years.

By 1968 many people had become tired of Elvis. He hadn't performed live since 1960. But he recorded a new album, *From Elvis in Memphis*, and appeared in a special television programme. He became popular again, and went to Las Vegas where he was paid \$750,000 to perform for four weeks. In 1972 his wife left him and they were soon divorced. In 1977 he died from a heart attack. He had been working too hard, and eating and drinking too much for several years. He left all his money to his only daughter Lisa Marie Presley. She became one of the richest people in the world when she was only nine years old.