



These days, it feels like you can't turn on the television, listen to the radio or pick up a newspaper without there being something about Boris Johnson. We all know that he is the Prime Minister of the U.K, we all know that he can sometimes be a bit controversial but... what else do we know? What else is there to know?

Born on 19th June 1964 in New York, Boris' real name is actually Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson. Boris, as we know him, is the eldest of four children. His father is Stanley Johnson who was a Conservative Member of the European Parliament and was employed by the European Commission and the World Bank. Boris' mother is an artist named Charlotte Fawcett, his grandfather is Sir James Fawcett who was a prominent barrister and also the president of the European Commission of Human Rights. Is it any wonder Boris became involved in politics?

Educated in Brussels, Boris attended the European School, Ashdown House Private School and then the prestigious Eton College. He earned a place at Oxford University where he studied Classics and became President of the Oxford Union.

Following his time at university, Boris began a successful career in journalism, eventually settling into political journalism and working for The Times and The Telegraph, and subsequently becoming editor of The Spectator.

Beginning his own political career in 2001, Johnson was elected as MP for Henley. In 2004, he was appointed as Arts Minister, which made him a front bench Member of Parliament. In 2007, Boris announced his candidacy for the Mayor of London and was successfully elected in 2008. A successful and colourful 8 years ensued, further cementing Boris' status and ensuring that he was well known nationwide.

Johnson returned to the House of Commons in 2015 after being elected as Conservative MP for Uxbridge and South Ruislip. During the now infamous Brexit campaign, Boris stood firmly on the Leave side of debate and campaigned tirelessly to encourage the public to vote to leave the European Union.

In July 2019, British Prime Minister Theresa May resigned and Boris Johnson was elected as Conservative Party Leader, making him the Prime Minister for the United Kingdom. Following much debate and public demand, Johnson dissolved Parliament in October 2019 and held a general election. The Conservative Party won by their biggest majority since 1987 and Boris was finally the elected Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.



Conservative Party Emblem

## Boris Johnson Facts!

### BORIS BITES!

-  Boris suffered from deafness as a child and had several operations to restore his hearing.
-  Boris has four children; two sons and two daughters and is about to become a father again!
-  He implemented the public bicycle system in London to reduce car use – the bikes were nicknamed **the Boris Bike**.
-  Boris is a descendent of King George II.
-  In 2016, Boris renounced his American citizenship.
-  Boris is a published author and has even written a book about Winston Churchill – whom he greatly admires.
-  Being born in New York, Boris is the first PM born outside of British Territories.

Answer the following questions in your lined book:

1. When was Boris Johnson born?

2. What can you infer about Boris Johnson from the opening paragraph?

3. 'Stood firmly'

What does this phrase tell you about Boris' views?

4. Read the paragraph which ends; 'Is it any wonder Boris became involved in politics?' What does the author mean by this?

5. True or false and give evidence to explain your choice for both answers

a)

Boris Johnson grew up in a wealthy family.

**Provide evidence for your answer.**

b)

It is clear that Boris has always been interested in politics.

**Provide evidence for your answer.**

6. Define the following words - find them in the text and read around the word to help

a) Prestigious

b) Subsequently

c) Infamous

7. What can you infer about Boris by the fact that he implemented a public bicycle scheme to reduce car use?