

# Who Was Winston Churchill?

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Illustrated by  
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# Contents

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[Who Was Winston Churchill?](#)

[Dedication](#)

[Copyright](#)

[Who Was Winston Churchill?](#)

[A Royal Childhood](#)

[Soldier and Writer](#)

[Young Statesman](#)

[The First Great War](#)

[Turning Points](#)

[The Wilderness Years](#)

[Blood, Toil, Tears, and Sweat](#)

[The Greatest Leader](#)

[The Twilight Years](#)

[Timeline of Winston Churchill's Life](#)

[Timeline of the World](#)

[Bibliography](#)

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## Who Was Winston Churchill?

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When Winston Churchill walked into the House of Commons to make his first speech as prime minister of England, he was sixty-five years old. He wore a dark suit and a serious face.



It was May 13, 1940, and the beginning of World War II, the deadliest war in history. When Winston entered the giant hall, the six hundred Members of Parliament did not applaud. They sat silently. Many of them doubted that England could survive the war. Many wanted to make peace with Adolf Hitler of Germany.

“You ask, what is our aim?” Winston boomed into the microphone. “I can answer in one word. It is victory. Victory at all costs. Victory in spite of all terror. Victory however long and hard the road may be. For without victory there is no survival.”

The speech was short, but electrifying. When he finished, thunderous applause rose from the crowd. Winston’s powerful words made his audience feel hopeful.

Winston Churchill was a master public speaker and writer. As World War II raged on, Winston made many speeches that rallied his people. His voice was broadcast on the radio around the world. He gave people courage during the dark days of the war.



Winston lived for ninety years as a soldier, politician, writer, and painter. He endured many failures and setbacks during his long life. But, when he was needed the most, he rose to the challenge. Winston Churchill was the right man, at the right time.

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# Chapter 1

## A Royal Childhood

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Winston Churchill was born two months before his due date on November 30, 1874. Perhaps he was in a hurry to begin his remarkable life! After all, he was the firstborn child to one of the most rich and famous families in England. Winston's family home was called Blenheim Palace in Woodstock, England. It had 187 rooms and sat on two thousand acres!