

## PAST PERFECT OR SIMPLE PAST

### Complete the sentences with the correct verb form

Stan, whose real name (be) \_\_\_\_\_ Arthur Stanley Jefferson, (be) \_\_\_\_\_ born in 1890 in a small town in Lancashire, England. His father (run) \_\_\_\_\_ a theater and as a child, Stan (often watch) \_\_\_\_\_ the comedians on the stage. By the time he \_\_\_\_\_ (be) eight, he (already learn) \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of their jokes and gags.

At the age of 16, he (already write) \_\_\_\_\_ a bloodthirsty melodrama which, however, (be not) \_\_\_\_\_ a success. Before he (begin) \_\_\_\_\_ to work with Ollie, he (act) \_\_\_\_\_ in short films—most of which were flops. His breakthrough (come) \_\_\_\_\_ with his film partner Ollie.

Born in 1892 in Harlem, Georgia, Ollie's full name (be) \_\_\_\_\_ Oliver Norvell Hardy. His mother \_\_\_\_\_ (encourage) his interest in singing, and in 1900 the boy (already tour) \_\_\_\_\_ the Southern states as a choir boy. He (like) \_\_\_\_\_ all kinds of instruments, especially the drums. In his early films he sometimes plays the drums which he (learn) \_\_\_\_\_ in a Military College. In his early films he (fail) \_\_\_\_\_ badly, but things (change) \_\_\_\_\_ when Stan, the right partner, (come) \_\_\_\_\_ along.

Gilbert Anderson, an actor who (play) \_\_\_\_\_ in the first American Western "The Great Train Robbery" in 1903 and who (found) \_\_\_\_\_ a film company (engage) \_\_\_\_\_ Stan and Ollie in 1915. This (means) \_\_\_\_\_ the beginning of a world career for the two completely different characters.