



## About the Author

**Hilary P.** is a professional psychotherapist and has practised in the United Kingdom for over 15 years. Hilary has a keen interest in language learning, with a classical language educational background. Hilary's particular interests & experience is in psychology, education & learning, especially online learning and language acquisition.

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# Transcript Learn English Article 107

## You See Stephen Hawking Was The Ultimate Thinker

### Welcome

Hi I'm Hilary and welcome to this latest short podcast from Adept English. If you understand this podcast, you may want to take your language learning further and have a look at our Course One, Activate your Listening, which is for sale on our website. It gives you interesting things to listen to - 5 hours of it - but also the opportunity to start listening to real, English conversation. We've sold quite a few of these courses now, but if we sell a few more, we'll be encouraged to make a Course Two, which will include even more English Conversation for you to learn from.

So this week's short podcast. I thought I'd just like to say something about a British man who died recently. You may have heard of the British cosmologist



and physicist Stephen Hawking. He is one of the most famous scientists in the world. He spent his life, trying to understand the physics of the universe and outer space. He was brilliantly clever and inspiring. He's famous for publishing research, and for trying to explain complicated physics and his understanding of how the universe began. The expression 'the universe' means the whole world, not just our planet, not just Earth, but space and all the stars and planets in it.

### **Stephen is ranked amongst the greatest minds**

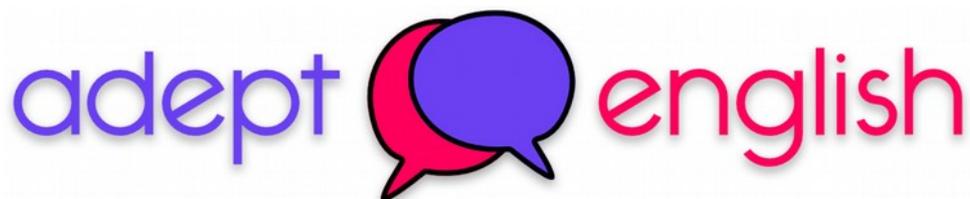
It's interesting that Stephen Hawking was born exactly 300 years after Galileo died - on 8th January 1942. Stephen Hawking also lived a lot longer than he was expected to. He was told at the age of 21, that he probably had 'only a couple of years to live' because of his illness, Motor Neurone Disease. That was in 1963. Somehow he lived 53 years longer than he was expected to.

Stephen Hawking is famous for his book 'A Brief History of Time' and for his study of Black Holes. Black Holes are strange things in outer space, where it's believed that time stops. Stephen Hawking is so famous that he has appeared in TV programmes like The Simpsons, The Big Bang Theory and Star Trek. There was also a film made about his life, with Eddie Redmayne called in English 'The Theory of Everything'. If you get chance to watch this film, it's really good. Stephen Hawking was unable to speak for many years of his life, but he was also famous for his computerised voice. Having to speak in this way meant that it would take a long time to make a sentence - but when he spoke, what he said was certainly worth listening to!

### **Few can understand the physics involved**

I don't pretend to understand the physics, the theories that Stephen Hawking put forward. I have tried to, but it's very difficult! But he was thought of as a genius, like Albert Einstein or Leonardo Da Vinci. Stephen Hawking was working right until the end of his life. He published new research just two weeks before he died.

What I find fascinating about Stephen Hawking is how he continued to work



and continued to be a genius despite his illness. He was a remarkable student at 21 years old, but I don't know if being disabled, unable to move, unable to speak perhaps caused him to focus more even more on his work and made him more brilliant at his work. The illness Stephen Hawking had, Motor Neurone Disease or MND as it's known, usually affects the brain. But is it possible somehow that Motor Neurone Disease made Stephen Hawking's brain even more brilliant?

## Goodbye

Stephen Hawking leaves behind two ex-wives and three children and his funeral will be on Easter Sunday in Cambridge.

Enough for now. Have a lovely day. Speak to you again soon. Goodbye.

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