

# Ed Sheeran

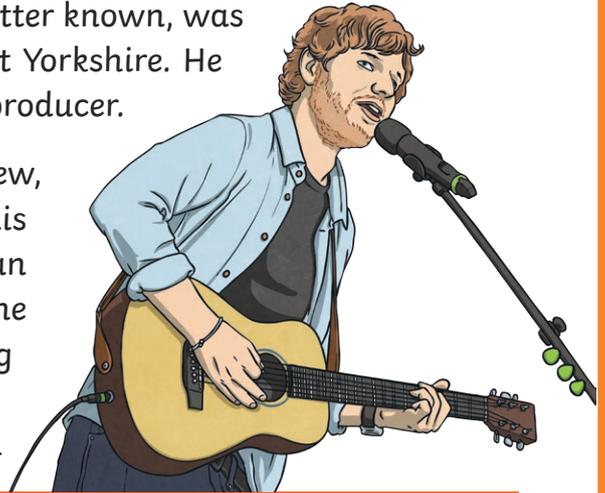
Edward Christopher Sheeran, or Ed as he is better known, was born on 17th February 1991 in Halifax, West Yorkshire. He is a guitarist, songwriter, singer and record producer.

Ed comes from a very creative family. Matthew, his older brother, is a composer and his mother is a jewellery designer. Sheeran and his family moved to Suffolk when he was young. As a child, he began learning how to play the guitar and started writing his own songs while at high school. He recorded his first music in 2004 and moved to London in 2008. Whilst living in the capital, Ed played in small venues around the city and auditioned for acting roles.

In 2010, he was noticed by rapper Example who invited him on tour. At around this time, Ed released a critically-acclaimed EP called 'Loose Change' which included what would be his debut single, 'The A Team'. In the same year, Ed bought a ticket to Los Angeles. It was on this trip that he was spotted by Jamie Foxx, an American singer, songwriter and producer. Jamie was very impressed with Ed's musical talent and invited him to record in his studio; he also offered Ed a place to stay. Simultaneously, Sheeran's fan base was steadily growing through his videos released on YouTube.

In 2011, Ed released more of his music before being signed by Asylum Records. He performed his debut single on UK television before it was released as a single in the UK, selling over 58 000 copies in the first week. The single was also very successful in countries such as Germany, Japan and New Zealand, plus many more.

During a small set at the Glastonbury Festival in 2011, Ed announced that his second single would be called 'You Need Me, I Don't Need You'. Following this,



## Did You Know?

He has co-written songs for One Direction and wrote 'Love Yourself' for Justin Bieber.

Ed wrote over 120 songs before releasing his second album, 'x'.

He owns a record label called Gingerbread Man Records.

Ed supports many charities and was awarded an MBE for his services to music and charity.

he released his first album '+', which featured songs including 'Lego House'. The album was very successful, and within six months it had sold over one million copies in the UK alone. After this success, Sheeran won Brit awards for Best British Male Solo Artist and British Breakthrough Act of the Year in 2012. He also performed at Queen Elizabeth's diamond jubilee concert and at the closing ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games.

In 2012 and early 2013, Ed toured in the USA, and he performed at the Grammy Awards ceremony with Sir Elton John in 2013. In addition to this, Sheeran supported Taylor Swift on her tour in 2013, which saw his popularity rise further in the USA.

In June 2014, Sheeran achieved his first number one hit in the UK with 'Sing', and then released his second album, 'x'. This album was number one in both the UK and the USA, and he followed it with a world tour. 'Thinking Out Loud', a single from the 'x' album, featured Ed ballroom dancing in the music video. In the same year, Spotify named him the most streamed artist and 'x' the most streamed album.

Sheeran won more awards at the 2015 Brit Awards and a prestigious Ivor Novello award for Songwriter of the Year. In 2016, he won two Grammy Awards and 'x' was named the second best-selling album of 2015 in the world, just beaten by Adele's album, '25'.

After a busy few years, Ed took a break from music and social media. He returned with his next album '÷' in 2017. It went straight to number one in many countries around the world. One single from the album, 'Castle on the Hill', is about a castle near to his home town in Suffolk.

Ed has his own unique way of performing his music. He headlined Glastonbury Festival in 2017 and stood on stage with only his trademark loop pedal and guitar. He creates all the sounds on stage by himself, repeats them to build up the backing track, then sings over the top.

Sheeran's success continues to rise around the world.

### **Glossary**

**EP** – EP stands for 'extended play'. It is a music recording which contains a few tracks, but not enough to be classed as an album.

# Questions

1. In which county was Ed born?

- West Midlands
- West Suffolk
- West Yorkshire
- Westmorland

2. Ed comes from a \_\_\_\_\_ family.

3. Why do you think Ed moved to London on his own?

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4. Which word here is the closest to 'acclaimed'?

- hated
- disliked
- average
- praised

5. Which two prestigious events did he perform at in 2012?

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6. Why do you think Ed toured in America?

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7. Why do you think Ed took a long break from music and social media at the height of his career?

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8. Ed has his own unique way of performing his music.

Explain what this means and why it is true of Ed.

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9. Put the following statements in order by writing numbers 1 to 8 in the boxes.

- He released '÷'.
- Spotify named him the most streamed artist and 'x' the most streamed album of 2014.
- He began writing songs at high school.
- He won an Ivor Novello award for Songwriter of the Year.
- He moved to London.
- He moved to Suffolk.
- He was spotted by Jamie Foxx.
- The album '+' was released.

10. True or False? Ed has written songs for other artists to perform. \_\_\_\_\_

### Research Challenge

Ed works closely with which charities? Who or what do these charities support?

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