

# Reading: a tale of three Trumps

C1



## Pre-reading

1 Discuss with your partner.

What do you know about Donald Trump? What can you say about the following?

*family      business      background      politics*

How do you think the pictures below relate to the story of the Trump family's wealth?



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## Reading

1 Work in groups of three. You are each going to read a text about the Trump family.

**Student A** - Read text A - Donald Trump's grandfather.

**Student B** - Read text B - Donald Trump's father.

**Student C** - Read text C - Donald Trump.

2 When you have finished, discuss the questions.

1. Say which of the pictures relate to your text and how they are important.
2. Explain the connection of the following with the Trump story.

the 1918 flu epidemic      Canada      Manhattan  
the media      bankruptcy      the New York suburbs

3 Decide together if the statements are true or false.

1. Frederick Trump emigrated to the US from Germany.
2. Frederick Trump made money as a gold miner.
3. Fred Trump benefited from government policies.
4. Fred Trump liked spending money.
5. Donald Trump got rich through his own efforts.
6. Donald Trump has made money in every business he has tried.

4 Discuss, giving evidence from your text.

- How would you compare the three Trumps?
- What do they have in common?
- Who contributed the most to the family fortune?
- Which of these words apply to Frederick, Fred or Donald Trump?

*shrewd      lucky      a risktaker*

## Frederick



Donald Trump is the grandson of a German immigrant who made his money in the **gold rushes** of the 1890s.

Grandfather Trump didn't dig for gold; instead, he took the smarter course of providing food, drink and girls for the miners.

Not only did he make money, he was one of the few who managed to keep it.

At the age of sixteen, Friedrich Trump sailed to America to escape military service and a lifetime picking grapes in his family's small **vineyard** in southern Germany.

In New York, he worked as a **barber** for six years before heading west with a few hundred dollars he had saved to seek his fortune.

Arriving in the West Coast boom town of Seattle, Friedrich, now Frederick, opened a restaurant in the **red-light district** and two years later had saved enough money to buy his first plot of land.

Before he had decided what to do with it, news arrived that gold had been discovered far to the north in Canada. It was the start of the Klondike gold rush, which was to **lure** 30,000 hopeful miners to the frozen wastes of the Yukon.

Frederick took a huge gamble, sold everything and set off for the goldfields.

It was a **treacherous** 2,000-kilometer journey that took him first by ship to Alaska, and from there south to Canada via the **notorious** White Pass, where temperatures dropped to minus forty degrees and horses died in thousands.

Reaching the mining camp in May 1898, he set up the aptly-named Arctic Hotel and Restaurant, featuring a 24-hour-a-day **saloon** that offered the best food and drink, and 'rooms for ladies'. It was the business that was to make him rich.

Unlike many who made money in the boom towns of the Klondike, Frederick **stayed ahead of the game**. When he heard the government was about to **crack down** on gambling and prostitution, he sold up and got out.

In ten years, he had turned his few hundred dollars' savings into the present-day equivalent of half a million.

Returning briefly to Germany to marry a girl from his hometown, he was soon back in New York, where he started buying property, laying the foundations of the present Trump fortune.

But his luck ran out. In May 1918 he died suddenly, one of the first casualties of the great flu **epidemic**. Frederick was 49.

## Vocabulary

Match a word in **bold** to each of the definitions.

1. someone who cuts men's hair
2. start to enforce laws strictly
3. when many people go to a place to look for gold
4. attract someone to a place
5. famous for something bad
6. when a disease affects large number of people at the same time
7. place where grapes are grown for winemaking
8. part of a city where prostitutes work
9. bar or pub
10. know the latest developments so you can benefit
11. (place) dangerous

### Teach your partner

Choose three words or expressions from the article that you think are useful for telling the story and teach them to your partner. For each one

- explain what the word or phrase means;
- give an example of how it is used.

## Fred

Donald Trump's father was a **shrewd** businessman who turned his father's **gold rush** profits into a modern property empire.

Frederick Trump Senior had died in the 1918 flu **epidemic** leaving the twelve-year-old Fred and his mother with his savings, land he'd bought for investment, and a home in the New York suburb of Queens.

Although substantial, the inheritance was not enough to support an idle existence. The young Trump would have to work for his living and his choice of trade – builder – was a sound one.

Driven by a strong demand for middle-class housing, new suburbs were springing up everywhere and districts like Queens were to see their population increase ten times between the wars. There were fortunes waiting to be made and Fred Trump was in the right place at the right time.

Starting out in business at the age of 15 – not yet old enough to build houses – he first gained experience building garages for the automobiles that were then becoming popular.

Too young to sign his own cheques, he relied on his mother to take care of the accounts. The company was named Elizabeth Trump and Son and it wasn't until he was 22 that he built his first house.

The housing boom continued up to and after the Second World War. In the 40s and 50s, Trump learned to **make the most** of new government schemes to provide affordable housing through President Roosevelt's Federal Housing Administration, set up as part of the **New Deal**.

An expert at exploiting **loopholes** in the regulations, Fred Trump 'never saw a tax break he didn't take advantage of,' according to Gwenda Blair, author of a recent book on the family.

He was also a **ruthless penny-pincher**, picking up dropped nails at his construction sites to reuse later. But his cost-cutting paid off and allowed him to complete government housing schemes under budget and **pocket the difference**.

For all this, Trump's apartments were well-built and attractive. With spacious entrance lobbies and quality fittings, they appealed to the **upwardly mobile** lower middle class. It is a sign of their quality that most are still standing today.

In the 1970s, Fred handed over the running of the business to his son Donald, having made a fortune from affordable housing. He'd inherited the modern-day equivalent of half a million dollars in 1918. When he died in 1999, he left between 250 and 300 million.

## Vocabulary

Match a word in **bold** to each of the definitions.

- part of a city away from the centre where people live
- when many people go to a place to look for gold
- omission or mistake in a law that allows people to avoid doing something
- use something as much as possible
- actions taken by US President Roosevelt in the 1930s to improve the economy during the Great Depression
- someone who tries hard to avoid spending money
- take a profit from something, sometimes dishonestly
- when a disease affects large number of people at the same time
- very determined to do something
- having good judgement and making good decisions
- moving to a higher social class

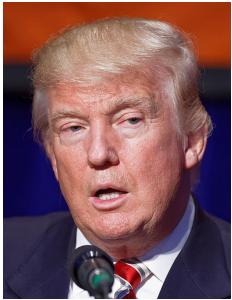
### Teach your partner

Choose three words or expressions from the article that you think are useful for telling the story and teach them to your partner. For each one

- explain what the word or phrase means;
- give an example of how it is used in the text.



## Donald



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Born **heir** to a vast fortune, Donald Trump has had a **roller coaster** career that shows an appetite for risk, love of the **limelight**, and an instinct for survival.

Taking over the family property firm at 25, he immediately switched focus from the New York suburbs to downtown Manhattan.

With the city in financial crisis, the government assisted housing projects that had made his father's fortune could no longer be relied on. Trump needed a new angle and saw opportunity in the run-down New York City of the 1970s.

By nature drawn to the showy and the grand, he took on bold projects such as the renovation of the bankrupt Commodore Hotel, which he turned into a luxury landmark.

Using his father's contacts, he talked the city government into giving the property a 40-year tax break worth \$161 million, later selling his share to Hyatt for \$142 million.

As New York recovered in the 1980s, a string of high-profile developments put Trump in the public eye. With his glamorous wife, Ivana, a former model, he soon became the city's flashiest entrepreneur.

He next turned his attention to Atlantic City, a **down-at-heel** seaside resort that had legalised gambling in an attempt to **kick-start** its failing economy.

Here he took over the most expensive casino development ever - the grandiose Taj Mahal. It had bankrupted its owners but Trump used high-interest **junk bonds** to finish the project.

It was a risky venture that many said could never succeed. Opening in 1990 as 'the eighth wonder of the world', the casino was bankrupt a year later.

Trump's **net worth** plunged close to zero, but the sheer size of his debts was to save him. He was too big to fail: he owed the banks too much. A **bailout** was negotiated leaving him ready for a comeback.

His financial problems did little to harm his image and with two high-profile divorces in the 1990s, he was ever more in the spotlight. It was an environment in which he **thrived**.

Keenly aware of the money value of celebrity, Trump exploited the situation to the maximum. Lending his name to everything from perfume to the Miss Universe contest, he built a **franchising** business worth over \$250 million.

The size of Trump's fortune is critical to his image. But many say he has less than he claims and he would have been better off investing his inheritance in an **index fund**. No surprise then that he refuses to publish his tax returns.

## Vocabulary

Match a word in **bold** to each of the definitions.

1. when someone is given or lent money to stop them going bankrupt
2. in poor condition because of lack of money
3. giving other companies the right to sell products under your name
4. someone who inherits something
5. low cost investment fund consisting of shares in companies that make up a market index such as the Dow Jones, S&P etc.
6. a bond that pays a lot of interest but has a very high risk
7. make something start working
8. value of all someone's money and property
9. changing from one extreme to another
10. be very successful or healthy
11. public attention

### Teach your partner

Choose three words or expressions from the article that you think are useful for telling the story and teach them to your partner. For each one

- explain what the word or phrase means;
- give an example of how it is used in the text.

## Grammar analysis

**1** Look at the examples from the texts and answer the questions.

*Born heir to a vast fortune, Donald Trump has had a roller-coaster career.*

*Taking over the family property firm at 25, he switched focus to downtown Manhattan.*

*Arriving in the West Coast town of Seattle, Frederick opened a restaurant.*

*Fred handed over the business to Donald, having made a fortune.*

1. How many clauses are there in each extract?
2. What is the subject of each clause?
3. How many times is the subject written in each sentence?
4. What are the verb forms in each clause?
5. What grammatical forms are the following?  
*born taking arriving having made*

**2** Choose the correct words to complete the rules.

Participle clauses...

1. use *present/past* participles for active clauses.
2. use *present/past* participles for passive clauses.
3. use *past/perfect* participles to emphasize completion or show time has passed between events.
4. have the *same/different* subject(s) for each clause.
5. *replace/need* conjunctions such as *and, but, when, so* and *after*.
6. are more common in *conversation/storytelling*.

**2** Rewrite the following sentences using participle clauses.

1. He was impressed by the business and started buying up shares.
2. He was worried that he would be found out, so he changed his name.
3. She worked as a reporter for five years so she knew all about newspapers.
4. She bought the old hotel and then turned it into a luxury resort.
5. I've worked with Steven so I know he's reliable.
6. Storms have swept the country and caused damage to property and vehicles

**3** Change the sentences where necessary to make them true about yourself.

1. Having studied English since kindergarten, I feel I am fairly fluent.
2. I left school at 18, thinking that I would go to university.
3. Having done my present job for five years, I am now ready for a change.
4. Given the choice, I would rather start my own business than work for someone else.

**4** Compare your answers with your partner.

## Grammar practice

**1** Rewrite the extracts in Grammar analysis Exercise 1 starting with the words shown.

1. Donald Trump was born...
2. He took over...
3. Frederick arrived...

<b>bail-out</b>	give or lend someone money to stop them going bankrupt
<b>barber</b>	someone who cuts men's hair
<b>crack down</b>	when the police start to enforce laws strictly
<b>down-at-heel</b>	in poor condition because of lack of money
<b>epidemic</b>	when a disease affects large number of people at the same time
<b>franchising</b>	giving other companies the right to sell products under your name
<b>gold rush</b>	when many people go to a place to look for gold
<b>heir</b>	someone who inherits something
<b>index fund</b>	low cost investment fund composed of shares in companies that make up a market index such as the Dow Jones, S&P
<b>junk bond</b>	a bond that pays a lot of interest but has a very high risk
<b>kick-start</b>	make something start working
<b>limelight</b>	public attention
<b>loophole</b>	omission or mistake in a law that allows people to avoid doing something
<b>lure</b>	attract someone to a place
<b>make the most of</b>	use something as much as possible
<b>net worth</b>	value of all someone's money and property
<b>New Deal</b>	actions taken by US President Roosevelt in the 1930s to improve the economy during the Great Depression
<b>notorious</b>	famous for something bad
<b>penny-pincher</b>	someone who tries very hard not to spend money
<b>pocket the difference</b>	to take a profit from something, sometimes dishonestly
<b>red-light district</b>	part of a city where prostitutes work
<b>roller coaster</b>	changing from one extreme to another
<b>ruthless</b>	very determined to do something even if others suffer
<b>saloon</b>	bar or pub
<b>shrewd</b>	having good judgement and making good decisions
<b>stay ahead of the game</b>	know the latest developments so you can benefit
<b>suburb</b>	part of a city away from the centre where people live
<b>thrive</b>	be very successful or healthy
<b>treacherous</b>	(place) dangerous
<b>upwardly mobile</b>	moving to a higher social class
<b>vineyard</b>	place where grapes are grown for making wine

## Pre-reading

### 1 Photographs

**a casino** – Donald Trump became involved in the casino business in Atlantic City during the 1980s.

**New York City** - Fred Trump made his fortune building suburban houses and apartments in New York City.

**a beauty contest** - Donald Trump once owned the Miss Universe contest and other beauty pageants.

**a gold prospector** – Frederick Trump made money selling food and drink to gold prospectors in the Klondike gold rush.

**building construction** – Fred Trump and to a smaller extent, Donald Trump, were involved in the construction business.

**the Trump brand** - Donald Trump has worked to develop the Trump brand, using his name in businesses ranging from perfume to the Miss Universe contest.

**a vineyard** – Frederick Trump's family owned a small vineyard in southern Germany.

### 2 Words

#### the 1918 flu pandemic

Frederick Trump died in the 1918 flu pandemic.

#### Canada

Frederick Trump went to Canada, where he made money in the Klondike gold rush.

#### Manhattan

Donald Trump switched the focus of the family business to Manhattan when he took control.

#### the media

Donald Trump has received and benefitted from large amounts of media attention.

#### bankruptcy

Donald Trump's Taj Mahal casino went bankrupt in 1991

#### the New York suburbs

Fred Trump built most of his houses and apartments in the New York suburbs.

### 3 True or false?

1. true
2. false
3. true
4. false
5. false
6. false

## Vocabulary A - Frederick Trump

1. barber
2. crack down
3. gold rush
4. lure
5. notorious
6. epidemic
7. vineyard
8. red-light district
9. saloon
10. stay ahead of the game
11. treacherous

## Vocabulary B - Fred Trump

1. suburb
2. gold rush
3. loophole
4. make the most of
5. the New Deal
6. penny-pincher
7. pocket the difference
8. epidemic
9. ruthless
10. shrewd
11. upwardly mobile

## Vocabulary C - Donald Trump

1. bailout
2. down-at-heel
3. franchise
4. heir
5. index fund
6. junk bond
7. kick-start
8. net worth
9. roller coaster
10. thrive
11. limelight

## Grammar analysis

1

1. two
2. *Donald Trump he Friedrich Fred*
3. one
4. *born, has had, taking, switched, arriving, opened, handed over, having made*
5. born – past participle; taking – present participle ; arriving – present participle; having made – perfect participle

2

1. present
2. past
3. perfect
4. same
5. replace
6. storytelling

## Grammar practice

1

1. Donald Trump was born heir to a vast fortune and (but) has had a roller coaster career.
2. He took over the family business at 25 and switched the focus to Manhattan.
3. Frederick arrived in the West Coast town of Seattle and set up a restaurant.

2

1. Impressed by the business, he started buying up shares.
2. Worried that he would be found out, he changed his name.
3. Having worked as a reporter for five years, she knew all about newspapers.
4. Having bought the old hotel, she turned it into a luxury resort.
5. Having worked with Steven, I know he's reliable.
6. Storms have swept the country, causing damage to property and vehicles.



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