

## Sir Bradley Wiggins – Racing Megastar

Sir Bradley Marc Wiggins is a British road and track cyclist. He has won both World championships and Olympic Games. He is in fact, so far, the only cyclist to win the Tour de France and an Olympic gold medal in the same year in 2012. He is also the only person to win a Grand Tour and a gold medal in track cycling. He has won so many medals that he has become the most **decorated** British athlete for the Olympic Games.



### Early Life

Bradley Wiggins was born on the 28<sup>th</sup> April, 1980 in Ghent, Belgium. He moved to London with his mother when he was young and learned to ride a bike in Hyde Park. Bradley grew up without really knowing his father; all he knew was that he was a **professional** cyclist. Bradley loved sports. In fact, when Bradley was young, he **tried** to play for West Ham United football club.

### Professional Career

Bradley was first **encouraged** to try cycling after watching Chris Boardman in the 1992 Olympic Games. It became his **ambition**. Bradley started his **career** racing on the track. He was invited to train at the Manchester National Cycling Centre as a youngster and at the time people could already see that Bradley had the talent to go far. Bradley is a **consistent** rider; during his career, he has won so many medals, titles and competitions that it would be impossible to include them all in one biography and instead Bradley has written four books to tell his tale.

Bradley won the individual **pursuit** at the UCI Junior Track Cycling World Championships in 1998, only six years after being inspired by Chris Boardman. Later on in 1998, he won his first senior medal at the Commonwealth Games, which was a team pursuit.

In the Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000, Bradley won bronze in the team pursuit and came fourth in the **Madison** with Rob Hayles. Later on in the same year, he won silver in the team pursuit at the Track World Championships in Manchester. In 2001, Bradley was able to achieve medals on the road as well as on track, winning the *Cinturon a Mallorca* and *Fleche du Sud*, two **annual** road races held in Spain and Luxembourg. Bradley also collected several track medals that year.

In 2004, Bradley became the first British athlete in forty years to win three medals in one Olympic Games. He won a gold, a silver and a bronze that year in Athens, Greece. For the next three years, however, Bradley did not compete in any major track races and spent his time focussing on road racing.

Bradley competed in the Track World Championships, winning three golds in 2008. Later that year he was awarded with two gold medals in the Beijing Olympics. Wiggins took a break from track racing after the 2008 Olympics as he wanted to **pursue** his career further in road racing. In 2009, Bradley earned 4<sup>th</sup> place in the iconic Tour de France. The Tour de France is an annual cycling event that takes 200 riders along a 2000 miles course around France, over 23 days – a taxing tournament!



He won the 2012 Paris–Nice, the 2012 Tour de Romandie, and the 2012 Criterium du Dauphine, before winning the Tour de France the same year. Wiggins became the first Britain ever to win the Tour de France. The winner of each stage of the race wears a yellow jersey.

At the age of 32 and in **recognition** for his success in cycling, Bradley was voted to be the BBC Sports **Personality** of the Year, which was awarded by the Duchess of Cambridge.

2016 saw more medals for Bradley. He won a gold and silver medal in the Track World Championships and had more success at the Olympic Games. Wiggins competed in the 2016 Rio games and came away with another gold medal to add to his collection. So far he has won five gold

Olympic medals, one silver medal and two bronze medals – and that's just for the Olympic Games!

2016 is **rumoured** to be the final year for Bradley's career in racing. After the Rio Olympic Games Bradley announced that his final event would be the Six Days of Ghent in November 2016.

It has been logged that Bradley's top speed reached 68mph during a time trial, that's just as fast as a car would reach when travelling down a motorway!

### Family

Bradley is married to Catherine whom he met during the 2002 Commonwealth Games. Catherine and Bradley have two children together, Isabella and Ben. They live in their family home in Eccleston, Lancashire. Bradley's home is close to the Manchester Velodrome which is the home for Team Sky and British Cycling.

Bradley did not really know his father. His mother brought him to the UK when he was two. He only met his father again in 1999 and they had a difficult relationship. His father was a professional cyclist and left the family when Bradley was young.

### Interests

- Bradley is a huge fan of **classic** scooters and guitars from the 1960s and 1970s and owns his own collection. He is a keen supporter of Liverpool Football Club and Wigan Warriors rugby club.
- Bradley started his own foundation named the Bradley Wiggins Foundation in 2012 to encourage people to take up exercise and sport. Unfortunately in 2016 the foundation **ceased** to continue. Wiggins speaks fluent French as he spent a lot of time training in France alongside French cyclists.
- Bradley has written four books in total that talks about his training and his achievements in cycling.
- Jason Queally, another British cyclist who won gold in the Olympics in 2000 is Bradley's hero.
- His nickname is Wiggo.

Do you think the author has an opinion on Bradley's career? What evidence is there to suggest this?

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Does Bradley spend much time with his father? Explain your answers using the text to help you.

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Which branch of cycling does Bradley prefer; track or road? Explain your answer.

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List some examples of powerful verbs or adjectives used in the text.

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Summarise the information that is given in the paragraph called Family.

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It is mentioned in the text that Bradley won the BBC Sports Personality of the Year in 2012. How do you think this information would influence the reader?

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What is meant by the sentence below?

*"... he has become the most decorated British athlete for the Olympic Games!"*

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Who would you recommend this text to?

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What do you think the word 'taxing' means in the sentence below? Use a dictionary to help you.

*"A taxing tournament."*

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What is Bradley's passion other than cycling?

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When and where was Bradley Wiggins born?

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Although the text is mainly factual , there are some opinions included. Find an example of a fact and an opinion.

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How is this biography similar or different to another biography that you have read in the past.

Explain your answer.

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## Bradley Wiggins – Vocab 1

Write the meaning of each of these words.

decorated \_\_\_\_\_

professional \_\_\_\_\_

trialled \_\_\_\_\_

encouraged \_\_\_\_\_

ambition \_\_\_\_\_

career \_\_\_\_\_

consistent \_\_\_\_\_

pursuit \_\_\_\_\_

madison \_\_\_\_\_

annual \_\_\_\_\_

pursue \_\_\_\_\_

recognition \_\_\_\_\_

personality \_\_\_\_\_

rumoured \_\_\_\_\_

classic \_\_\_\_\_

ceased \_\_\_\_\_

## Bradley Wiggins – Vocab 2

Solve the cryptogram and complete the words from the text with the missing letters. Then use the same code to create a secret message about Bradley!

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
	3			14		25	2	4	20	18		

  

n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
	10		5					7	23	22	12	16

\_ r \_ \_ \_ s \_ i \_ \_ a \_  
 19 26 10 13 14 9 9 4 10 17 6 21

\_ \_ \_ u \_ \_ \_                      \_ u \_ o \_ \_ \_ \_  
 6 17 17 8 6 21                      26 8 1 10 8 26 14 11

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ a \_ e \_                      c e \_ \_ \_ \_  
 11 14 15 10 26 6 24 14 11                      15 14 6 9 14 11

\_ \_ a \_ \_ \_ \_  
 15 21 6 9 9 4 15


## Bradley Wiggins – SPAG

Tick one box in each row to show the word class of the underlined word.

Sentence	Verb	Noun	Adjective	Adverb
Bradley competes as a track and road <u>cyclist</u> .				
They <u>cycled</u> in the Olympics.				
He rides a <u>bicycle</u> at the velodrome.				

Order the phrases in the boxes to create one sentence. Remember to punctuate it correctly.

also known as Wiggo

at the Olympic Games

won five gold medals

Bradley Wiggins

Tick all the boxes that correctly complete the sentence below.

A capital letter should be used to start:

all pronouns	<input type="checkbox"/>
names of places	<input type="checkbox"/>
all verbs	<input type="checkbox"/>
names of people	<input type="checkbox"/>
a sentence	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Bradley Wiggins – Oral Teacher Questions

Do you think the author has an opinion on Bradley's career? What evidence is there to suggest this? **Yes, the author is impressed and tries to recognise his achievements. The author is positive throughout the text.**

Does Bradley spend much time with his father? Explain your answers using the text to help you. **No. The author states they have a 'difficult relationship' and his father left him when he was young.**

Which branch of cycling does Bradley prefer; track or road? Explain your answer. **Unknown. Bradley has competed in both throughout his career.**

List some examples of powerful verbs or adjectives used in the text. **Loved, invited, inspired, pursue, taxing, keen, impossible, so many.**

Summarise the information that is given in the paragraph called Family. **Bradley has a wife and two children. They live in Lancashire near to the velodrome in Manchester. Bradley met his father when he was older, but they didn't get on.**

It is mentioned in the text that Bradley won the BBC Sports Personality of the Year in 2012. How do you think this information would influence the reader? **The reader may have more respect for Bradley because this award was voted for. He must be important if the Duchess presented an award to him.**

What is meant by the sentence below?

*"...he has become the most decorated British athlete for the Olympic Games!"*

**He has the most medals of any British athlete for the Olympic Games.**

Who would you recommend this text to? **Someone wanting to learn about athletes, the Olympics or cycling.**

What do you think the word 'taxing' means in the sentence below? Use a dictionary to help you.

*"A taxing tournament."*

**Difficult, tiring.**

What is Bradley's passion other than cycling? **Classic scooters and guitars from the 1960s and 1970s.**

When and where was Bradley Wiggins born? **28<sup>th</sup> April, 1980 in Ghent, Belgium.**

Although the text is mainly factual, there are some opinions included. Find an example of a fact and an opinion. **There are several examples of each throughout the text. Some examples include:**

**Opinion - During his career he has won so many medals, titles and competitions that it would be impossible to include them all in one biography.**

**Fact - Bradley Wiggins was born on the 28<sup>th</sup> April, 1980 in Ghent, Belgium.**

How is this biography similar or different to another biography that you have read in the past. Explain your answer. **Personal response. Students must identify features in this text and features in another text to compare. They may discuss facts, images, layout, dates, chronological order, paragraphs.**



Write the meaning of each of these words.

decorated – having lots of awards

professional – to do with your job or profession

trialled – tested

encouraged – supported to do something

ambition – a life aim

career – a job or profession that develops over time

consistent – regular with your actions

pursuit – a type of cycling event when athletes chase after each other or after one person

madison – a type of team cycling race

annual – happens every year

pursue – continue to do something, follow a path

recognition – to be recognised or acknowledged for something

personality – a celebrity

rumoured – reported, a story that may or may not be true

classic – typical of its kind

ceased – stopped or finished

## Bradley Wiggins – Vocab 2

Solve the cryptogram and complete the words from the text with the missing letters. Then use the same code to create a secret message about Bradley!

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
6	3	15	11	14	13	25	2	4	20	18	21	1

  

n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
17	10	19	5	26	9	24	8	7	23	22	12	16

p r o f e s s i o n a l

19 26 10 13 14 9 9 4 10 17 6 21

a n n u a l

6 17 17 8 6 21

r u m o u r e d

26 8 1 10 8 26 14 11

d e c o r a t e d

11 14 15 10 26 6 24 14 11

c e a s e d

15 14 6 9 14 11

c l a s s i c

15 21 6 9 9 4 15


## Bradley Wiggins – SPAG

Tick one box in each row to show the word class of the underlined word.

Sentence	Verb	Noun	Adjective	Adverb
Bradley competes as a track and road <u>cyclist</u> .		✓		
They <u>cycled</u> in the Olympics.	✓			
He rides a <u>bicycle</u> at the velodrome.		✓		

Order the phrases in the boxes to create one sentence. Remember to punctuate it correctly.

also known as Wiggo

at the Olympic Games

won five gold medals

Bradley Wiggins

Bradley Wiggins, also known as Wiggo, won five gold medals at the Olympic Games.

Tick all the boxes that correctly complete the sentence below.

A capital letter should be used to start:

all pronouns	
names of places	✓
all verbs	
names of people	✓
a sentence	✓