

Ant and Dec are one of the most well known comedy and TV presenting duos of all time. You might already be a huge fan of Ant and Dec. But have you ever heard of Byker Grove? Or watched Britain's Got Talent? Do you squirm in your seat watching I'm a Celebrity.... Get Me Out Of Here? Do you know how they first met? Or where they were born? If you say no, don't worry As you are in for a treat! Here is everything you need to know.

Declan Joseph Oliver Donnelly (Dec) was born on 25th September 1975. He was born in the **populous** city of Newcastle-upon-Tyne which is situated in the North East of England. Dec's parents, Alphonsus (who sadly died in 2011) and Anne Donnelly had seven children. Declan was the youngest of those seven children with three older brothers: Martin, Eamonn and Dermott as well as three older sisters: Patricia, Moyra and Camalia. Dec attended both a Primary and Secondary school in his hometown. His primary school was called St Michael's Roman Catholic Primary School. His secondary school, St Cuthbert's High School, was an all-boys school.

Anthony David McPartlin (Ant) was born on 18th November 1975. **Consistent** with Dec's childhood, Ant was also born and raised in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. He is the only son of Christine and Raymond McPartlin. Ant has one sister named Sarha, in addition to a half-sister, Emma. Ant attended Wingrove Primary School before progressing onto Rutherford High School.

Even though Ant and Dec grew up in the same city, it wasn't until the age of thirteen that they first met. Declan saw an advert in the local paper advertising auditions for a children's TV series *Byker Grove*. His father, Alphonsus, suggested that he audition but Dec was **reluctant**. Eventually, he changed his mind, auditioned and was granted the part of Duncan. Similarly, Ant auditioned for *Byker Grove* and he was offered the part of PJ. Although Ant's **preliminary** TV appearance was on children's TV programme, *Why Don't You*, he actually rose to **prominence** on *Byker Grove*. The characters PJ and Duncan were **acquaintances** in the show but they also became firm friends in real life. This friendship between Ant and Dec went on to become an everlasting friendship both personally and professionally.

Surprisingly, prior to hosting the **abundance** of shows which Ant and Dec are most famous for now, they were signed by a record company and had a successful career in music. It all started back in 1993 when they signed their record contract. Over a four year period, they had fourteen top twenty hits, in addition to three multi platinum albums. One of their most well known songs is 'Let's Get Ready To Rhumble.' Furthermore, they won a **plethora** of awards and completed British, European and Worldwide tours. In 1997, they ended their music career to **pursue** their presenting careers.

During their four year music stint, Ant and Dec continued to make TV shows. They had two successful series of the *Ant and Dec Show* on BBC One before switching to Channel 4 to make *Ant and Dec Unzipped*. Although they were at such an early stage in their career, both shows were successful, earning them significant awards. They won a British Academy of Film and Television Award (BAFTA) for the *Ant and Dec Show* and a British Academy Award for *Ant and Dec Unzipped*.

In 1998, not too long after ending their music career, Ant and Dec's own company *Ant and Dec Productions* launched *SM:TV Live*. The show, which mixed music, comedy and cartoons, was co-hosted by Cat Deeley. Immediately after each episode, they also hosted *CD:UK* which featured bands in the UK Charts, music videos and interviews with famous stars who were in the music industry. Right from the start, the show was **thriving** and won over fifteen awards! With its **substantial** ratings, it became the first Saturday morning show to beat the BBC in six years. Two years later, in December 2000, Ant and Dec signed an exclusive contract with ITV1 which led them onto hosting an array of shows alongside *SM:TV Live* and *CD:UK*, including *The BRIT Awards* and *Comic Relief*.

In 2001, they left *SM:TV Live* and *CD:UK* and went on to host *Pop Idol* the following year. *Pop Idol* turned out to be a BAFTA Award-winning show which went worldwide. Ever the hard-working duo, Ant and Dec also recorded an episode of the much loved English sitcom *A Tribute to the Likely Lads* and re-wrote and recorded the official World Cup Anthem for the England Team. Unbelievably, this reached number three in the UK single charts.

In June 2002, they launched a brand new series on ITV1. This show, *Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway*, has been one of their most successful and longest running shows. They have picked up a **phenomenal** amount of awards for this show which aired its twelfth series in 2015. A thirteenth series has been confirmed for 2016.

In 2002, another major TV series hosted by the comedy duo was also launched. Along with *Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway*, *I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!* was launched and has continued to run **annually**. They have also won an abundance of awards for this show.

2005 was another extremely busy and successful year for the duo. As well as hosting their own game show as part of the celebrations for ITV's 50th birthday, they formed a new production company called Gallowgate. During the summer of the same year, they made their first film *Alien Autopsy*. Launching in April 2006, the film was a major hit taking over two million pounds at the box office and earning itself the number one spot in the DVD charts in its first week!

Over the next two years, Ant and Dec hosted a wealth of other shows, produced various TV programmes through their production company and even exclusively interviewed Prince Charles, William and Harry, an interview which aired in over twenty countries worldwide.

It was in June 2007 that *Britain's Got Talent* (BGT), hosted by Ant and Dec, was first aired on ITV1. The purpose of the show is to find the best possible act to perform at the Royal Variety Show in front of the Queen. Even in its first year, the show's ratings were exceptional and Ant and Dec were praised greatly. On the show's final episode in that first year, 11.2 million viewers tuned in to watch. In 2008, Ant and Dec hosted the second series of *BGT* and the number of viewers continued to grow. The final of the 2008 series became the highest rated entertainment programme of the **decade**, alongside *I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!*

BGT has continued to run annually, alongside various other shows which the pair have hosted. *Red or Black? Text Santa* and *Ant and Dec's Push The Button*, just to name a few. They have also released an autobiography *Oh What a Lovely Pair* which was one of the biggest selling books of the year.

It is clear to see that Ant and Dec have been hugely successful in their music, acting and hosting careers as well as building up their own **triumphant** production company. Over the years, they have won many well-deserved awards from National Television Awards to British Academy Television Awards, to name a few.

In their personal lives, Ant and Dec are also the Best of friends. When Ant married Lisa Armstrong on 22nd July 2006, Dec was his best man. Then when Dec married Ali Astall on 1st August 2015, Ant was his best man. Who would have thought that a chance meeting on the set of *Byker Grove* at the age of thirteen would lead to an everlasting friendship and two unbelievably successful careers?



Ant and Dec – Oral Teacher Questions

Who are Ant and Dec? (AF2) **A professional TV presenting duo who have also had a career in the music industry.**

What is Ant's full name? (AF2) **Anthony David McPartlin.**

When was Dec born? (AF2) **25th September 1975.**

How does the writer let the reader know that lots of people live in Newcastle? (AF5) **The writer uses the word 'populous' which means heavily populated.**

When and how did Ant and Dec first meet? (AF2) **They both auditioned for the children's TV programme *Byker Grove* at the age of thirteen.**

The lives of Ant and Dec were similar to that of their on-screen characters, PJ and Duncan. Prove that this statement is true with at least one piece of evidence from the text. (AF3) **PJ and Duncan were good friends on the show and Ant and Dec were good friends in real life. Depending on children's prior knowledge, they might also identify the link between Ant and Dec being children in real-life and also playing the part of children in the show.**

In which year did they host *Pop Idol*? How do you know? (AF3) **In 2002. I know this because it was the year after they left SM:TV Live and CD:UK.**

What type of text do you think that this is? What features and examples of these features can you give from the text? (AF4) **A biography because it is all about the lives of Ant and Dec. Many structural and language features can be identified e.g. Past tense, significant events, 3rd person etc.**

What order has this text been written in? (AF4) **Chronological order.**

Why do you think that the author wrote about Dec's childhood before Ant's? (AF5) **The author was writing the text in chronological order and Dec was born first. Chronological order is the order in which events happen and Dec was born before Ant.**

Do you think that Ant and Dec have been successful in their careers so far? Find at least three pieces of evidence in the text to prove this. (AF2/AF3) **Yes. Evidence may vary but must be taken from the text and must support the idea that they are successful. Examples: Successful TV shows, best selling book, awards they have won, etc.**

If you wanted to find out more about Ant and Dec, how could you do this? (AF7) **Use the Internet. Go to the library and find some books about them, etc.**

Who are Ant and Dec? (AF2)

What is Ant's full name? (AF2)

When was Dec born? (AF2)

How does the writer let the reader know that lots of people live in Newcastle? (AF5)

When and how did Ant and Dec first meet? (AF2)

The lives of Ant and Dec were similar to that of their on-screen characters, PJ and Duncan. Prove that this statement is true with at least one piece of evidence from the text. (AF3)

In which year did they host *Pop Idol*? How do you know? (AF3)

What type of text do you think that this is? What features and examples of these features can you give from the text? (AF4)

What order has this text been written in? (AF4)

Why do you think that the author wrote about Dec’s childhood before Ant’s? (AF5)

Do you think that Ant and Dec have been successful in their careers so far? Find at least three pieces of evidence in the text to prove this. (AF2/AF3)

If you wanted to find out more about Ant and Dec, how could you do this? (AF7)

Write the meaning of each of these words. (AF2)

populous _____

consistent _____

reluctant _____

preliminary _____

prominence _____

acquaintances _____

abundance _____

plethora _____

pursue _____

thriving _____

substantial _____

phenomenal _____

annually _____

abundance _____

decade _____

triumphant _____

Write the meaning of each of these words. (AF2)

populous – heavily populated

consistent – the same

reluctant – not keen

preliminary – first

prominence – fame

acquaintances – somebody known

abundance – large amount

plethora – large amount

pursue – continue with something

thriving – to be successful

Substantial – considerable amount

phenomenal – impressive

annually – every year

decade – a period of ten years

triumphant – successful

Ant and Dec – Vocab 2

Write six complex sentences. Each sentence must contain at least one purple word. Underline each purple word.

Example:

Although the city was extremely populous, Ant and Dec still enjoyed living there.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Punctuation

Read each sentence. Re-write each sentence with the correct punctuation.

have you ever heard of byker grove

declan joseph oliver donnelly dec was born on 25th september 1975

even though ant and dec grew up in the same city it wasn't until the age of thirteen that they first met

surprisingly prior to hosting the abundance of shows which ant and dec are most famous for now they were signed by a record company and had a successful career in music

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even in its first year the shows ratings were exceptional and ant and dec were praised greatly

in their personal lives ant and dec are also the best of friends

Punctuation

Read each sentence. Re-write each sentence with the correct punctuation.

Have you ever heard of Byker Grove?

Declan Joseph Oliver Donnelly (Dec) was born on 25th September 1975.

Even though Ant and Dec grew up in the same city, it wasn't until the age of thirteen that they first met.

Surprisingly, prior to hosting the abundance of shows which Ant and Dec are most famous for now, they were signed by a record company and had a successful career in music.

Right from the start, the show was thriving and won over fifteen awards!

Even in its first year, the shows ratings were exceptional and Ant and Dec were praised greatly.

In their personal lives, Ant and Dec are also the best of friends.