

Discussion task:

What is an *obituary*?

Who are some of the most popular singers from your country? Are they living or dead?

Do some online research about **Aretha Franklin**. Are you familiar with her music?

Reading task:

Read this extract from the obituary of Aretha Franklin. What are the key events in her life?

Obituary: Aretha Franklin

16 August 2018

Aretha Franklin possessed one of the most distinctive and influential voices in the history of popular music.

Since commencing recording over 50 years ago, she racked up 20 Top 10 albums, a dozen million-selling singles and earned no fewer than 18 Grammy awards. She never stopped singing until the end of her life.

An artist of immense versatility, she started singing in the gospel tradition, and moved on to embrace jazz, soul and rhythm and blues. The influential Rolling Stone magazine rated her as the greatest singer of all time.

By the time she was six, she and her family had moved to Detroit. There the young Franklin learned to play the piano and began singing in her father's church.

Her father's church came to be seen as a centre for gospel music among Detroit's black community. The young Franklin got to know a number of musicians, including Smokey Robinson and Sam Cooke.

Encouraged by her father she made her first recording, the album *Songs of Faith*, when she was just 14, by which time she had already given birth to her first son, Clarence.

She had a second child, Edward, when she was 16, but was able to continue singing when her grandmother offered to raise the two boys.

By now her talent started to be noticed by a wider audience. She had already been spotted by one of Columbia's talent scouts, and that was the label on which she first entered the R&B charts in 1960 with *Today I Sing the Blues*.

But Columbia failed to exploit the potential of her gospel voice. As a result, Franklin ceased working for them and proceeded to record for Atlantic Records in 1966.

Her first single on the new label, *I Never Loved a Man (The Way I Love You)*, proved to be her breakthrough, going to number one in the rhythm and blues charts and reaching number nine in the pop charts.

Her second Atlantic single became her best known song. Originally written and recorded by Otis Redding, her gospel-tinged rendition of *Respect* went on to be number one in the US charts and reached number 10 in the UK. The song, became an anthem for the feminist movement in the United States and won Franklin two Grammy awards.

Franklin also came to be viewed as an icon for the US civil rights movement. Now dubbed, "Lady Soul", she was presented with an award by Martin Luther King and was only the second African-American woman to appear on the cover of Time magazine.

Adapted from the BBC [online]: 16th August, 2018 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-11950661>

Pattern identification: Task 1:

Highlight the verbs synonymous with *start*, *stop*, *continue* and *change*.

Pattern identification: Task 2:

The above verbs use two kinds of verb patterns. Fill in the two boxes with examples from the text. The first one has been done for you.

Pattern 5.1 <i>V to-inf</i>	VERB group	<i>to</i>	verb
	moved on	to	embrace

Pattern 5.2 <i>V-ing</i>	VERB group	Verb-ing
	commencing Intermediate	recording

Pattern production

Write an 'obituary' of a famous person (they do not need to be dead), or your own 'obituary'! Use the above patterns in your narrative.