

# Speaking Card 30

## Famous Americans

### ● Who are the most famous American presidents in history?

The first US president, George Washington, was a military leader in the Revolutionary War with Britain before he became president. You can now see his face on the \$1 bill (AmE) / banknote (BrE). Other important presidents include Thomas Jefferson, who wrote the American Declaration of Independence, and Abraham Lincoln, who freed the slaves. You can see monuments to these presidents in Washington DC. John F. Kennedy was a popular president who was killed in 1963. And everyone in the world knows the current president, Barack Obama.

### ● Who are some other famous Americans from history?

Benjamin Franklin was an important politician, writer, inventor, and scientist when America was just a young country. Sitting Bull was a Native American chief who fought against the American army, and Sacagawea was a female Native American guide who helped explorers Lewis and Clark create maps of the American continent from 1804–1806. Martin Luther King, Jr. fought for the rights of African Americans.

### ● What about important American inventors and business people?

Many famous inventors are from the USA. Henry Ford created one of the first cars, Thomas Edison invented the electric light bulb, and the Wright brothers flew the first airplane (AmE) / aeroplane (BrE) in 1903. Steve Jobs and Bill Gates helped create personal computers and other technology with their companies Apple and Microsoft. Walt Disney and his animation company created Mickey Mouse and many fantastic films that kids love to watch.

### ● Which famous writers and authors are American?

Many world-famous authors were born in America, such as Ernest Hemingway, Jack Kerouac and John Steinbeck. Mark Twain wrote the popular books *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Edgar Allan Poe wrote the world-famous poem called "The Raven" and many other books and stories. One of the most famous horror writers, Stephen King, is also from America.

### ● How many popular American musicians do you know?

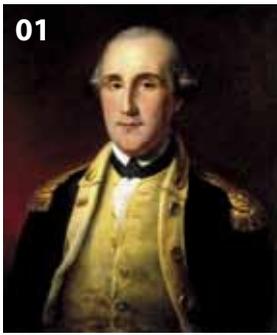
Two of the "kings" of music also come from the United States: The "King of Rock and Roll", Elvis Presley, was one of the biggest music and film stars in America in the 1950s and '60s. The "King of Pop", Michael Jackson, started singing in 1964 when he was only six years old and was the most famous superstar in the world for many years. Some of the most famous female musicians in American history include Madonna / Whitney Houston and Beyoncé. Jazz musician Louis Armstrong wrote the song "What a Wonderful World". The US is also the home of modern stars like Eminem / Kanye West / Taylor Swift / Justin Timberlake / Miley Cyrus / Katy Perry and many more.

### ● Which famous actors are American?

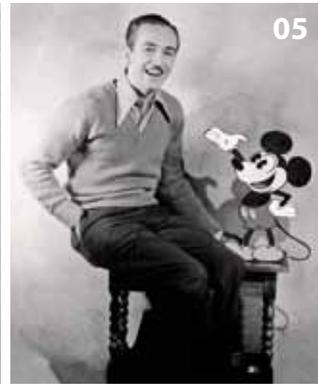
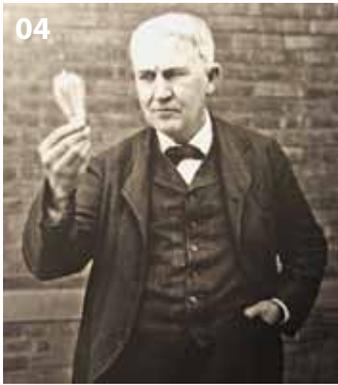
Hollywood is in California, so of course many famous actors were also born in the US. Do you know John Wayne, the most famous actor in western movies? How about Tom Hanks / Tom Cruise / Johnny Depp / Ben Affleck or Angelina Jolie / Scarlett Johansson / Cameron Diaz? They are all American. Tom Hanks' most famous character is probably Forrest Gump, and Johnny Depp has been in many films, like *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Leonardo DiCaprio was in the film *Titanic*. One of the most famous celebrities in American history is Marilyn Monroe, the beautiful, blonde model / actress and singer whose face is still seen all over the world today.

### ● Who are the most famous American sportspeople?

Michael Jordan is one of the most successful athletes in the world. He won six championships with the Chicago Bulls basketball team in the 1990s. LeBron James is now the best basketball player in the NBA. The most famous boxer in history, Muhammad Ali, was a great fighter. Tiger Woods was the top golfer in the world. Swimmer Michael Phelps won many Olympic medals, more than any other athlete in history. The Williams sisters, Serena and Venus, are two of the top female tennis players in the world.



Martin Luther King, Jr.



Beyoncé



James Franco



LeBron James

