

Sir Donald Bradman

Read the biography.



Full Name	: Donald George Bradman
Born	: 27 August 1908, Cootamundra, New South Wales
Died	: 25 February 2001, Adelaide, South Australia
Major Teams	: Australia, New South Wales, South Australia
Also Known As	: The Don
Batting Style	: Right-hand bat
Bowling Style	: Leg break

Donald Bradman, the youngest of one brother and three sisters, moved with his family to Bowral, in New South Wales, when he was two. One of Donald's favourite games as a child was a type of backyard cricket. A golf ball was thrown at a wall and he would try and hit it with a cricket stump. The constant practice sharpened Donald's reflexes and increased his concentration — adding to his already unique and exceptional abilities as a cricketer.

When he was 12, Donald was scoring at his father's and older brother's cricket game. Fortunately, they were short of a batsman on this day, so Donald was asked to play. He scored 37 runs and was awarded his very first cricket bat.

When Donald was 18, the state selectors, a group of men appointed by Cricket Australia for team selections, invited him to a cricket trial in Sydney. Although they were looking for a bowler, it was a batsman they discovered that day. By the following year, Donald was representing New South Wales in the Sheffield Shield where he scored 118 runs against South Australia. Bradman was known as the 'baby' of the team and his fans in Melbourne began to call him 'The Don'.

During a match in 1930, when Bradman was 21, he earned his highest score — 452 runs! He also made 1000 runs for the season. Donald continued with work and cricket commitments as well as finding time to coach hundreds of schoolchildren.

Bradman's first overseas tour in England was the beginning of his immense fame. Scoring 254 runs at Lords and 334 runs at Leeds, Bradman returned to Australia a celebrity.

For many years, Bradman dominated the game of cricket, so much so that English captain Douglas Jardine invented a new type of bowling (bowling is the act of propelling the ball to the wicket that is defended by a batsman) known as 'bodyline' to try to reduce Bradman's batting scores. Australia lost the Ashes, a five-test cricket series played between Australia and England, in the summer of 1932-33, possibly due to this new (and often regarded as dangerous and unsporting) style of bowling.

Donald married Jessie Menzies in 1932 and, shortly after, they moved to South Australia where Donald became captain of the team and a state selector. In 1936, Donald Bradman led the national team for the first time as their captain.

After World War II, Bradman, who was approaching his forties and had suffered some illnesses, was chosen to be captain of the Australian team which defeated England 4-0. His cricketing career spanned 20 years and his batting averages are the goals of many aspiring young cricketers.

Sir Donald Bradman was knighted in 1949 and for the greater part of the rest of the century, continued to be involved in cricket and its administration. He died in February, 2001.

1 Literal

Read the sentences. Circle 'Fact' or 'Opinion'.

[7]

Scanning for specific information
Identifying fact and opinion

(a) Donald Bradman had four siblings.

fact

opinion

(b) Hitting a golf ball with a cricket stump improved Donald's reflexes.

fact

opinion

(c) By the age of 12, Donald was a better cricketer than his older brother.

fact

opinion

(d) Donald Bradman always wanted to be a professional cricket player.

fact

opinion

(e) Donald turned 24 the year he was married.

fact

opinion

1 Literal

(f) Donald Bradman preferred living in South Australia to New South Wales.

fact

opinion

(g) Donald Bradman was the greatest cricketer of the 20th century.

fact

opinion

2 Inferential



[6]

Making inferences

(a) Why did Donald not use a cricket bat and ball to practise his batting when he was a child?

(b) Why do you think the state selectors in Sydney chose Donald, a batsman, when they were looking for a bowler?

(c) How do you think the English cricket team felt about Donald Bradman's success?

3 Applied

- (a) Write three words to describe how you think Donald felt when he was representing his country in the game of cricket for the first time. [3]

Using prior knowledge

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- (b) Do you think it was fair that the English team changed their bowling style to try to prevent Donald's exceptional run rate? Give a reason for your answer. [2]

Using prior knowledge

- (c) Sir Donald Bradman is one of the world's greatest cricketer and athlete. His achievements have been compared to those of Pele (soccer), Tiger Woods (golf) and Michael Jordan (basketball). Do you agree? Explain your answer. [2]

Using prior knowledge
Comparing and contrasting

Try this

- 1 Scan the biography about Sir Donald Bradman and write numbers to answer these questions. [12]



Making inferences
Scanning for specific information

Year born:	Year died:	Year married:	Year knighted:
Number of runs when awarded first cricket bat:	Age Bradman earned his highest number of runs:	Highest number of runs:	First overseas tour run score at Leeds:
Years Australia lost the Ashes tour in England:	Year Donald was captain of national team for first time:	Length of career as a cricketer:	Age at death:

- 2 What type of qualities do you think Donald Bradman possessed to be able to achieve such enormous success in his life?

(a) Write a list of three of his qualities. [3]

Using prior knowledge

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Try this

- (b) Read through the qualities you have listed. Is there a person you admire who also possesses one or more of these qualities? [2]

Using prior knowledge
Comparing and contrasting

Name:

Quality:

- (c) Which qualities do you think you share with the late Sir Donald Bradman? Explain why. [3]

Using prior knowledge
Comparing and contrasting

Answers:

Sir Donald Bradman

- Fact
 - Fact
 - Opinion
 - Opinion
 - Fact
 - Opinion
 - Opinion
- He only played backyard cricket and not proper cricket.
 - (suggested answer)
They were impressed by his skills and felt that he was good enough to be on the team.
 - (suggested answer)
They were displeased at how successful he was.
- (suggested answers)
 - proud, pleased, anxious
 - No, it was not. It did not demonstrate good sportsmanship and the results after that would not have been a good indication that the English were better than Donald.
 - Yes, I agree. I think these athletes have shown tremendous talent and skill in their games, as well as determination and tenacity in competing in international tournaments.

Try this

1.

Year born: 1908	Year died: 2001	Year married: 1932	Year knighted: 1949
Number of runs when awarded the first cricket bat: 37	Age Bradman earned his highest number of runs: 21	Highest number of runs: 452	First overseas tour run score at Leeds: 334
Years Australia lost the Ashes tour in England: 1932-1933	Year Donald was captain of national team for first time: 1936	Length of career as a cricketer: 20 years	Age of death: 92

- (suggested answers)
 - perseverance, commitment, humility
 - Name: Jordan Parker (my father)
Quality: He works hard every day to support the family and he perseveres even when he faces difficulties at work. He is also committed to our family and will give my mother, my siblings and I the attention that we need. Although he is the director of a large company, he has no airs about him and he teaches us to be humble and not to flaunt our wealth.
 - I think I have perseverance. Whenever I embark on a project or when I try to learn a skill, I am unable to succeed the first time. I would have to try hard and be determined to reach my goal. Often, I will need more time than others around me but I will persevere no matter how many problems I face.