CLASSROOM WORKSHEET

Patrick Stewart Dies at 86 After Short Illness

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NAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____ SCORE _____ / 17



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1 Read

The number beside each paragraph helps you talk about it.

1 Patrick Stewart, the actor who played Captain Picard in Star Trek and Professor X in X-Men, has died at age 86. His family confirmed that a short illness involving Alzheimer's and Lewy body dementia led to his passing on Thursday. An official statement posted to his social media accounts announced the news. Stewart became widely known for his role as Captain Jean-Luc Picard in Star Trek: The Next Generation, which ran from 1987 to 1994. He also played Professor Charles Xavier in the X-Men films, beginning in 2000. Before his screen success, he spent many years with the Royal Shakespeare Company. There, he won two Olivier awards for stage work in 1979 and 2009. In 2010, he was knighted by the Queen of England, which he considered the greatest honour of his career. Hugh Jackman, who often worked alongside Stewart in X-Men, mourned him publicly on social media. Jackman called him a great of stage and screen, and a tremendous friend. Tributes of flowers appeared on Stewart's star along the Hollywood Walk of Fame after the news spread. The loss marks the end of a career that spanned decades across theatre, television, and film.

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2 Key words

confirmed /kənˈfɜːmd/ *verb*
to state that something is true or certain, often officially
The government confirmed the date of the upcoming election after weeks of speculation.

tributes /ˈtrɪbjuːts/ *noun*
actions or words that show respect and praise for someone
Friends left tributes of books and handwritten notes outside the beloved teacher's office.

mourned /mɔːnd/ *verb*
to feel or show deep sadness because someone has died
The whole village mourned the loss of their oldest and most respected resident.

honour /ˈɒnə/ *noun*
a great respect or pride given to someone for an achievement
Receiving the medal felt like the greatest honour of her entire sporting career.

spanned /spænd/ *verb*
covered a period of time or a range of areas from one end to the other
Her career as a journalist spanned several decades and took her to many countries.

passing /ˈpɑːsɪŋ/ *noun*
a gentle and formal way to refer to someone's death
The community gathered to remember the kind doctor after his passing last spring.

3 Grammar focus

Relative clauses

noun + who / which / where / whose + more information

Relative clauses (who, which, whose, where) add information to a noun. Defining clauses identify it; non-defining clauses, set off by commas, add extra detail.

1. Hugh Jackman, who often worked alongside Stewart in X-Men, mourned him publicly on social media.
2. In 2010, he was knighted by the Queen of England, which he considered the greatest honour of his career.
3. Patrick Stewart, the actor who played Captain Picard in Star Trek and Professor X in X-Men, has died at age 86.

Find the noun that each clause describes.

4 Reading comprehension

EXERCISE 1 Understanding the News Report

3 points

Read the questions below and choose the best answer based on the lesson text.

1 What does the text suggest about the importance of Stewart's knighthood compared to his other achievements?

- (a) He valued it more highly than his famous screen roles.
- (b) He saw it as equal to his Olivier awards.
- (c) He considered it less important than his television work.
- (d) He felt it was only a minor recognition.

2 Why is Hugh Jackman mentioned in the report?

- (a) To show that Stewart had no other friends in the industry.
- (b) To highlight that his death had emotional impact on close colleagues.
- (c) To explain how Stewart first became famous.
- (d) To argue that Stewart should have received more awards.

3 What does the structure of the report suggest about Stewart's career?

- (a) His career was limited to only two famous TV shows.
- (b) His career was narrow and brief.
- (c) His career was broad, including theatre, television, and film.
- (d) His career ended suddenly before he could finish his work.

EXERCISE 2 Key Details from the Report

Answer the questions below in short phrases or full sentences based only on the lesson text.

1 How was the news of Stewart's death officially communicated to the public?

2 What did Stewart consider the greatest honour of his career?

3 Where did people leave tributes after the news spread?

5 Vocabulary and grammar practice

EXERCISE 3 Passive Voice and Past Forms

4 points

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1 An official statement _____ (post) to his social media accounts.

2 He _____ (knight) by the Queen of England in 2010.

3 The loss _____ (mark) the end of a career that spanned decades.

4 Tributes of flowers _____ (appear) on Stewart's star along the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

EXERCISE 4 Match the Words to Their Meanings

6 points

Match each vocabulary term with its correct definition.

1 confirmed _____

2 tributes _____

3 mourned _____

4 honour _____

5 spanned _____

6 passing _____

A a gentle and formal way to refer to someone's death

B to state that something is true or certain, often officially

C a great respect or pride given to someone for an achievement

D to feel or show deep sadness because someone has died

E covered a period of time or a range of areas from one end to the other

F actions or words that show respect and praise for someone

EXERCISE 5 Put the sentences in order

4 points

These sentences are from the story. Put them in the order they appear.

A Stewart became widely known for his role as Captain Jean-Luc Picard in Star Trek: The Next Generation, which ran from 1987 to 1994.

B An official statement posted to his social media accounts announced the news.

C He also played Professor Charles Xavier in the X-Men films, beginning in 2000.

D His family confirmed that a short illness involving Alzheimer's and Lewy body dementia led to his passing on Thursday.

Correct order: _____ _____ _____ _____

6 Guided writing

EXERCISE 6 **Summary and Opinion**

Write a short summary (80–130 words) of the news story about Patrick Stewart's death. Include what happened, his main achievements, and how people responded. Then add one sentence giving your opinion on why his career was impressive, based on what you read in the text. Write 80 to 130 words. Use these words: confirmed, tributes, mourned, spanned.

Answer key

For the teacher

Keep this page for yourself and copy only the pages before it. Short-answer and writing tasks list one possible answer.

Exercise 1 Understanding the News Report

1. A. He valued it more highly than his famous screen roles. The text says he 'considered the greatest honour of his career,' implying he valued it above his other achievements.
2. B. To highlight that his death had emotional impact on close colleagues. Jackman is described as someone who 'often worked alongside Stewart' and called him 'a tremendous friend,' showing the personal impact on colleagues.
3. C. His career was broad, including theatre, television, and film. The text lists Royal Shakespeare Company work, Star Trek television, and X-Men films, and the final sentence states his career 'spanned decades across theatre, television, and film.'

Exercise 2 Key Details from the Report

1. An official statement was posted to his social media accounts to announce the news. The text explicitly states that 'An official statement posted to his social media accounts announced the news.'
2. He considered being knighted by the Queen of England the greatest honour of his career. The text states: 'he was knighted by the Queen of England, which he considered the greatest honour of his career.'
3. Tributes of flowers appeared on Stewart's star along the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The text says: 'Tributes of flowers appeared on Stewart's star along the Hollywood Walk of Fame after the news spread.'

Exercise 3 Passive Voice and Past Forms

1. was posted The statement did not post itself; it was posted by someone. Use the past simple passive: 'was posted.'
2. was knighted He received the honour from the Queen; the action was done to him. Use past simple passive: 'was knighted.'
3. marks This is a present fact stated by the reporter, so we use present simple third person: 'marks.'
4. appeared The tributes appeared by themselves; this is a past simple active verb describing an event that happened.

Exercise 4 Match the Words to Their Meanings

1. B. to state that something is true or certain, often officially
2. F. actions or words that show respect and praise for someone
3. D. to feel or show deep sadness because someone has died
4. C. a great respect or pride given to someone for an achievement
5. E. covered a period of time or a range of areas from one end to the other
6. A. a gentle and formal way to refer to someone's death

Exercise 5 Put the sentences in order

D, B, A, C His family confirmed that a short illness involving Alzheimer's and Lewy body dementia led to his passing on Thursday. An official statement posted to his social media accounts announced the news. Stewart became widely known for his role as Captain Jean-Luc Picard in Star Trek: The Next Generation, which ran from 1987 to 1994. He also played Professor Charles Xavier in the X-Men films, beginning in 2000.

Exercise 6 Summary and Opinion

Patrick Stewart died at 86 after a short illness involving Alzheimer's and Lewy body dementia, as confirmed by his family through a social media statement. He was known for playing Captain Picard in Star Trek and Professor Xavier in X-Men. His career spanned decades across theatre, television, and film, including his work with the Royal Shakespeare Company and two Olivier awards. Hugh Jackman publicly mourned him on social media, calling him a tremendous friend. Tributes of flowers appeared on his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. I believe his career was impressive because he achieved the same level of respect on stage and screen, which is rare. One possible answer. Yours will be different and can still be good: check it against the list.