



INTERMEDIATE
**Oprah Winfrey
most powerful
woman**

Oprah Winfrey has been named the most powerful woman in entertainment. This is according to the entertainment trade publication The Hollywood Reporter. She jumped up from the number six spot, which she occupied in 2007. Her rise to the top may be due to the influence she had on the US Election in November 2008. Analysts reckon her support of Barack Obama brought him over one million votes. The Hollywood Reporter's chief editor Elizabeth Guider explained: "The decision to place Oprah at the top of the list was based on her dizzying array of Oprah-branded media and her immense cultural influence," she said. TIME magazine listed Winfrey as one of the 100 people of the twentieth century.

Oprah Winfrey is a household name in many parts of the world. Her rags-to-riches life is an incredible success story. She is a self-made woman who became the world's first black billionaire in 2004. Winfrey owns her own production company Harpo ('Oprah' spelt backwards), which made \$345 million in profit in 2007. She is perhaps most famous for her chat shows. The "Oprah Winfrey Show" began in 1986 and has been one of the world's most-watched programmes ever since. Winfrey's entertainment empire covers TV, magazines, book clubs and online shopping. She is also extremely well known for her charity work. She is set to launch her own TV channel, OWN (Oprah Winfrey Network), which will reach 70 million homes.

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READING / LISTENING

TRUE / FALSE

Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- a. Oprah Winfrey won a competition testing the strength of celebrities.
- b. Winfrey had an influence on the 2008 US Election.
- c. Oprah bought Barack Obama over a million votes in the election.
- d. TIME magazine said Oprah was one of the 20th century's top people.
- e. Oprah was born into a very rich family.
- f. Oprah reversed the letters of her given name for her company name.
- g. The Oprah Winfrey Show is the most successful show in TV history.
- h. Oprah may soon be in 70 million living rooms via her own TV network.

SYNONYM MATCH

Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. trade | a. get to |
| 2. rise | b. believe |
| 3. reckon | c. huge |
| 4. array | d. started |
| 5. immense | e. variety |
| 6. incredible | f. very |
| 7. began | g. industry |
| 8. empire | h. amazing |
| 9. extremely | i. organization |
| 10. reach | j. elevation |

PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article

(sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. the most powerful woman | a. for her chat shows |
| 2. the influence she had on the | b. influence |
| 3. She jumped up from the | c. watched programmes |
| 4. her immense cultural | d. household name |
| 5. the 100 people of | e. in entertainment |
| 6. Oprah Winfrey is a | f. number six spot |
| 7. 'Oprah' spelt | g. her own TV channel |
| 8. She is perhaps most famous | h. the twentieth century |
| 9. one of the world's most- | i. backwards |
| 10. She is set to launch | j. US Election |