

The Distance Learner

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Rachael makes history

Tipperary jockey Rachael Blackmore made racing history recently when she became the first woman jockey ever to win the Aintree Grand National.

Riding the Irish horse, Minella Times owned by Limerick businessman JP McManus and trained by Waterford trainer Henry de Bromhead, Rachael rode a superb race.

The English Grand National which is held each year in April in Aintree near Liverpool has been taking place since 1839. It is said to be the toughest national hunt horse race in the world. It is over six kilometres long with thirty fences to jump including the famous Becher's Brook fence which is regarded as very dangerous because of its height (2.44 metres). It is every jockey's dream to ride in the Aintree Grand National where only the very best get the chance to take part.



Now, 31-year-old Rachael who comes from

Killenaule in Tipperary will go down in history as the first woman to win this famous race. A few weeks earlier she won the Champion Jockey Award in Cheltenham, the other famous annual English racing festival. Rachel rode six winners over the week in Cheltenham.

Although she is not from a racing family like many of the other jockeys, she grew up on a farm that had ponies where she began riding as a child. She won her first pony race at the age of thirteen. Her family and neighbours in Killenaule are hugely proud of her and plan to celebrate with her when lockdown finishes.

President Michael D. Higgins is 80

President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins celebrated his 80th birthday on April 18. Born in Limerick in 1941, he was one of a family of four children. His father had poor health and was unable to work and earn enough to look after the family. So, at the age of five years, Michael and his brother were sent to live with his mother's sister and brother in Co. Clare. He went to school there. When he left school, he got a job in the ESB.

He had always wanted to continue in education but the fees were very expensive. A family friend who heard about this gave him a loan of two hundred pounds and with this he left his job and began studying at the university in Galway. He was the first member of his family to attend university. A number of years later after



returning from further study in England and America he became a lecturer in the university in Galway where he worked for several years.

It was in Galway that he became interested in politics and served as a TD for Galway West from 1987 to 2011. He was made Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht in 1993 and was responsible for setting up TG4, the all-Irish TV channel. In 2011 he won the election to become the ninth president of Ireland, winning the highest number of votes ever received by a candidate. He is currently serving his second term as president.

Michael D. Higgins is also a writer and poet and has had four books of poetry published. He married Sabina Coyne in 1974 and they have one daughter and three sons.

Adding "ing" and "ed" to words ending in y

- For **all** words ending in "y" just add "ing" without a change.
 - cry/crying play/playing fly/flying
- To add ed

Check to see what letter comes before y in the word

Example: in the word "play" there is a vowel before the y

(Vowels are i o u a e) (all the other letters are called consonants)

- For words with a vowel before the "y" just add "ed" without a change.
 - play/played enjoy/enjoyed

Example: in the word cry there is a consonant before the y

- For words with a consonant before y change y to "i" before adding "ed"
 - cry/cried marry/married

Add ed and ing to these words (the first one is done for you)

	ed	ing
cry	<u>cried</u>	<u>crying</u>
play	_____	_____
rely	_____	_____
try	_____	_____
marry	_____	_____
hurry	_____	_____
deny	_____	_____
rely	_____	_____
stay	_____	_____
delay	_____	_____
carry	_____	_____
copy	_____	_____
enjoy	_____	_____
empty	_____	_____

There are many words that can be made using the letters in the word below. See how many of them you can find.

p r e s i d e n t

2 letter words i _ _ s _ t

3 letter words s _ _ n _ _ p _ _

t _ _ p _ _ s _ _ t _ _ r _ _

4 letter words

s _ _ _ r _ _ _ d _ _ _ r _ _ _

s _ _ _ r _ _ _ t _ _ _ n _ _ _ p _ _ _

t _ _ _

5 letter words p _ _ d e s p _ _ t

s p _ t _ p r _ _ _

6 letter word s t r _ _ e

7 letter word p r _ _ _ n _

8 letter word r e _ _ d e _ _