




Lesson 2 - Biography- Part II

1.  Write out your biography as a story.

Sit down with your bio example and pretend you have an interview and someone wants to know everything about you, after reading your Bio Example Facts. You can also ask a friend to help you be the interviewer. Go through the facts in chronological order and start to tell your story. It will be easier to talk freely, and then afterwards you listen to yourself and put it into writings.

Make a story out of it, with a max of 600/700 words. When you're finished and satisfied, divide it into a couple of chapters (you can add your own subtitles):

Chapters:

- Early life
- Education
- Experiences:
 - Appearances with important orchestras (or conductors, or soloists)
 - Masterclasses and summer schools
 - Performing in duo or trio, playing chamber music
 - other
- Prizes/Awards
 - Special awards/prizes and notable achievements
- Audio/Media exposure
 - Recording a CD, performance for TV
- Various

Here are **some examples** of **biographies**, to get inspired:

Original: <https://ciceronema.com/artists/laura-marzadori/>

Chapters: <https://gwendolynmasin.com/about/biography>

Traditional and stylish: <http://www.paulhuangviolin.com/artist.php?view=bio>

Different

Duo's / ensembles

<https://calefax.nl/en/calefax/>

Short and to the point

<https://iclassical-foundation.com/musixange-2/music-promotion-site/nora-becker/>

Example of first highlighting current situation and putting the beginning at the end (notice the quote of Elton John at the top!)

<http://www.2cellos.com/biography/>

Orchestras

How do you catch a story of 176 years in a good overview? Have a look at the historical biography of the New York Philharmonic:

<http://nyphil.org/about-us/history>

<https://www.concertgebouworkest.nl/en/the-orchestra>

Do and don'ts

Do

- Write in the 3rd person.
- Check correct spelling of Professors, names of Institutions, Competitions, Summer schools etc.
- Be consequent. If you decide to use Prof. instead of Professor, do it throughout the text
- Decide if you want to use for Professors their name only, or Professor/Maestro added. Example: Isaac Stern, or Maestro Isaac Stern
- If you decide to name the teachers Professors, do it with all
- When mentioning orchestras or venues you've performed, use the ones that are relevant for where to send your biography (if it's for a local target, highlight more local and national names, when it has to be international, highlight the international ones.)
- If you have, use positive quotes from the press as a headliner
- Same for quotes other remarkable artists/Professors said about you
- Find your style
- Make sure your English is correct

Don't

- Use abbreviations for names of Institutions, Competitions, Summer schools etc.
- Make lists of all the countries where you performed. Use a few, or, a general indication like Europe, USA, Asia
- Make a long list of all the orchestras you played with, use the ones that are relevant for where to send your biography
- Use complicated words, try to stay clear and effective
- Use cliché phrases

Send back to elarning@ciceronema.com (for courses with instructor only)

Self-management course

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