



Schwarzenegger moved to the United States in September 1968 at the age of 21, speaking little English.

**"Naturally, when I came to this country, my accent was very bad, and my accent was also very strong, which was an obstacle as I began to pursue acting."**

In 1969, Schwarzenegger met Barbara Outland Baker, an English teacher he lived with until 1974. Schwarzenegger has said his big dream from the age of 10 was to move to the U.S. He questioned what he was doing "on the farm" in Austria, and believed bodybuilding was his "ticket to America" "I'm sure I can go to America if I win Mr. Universe." L.A. Weekly said in 2002 that Schwarzenegger is the most famous immigrant in America, who "overcame a thick Austrian accent and transcended the unlikely background of bodybuilding to become the biggest movie star in the world in the 1990s".

Schwarzenegger wanted to move from bodybuilding into acting, finally achieving it when he was chosen to play the role of Hercules in 1970's **Hercules In New York**. Later, he found world wide success in such blockbuster hits as **Conan the Barbarian**, **Terminator** and **Predator**. In 2003 he achieved a long-held dream becoming the **Governor of California**.

Schwarzenegger has discussed his early struggles in developing his acting career. "It was very difficult for me in the beginning – I was told by agents and casting people that my body was 'too weird', that I had a funny accent, and that my name was too long. You name it, and they told me I had to change it. Basically, everywhere I turned, I was told that I had no chance."

## Listening

1. When did Arnold move to the U.S.?

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2. Who did Arnold live with?

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3. What was Arnold's big dream when he was a kid?

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4. What careers did Arnold have?

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5. What challenges did Arnold overcome to become an actor?

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6. What did people tell Arnold when he tried to be an actor?

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**1. What challenges have you faced as a student? Have they effected your career?**

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**2. World-class bodybuilder, actor and politician, how do you describe Arnold?**

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**3. How do you feel when someone tells you “you can’t” do something?**

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**4. Arnold’s dreams were all uncommon and difficult. What did he do to reach them all?**

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**5. What are your dreams? What are you doing to make them happen?**

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### **About the worksheet**

This worksheet is an example of how we might take information about a celebrity or public figure and adapt it to the classroom. The information and images here are not mine and I'm sharing them here only as an example of how educators might apply them.

### **Using the worksheet**

1. Have students talk about their goals, celebrities or another related topic.
2. Read part of the story to the students as listening practice.  
Ask some comprehension questions: How old was he when he moved to the U.S.?
3. Have students get back into a conversation either related to Arnold's story or their own challenges as students.

This story looks at one aspect of Arnold's life. You could easily focus on his politics, movies, or bodybuilding depending on what the students are interested in. Generally speaking it's good to find out what celebrities or sports stars your students are interested in and then make a worksheet like this.

The information about Arnold was taken from the Wikipedia page about him. I made the questions and discussion points.