



1. What is the main irony about Hawking's life?

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2. What are the characteristics of Hawking's disease?

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3. How did Hawking behave during his first years at Oxford University?

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4. Why didn't doctors expect him to live beyond the age of 25?

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5. In what ways does Hawking remain close to ordinary people?

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**2. Read this story about another extraordinary life and fill in the blanks with the right form of the verbs in brackets. When you see + use a modal**

The real-life story of Annie Shapiro - who fell into a coma at age 50 in 1963 - \_\_\_\_\_ (be) more remarkable than the movie based on her miraculous re-awakening.

When she suddenly \_\_\_\_\_ (awake) nearly 30 years later in 1992, she was a 79-year-old granny, devastated by her appearance and the way the world \_\_\_\_\_ (change).

Just after she emerged from her years of darkness, she told me: "When I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to sleep, I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a really good life and was a darn good-looking woman. But all I \_\_\_\_\_ (see) in the mirror now is an old lady with bags around her eyes, wrinkles and grey hair.

She \_\_\_\_\_ (+ not believe) that her husband Martin was an old man of 81 and that her teenage son and 25-year-old daughter Marilyn were middle-aged. She was awe-struck to learn about cordless telephones and spaceships flights.

The talented business-woman, who \_\_\_\_\_ (run) two apron shops near Toronto, Canada, before her illness, fell into a coma on Nov 22, 1963, aged 50.

She \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) news reports on the assassination of US President John F. Kennedy on her black-and-white TV set when she \_\_\_\_\_ (suffer) a massive stroke.

For the next two years, Mrs Shapiro was totally paralysed, with her eyes staring wide open. Her husband \_\_\_\_\_ (+put) drops in her eyes every few hours \_\_\_\_\_ (keep) them from \_\_\_\_\_ (dry) out.

Mr Shapiro said he dressed and fed her "like a totally helpless child."

At night, he \_\_\_\_\_ (lie) next to his sleeping beauty in the darkness. He consulted experts, but no one could help her.

After two years of physical therapy, he finally got her to the point where she \_\_\_\_\_ (+ sit up) and walk, assisted on either side.

During her long sleep, Mrs Shapiro's body began \_\_\_\_\_ (break down). She had cataract surgery, a hysterectomy and a hip replacement.

But amazingly, on Oct 14, 1992, she suddenly \_\_\_\_\_ (snap) out of her coma. Mr Shapiro, who \_\_\_\_\_ (retire) and moved his ill wife to a retirement community in Florida, was flabbergasted. "If I \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) a story like this by other people, I \_\_\_\_\_ (not believe) it. But it happened to me!" he says.

**3. Go on reading and fill in the blanks with a suitable connective**

"I was lying beside her in the bed," he said, " \_\_\_\_\_ she sat up and said: Turn on the television. I want to see the I Love Lucy show." It was like a dead person come to life."

Mrs Shapiro got her first shock as \_\_\_\_\_ as she realised the TV was in colour, not black-and-white. \_\_\_\_\_, what really shocked her the most was her husband's grandfatherly appearance and her own wrinkled face.

"When she first looked in the mirror, she wanted to die," said Mr Shapiro. " \_\_\_\_\_ of taking it lightly and trying to understand the situation, she started to shout and, \_\_\_\_\_ there was nothing she could do about it, she started to cry over all those lost years. She \_\_\_\_\_ talked nor looked at me. She just sat there and cried."

Her first thoughts were for her son Marshall. The day before her stroke, Mr Shapiro had kicked the 16-year-old youth out of the house \_\_\_\_\_ he had crashed the family car. Now she was feeling \_\_\_\_\_ guilty that she wanted her husband to bring their son home.

\_\_\_\_\_ he dialled Marshall's telephone number in Toronto, he told his wife that her boy was now aged 48, married and father of two.

\_\_\_\_\_ first, Mrs Shapiro was afraid to get on the line and talk to him because it was a cordless phone. "The phone didn't have any wires," she told me. "A voice was coming out of it and I thought it must be magic."

**4. Fill in the blanks with ONE word only.**

As the first shockwaves started to disappear, Mrs Shapiro desperately tried to catch up on \_\_\_\_\_ had happened in the world. The woman \_\_\_\_\_ had been silent for 30 years stayed up around the clock for two days and did not stop talking.

Dr Glenn Englander, who was treating her for high blood pressure the day before she awakened from her coma, called her recovery a miracle. "I gave her something to lower her blood pressure," she said. " \_\_\_\_\_ I did something unknowingly to help her, I'd like to find out so I can do it for others."

The \_\_\_\_\_ touching part of the miracle was the renewed romance between Shapiro and her husband, who had cared for her all those years, refusing to \_\_\_\_\_ her placed in a nursing home.

"We both could \_\_\_\_\_ walk, but Annie wanted me to take her dancing," he said. Sadly, her husband died three years \_\_\_\_\_. And now, Mrs Shapiro, 85, lives alone in a Toronto nursing home.

\_\_\_\_\_ to her daughter, she sleeps a lot but \_\_\_\_\_ she is awake, she often time-travels \_\_\_\_\_ tragic 1963 and the good final years she had with the man who loved her forever.

**5. This is an interview the Shapiros gave on National television after Rose's awakening. Complete the dialogue**

**Interviewer** Mrs Shapiro, your recovery was like a miracle. \_\_\_\_\_ changes around you?

**Mrs Sh** At first, I was quite shocked. Everything was so different! I just couldn't understand what had happened.

**Interviewer** \_\_\_\_\_?

**Mrs Sh** My appearance, for sure. And Mike's. As far as I remembered I had gone to bed one evening at the age of 50 and when I woke up I was this old eighty-year-old woman. It was a real shock.

**Interviewer** \_\_\_\_\_?

**Mrs Sh** No, it wasn't. I really felt at a loss. My daughter came from Canada to help me adjust to my new life.

**LEVEL A7**

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- Interviewer** \_\_\_\_\_ adjust to the world around you?
- Mrs Sh** It was a very slow process. There were so many new things I had to learn about!
- Interviewer** Of course. I can imagine. And what about you, Mr Shapiro? \_\_\_\_\_ wake up one day?
- MR SH** I had always thought that it was possible. But as time went by, I started to lose hope.
- Interviewer** \_\_\_\_\_ while Rose was in a coma?
- MR SH** At first, I didn't know how to handle it. Then I slowly started to learn to live with my new wife. It was hard, but I managed it.
- Interviewer** Tell us \_\_\_\_\_?
- MR SH** Everybody around me said I should place her in a nursing home.
- Interviewer** \_\_\_\_\_?
- MR SH** When I took my marriage vows I said it was in sickness and in health. So that's what I did. I took care of her while she was sick.
- Interviewer** That's just remarkable! Most people today wouldn't put up with that sort of pressure.
- MR SH** I know, but that's how I felt. And I'm glad I did. Imagine if Rose had woken up in a nursing home ... alone. \_\_\_\_\_? It would have been terrible!
- Interviewer** Of course. And what about your life today?
- Mrs Sh** Well, I'm still learning about many of the things that have changed around me. And Mike is helping me.
- Interviewer** \_\_\_\_\_?
- Mrs Sh** Yes! We're going to go dancing! We just have to do it again!
- Interviewer** Excellent! Congratulations to both of you!

**6. Composition. Write about 180 words on ONE of the following:**

- A Turning Point in my Life.
- “Marriages are meant never to be broken.” Discuss