

# Malala Yousafzai: "You have to work a bit harder" in college

By Amelia Gentleman, The Guardian, adapted by Newsela staff on 04.09.18

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Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai attends the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, January 25, 2018. Photo: Markus Schreiber/AP

Malala Yousafzai is only 20 years old. She writes books and talks to world leaders about why school is so important. She believes all children should go to school.

In some parts of the world, it can be hard to go to school. Some places do not let girls go to school.

Now, she is going to college. Yousafzai is studying at Oxford. It is one of the best colleges in the world.

How does she keep doing this important work while also studying?

"Sometimes, it is challenging. You have to stay awake until late and finish your work. You have to work a bit harder," she says. "Everyone struggles."

**Young Peace Prize Winner**

In 2012, Yousafzai lived in Pakistan. It is a country next to India. Back then, the Taliban invaded her city and took control, meaning it was in charge. The Taliban is a violent group. It did not allow girls to go to school. Yousafzai fought this rule. She was shot by a gunman who became angry with her. She was badly hurt, but she survived.

She was flown to a hospital in England. She has lived there ever since.

In 2014, Yousafzai won the Nobel Peace Prize when she was only 17 years old. She became the youngest person ever to receive the famous award.

### **"I've Made So Many Friends"**

Before school started, she got worried. Would it be hard to fit in with other students? Yousafzai had lived a very different life from many of them.

However, she says, she has felt welcomed. "I've made so many friends," she says.

She has joined a group for Pakistani students. She also plays the sport of cricket.

As a young girl, Yousafzai dreamed of being the leader of Pakistan. However, her goals have changed. Government leaders cannot fix everything, she says. Yousafzai says she wants to create change in other ways.

### **Life Is Not As Equal As She Once Thought**

As a child, she thought girls would get equal treatment in England. Both girls and boys could go to school. Where Yousafzai was growing up in Pakistan, girls were not allowed to go to school.

However, she says she now knows England is not perfect.

She says she has learned that there are not as many women as men in the British government. Women still receive less pay than men for their jobs.

She says "there is still a lot of work to be done."

### **Fun Is Mixed In With Working And Studying**

In 2017, Yousafzai joined the social media website Twitter. It has shown how busy her life is, visiting many different countries and meeting with important people. She still likes to have fun, though. She might put a silly picture on Twitter.

Right now, Yousafzai is working with the technology company Apple. Together, they want to help pay for thousands of girls to go to school.

Still, she is used to juggling many activities. She has been doing it for years now, she says. "So far, it has gone well."

## Quiz

- 1 Which sentence from the section "I've Made So Many Friends" explains why Yousafzai was worried before going to college?
- (A) Before school started, she got worried.
  - (B) Would it be hard to fit in with other students?
  - (C) However, she says, she has felt welcomed.
  - (D) Government leaders cannot fix everything, she says.

- 2 Read the paragraph from the section "Young Peace Prize Winner."

*In 2012, Yousafzai lived in Pakistan. It is a country next to India. Back then, the Taliban invaded her city and took control, meaning it was in charge. The Taliban is a violent group. It did not allow girls to go to school. Yousafzai fought this rule. She was shot by a gunman who became angry with her. She was badly hurt, but she survived.*

Which question is answered in this paragraph?

- (A) Why was Yousafzai shot?
  - (B) Why doesn't the Taliban allow girls to go to school?
  - (C) How did Yousafzai survive being shot?
  - (D) How is Pakistan different from India?
- 3 Why did Yousafzai move to England?
- (A) to attend Oxford University
  - (B) to promote a book she wrote
  - (C) to escape the Taliban
  - (D) to be treated at a hospital
- 4 What happened FIRST in Yousafzai's life?
- (A) She went to Oxford University and wrote books.
  - (B) She won the Nobel Peace Prize.
  - (C) She went to school when she was not allowed to.
  - (D) She was shot by the Taliban.