

Noam Chomsky

Chomsky was born on December 7, 1928, to [Jewish](#) parents in the affluent [East Oak Lane](#) neighborhood of [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania](#), the elder son of noted professor of [Hebrew](#) at [Gratz College](#) and [IWW](#) (Industrial Workers of the World) member [William Chomsky](#) (1896–1977), a native of [Ukraine](#). His mother, Elsie Chomsky (née Simonofsky)—a native of what is present-day [Belarus](#)—grew up in the United States and, unlike her husband, spoke "ordinary [New York English](#)". Chomsky's parents' first language was [Yiddish](#),^[21] but Chomsky said it was "taboo" in his family to speak it.^[21] Although Chomsky's mother was part of the radical activism in the 1930s, he was influenced largely by his uncle who, having never passed [4th grade](#), owned a newsstand that acted as an "intellectual center [where] professors of this and that argu[ed] all night".^[22] Chomsky was influenced also by being a part of a Hebrew-based, Zionist organization, as well as by hanging around anarchist bookstores.^[22]

He describes his family as living in a sort of "Jewish [ghetto](#)", split into a "Yiddish side" and "Hebrew side", with his family aligning with the latter and bringing him up "immersed in Hebrew culture and literature", though he means more a "cultural ghetto than a physical one".^[23] Chomsky also describes tensions he experienced with [Irish Catholics](#) and German Catholics and [anti-semitism](#) in the mid-1930s. He recalls "beer parties" celebrating the [fall of Paris to the Nazis](#).^[23] In a discussion of the irony of his staying in the 1980s in a Jesuit House in Central America, Chomsky explained that during his childhood, "We were the only Jewish family around. I grew up with a visceral fear of Catholics. They're the people who beat you up on your way to school. So I knew when they came out of that building down the street, which was the Jesuit school, they were raving anti-Semites. So childhood memories took a long time to overcome."^[24]

Chomsky remembers the first article he wrote was at age 10 while a student at [Oak Lane Country Day School](#) about the threat of the spread of [fascism](#), following the fall of Barcelona in the [Spanish Civil War](#). From the age of 12 or 13, he identified more fully with anarchist politics.^[25]

A graduate of [Central High School of Philadelphia](#), Chomsky began studying [philosophy](#) and [linguistics](#) at the [University of Pennsylvania](#) in 1945, taking classes with philosophers such as [C. West Churchman](#) and [Nelson Goodman](#) and linguist [Zellig Harris](#). Harris's teaching included his discovery of transformations as a [mathematical analysis](#) of language structure (mappings from one subset to another in the set of sentences). Chomsky referred to the morphophonemic rules in his 1951 master's thesis—*The Morphophonemics of Modern Hebrew*—as transformations in the sense of [Carnap's](#) 1938 notion of rules of transformation (vs. rules of formation), and subsequently reinterpreted the notion of grammatical transformations in a very different way from Harris, as operations on the productions of a [context-free grammar](#) (derived from [Post production systems](#)). Harris's political views were instrumental in shaping those of Chomsky.^[26] Chomsky earned a [BA](#) in 1949 and an [MA](#) in 1951.

In 1949, he married linguist [Carol Schatz](#). They remained married for 59 years until her death from cancer in December 2008.^[27] The couple had two daughters, [Aviva](#) (b. 1957) and Diane (b. 1960), and a son, Harry (b. 1967). With his wife Carol, Chomsky spent time in 1953 living in [HaZore'a](#), a [kibbutz](#) in [Israel](#). Asked in an interview whether the stay was "a disappointment" Chomsky replied, "No, I loved it";

however, he "couldn't stand the ideological atmosphere" and "fervent nationalism" in the early 1950s at the kibbutz, with Stalin being defended by many of the left-leaning kibbutz members who chose to paint a rosy image of future possibilities and contemporary realities in the USSR.^[28] Chomsky notes seeing many positive elements in the commune-like living of the kibbutz, in which parents and children lived together in separate houses, and when asked whether there were "lessons that we have learned from the history of the kibbutz", responded,^{[29][30]} that in "some respects, the kibbutzim came closer to the anarchist ideal than any other attempt that lasted for more than a very brief moment before destruction, or that was on anything like a similar scale. In these respects, I think they were extremely attractive and successful; apart from personal accident, I probably would have lived there myself – for how long, it's hard to guess."

Chomsky received his [PhD](#) in linguistics from the [University of Pennsylvania](#) in 1955. He conducted part of his doctoral research during four years at [Harvard University](#) as a [Harvard Junior Fellow](#). In his [doctoral thesis](#), he began to develop some of his linguistic ideas, elaborating on them in his 1957 book [Syntactic Structures](#), one of his best-known works in linguistics.

Chomsky joined the staff of [MIT](#) in 1955 and in 1961 was appointed full professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics (now the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy). From 1966 to 1976 he held the Ferrari P. Ward Professorship of Modern Languages and Linguistics, and in 1976 he was appointed Institute Professor. As of 2010, Chomsky has taught at MIT continuously for 55 years.

In February 1967, Chomsky became one of the leading opponents of the Vietnam War with the publication of his essay, "[The Responsibility of Intellectuals](#)",^[31] in [The New York Review of Books](#). This was followed by his 1969 book, [American Power and the New Mandarins](#), a collection of essays that established him at the forefront of American dissent. His far-reaching criticisms of U.S. foreign policy and the legitimacy of U.S. power have raised controversy,^{[32][33]} and he is frequently sought out for his views by publications and news outlets internationally. In 1977 he delivered the [Huizinga Lecture](#) in Leiden, the Netherlands, under the title: *Intellectuals and the State*.

Chomsky has received death threats because of his criticisms of U.S. foreign policy.^[34] He was also on a list of planned targets created by [Theodore Kaczynski](#), better known as the Unabomber; during the period that Kaczynski was at large, Chomsky had all of his mail checked for explosives.^[34] He states that he often receives undercover police protection, in particular while on the MIT campus, although he does not agree with the police protection.^[34]

Chomsky resides in [Lexington, Massachusetts](#), and travels often, giving lectures on politics.

Ban Ki Moon

Ban Ki-moon ([Hangul](#): 반기문; [Hanja](#): 潘基文; born 13 June 1944) is the [eighth and current Secretary-General](#) of the [United Nations](#), after succeeding [Kofi Annan](#) in 2007. Before going on to be Secretary-General, Ban was a career diplomat in South Korea's [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) and in the United Nations. He entered [diplomatic service](#) the year he graduated from university, accepting his first post in [New Delhi, India](#). In the foreign ministry he established a reputation for modesty and competence .

Ban was the [Foreign Minister](#) of the [Republic of Korea](#) from January 2004 to November 2006. In February 2006, he began to campaign for the office of Secretary-General. Ban was initially considered to be a long shot for the office. As foreign minister of South Korea, however, he was able to travel to all of the countries that were members of the [United Nations Security Council](#), a maneuver that turned him into the front runner.

On 11 October 2006, he was elected to be the eighth Secretary-General by the [United Nations General Assembly](#) and officially succeeded Annan on 1 January 2007. Ban has led several major reforms regarding peacekeeping and UN employment practices. Diplomatically, Ban has taken particularly strong views on [Darfur](#), where he helped persuade Sudanese President [Omar al-Bashir](#) to allow peacekeeping troops to enter [Sudan](#); and on [global warming](#), pressing the issue repeatedly with former U.S. President [George W. Bush](#). Ban has received strong criticism from [OIOS](#), the UN internal audit unit, stating that the secretariat, under Ban's leadership, is "drifting into irrelevance".^[4]

In 2011, Ban ran unopposed for a second term as Secretary-General. On 21 June 2011, he was unanimously re-elected by the General Assembly and therefore will continue to serve until 31 December 2016.

Ban was born in [Eumseong](#) in a small farming village in [North Chungcheong](#), in 1944 at the end of the [Japanese rule of Korea](#). His family moved to the nearby town of [Chungju](#), where he was raised.^[7] During Ban's childhood, his father had a warehouse business, but the warehouse went bankrupt and the family lost its middle-class standard of living. When Ban was six, his family fled to a remote mountainside for the duration of the [Korean War](#).^[1] After the war ended, his family returned to [Chungju](#). Ban has mentioned meeting [U.S. military](#) troops at this time.^[8]

In secondary school ([Chungju High School](#)), Ban became a star pupil, particularly in his studies of [English](#). In 1952, he was selected by his class to address a message to then UN Secretary-General [Dag Hammarskjöld](#), but it is unknown if the message was ever sent. In 1962, Ban won an essay contest sponsored by the [Red Cross](#) and earned a trip to the [United States](#) where he lived in [San Francisco](#) with a host family for several months.^[9] As part of the trip, Ban met U.S. President [John F. Kennedy](#).^[11] When a journalist at the meeting asked Ban what he wanted to be when he grew up, he said, "I want to become a diplomat."^[8]

He received a [[bachelor's degree] in [International Relations](#) from [Seoul National University](#) in 1970, and earned a [Master of Public Administration](#) from the [John F. Kennedy School of Government](#) at [Harvard University](#) in 1985.^[8] At Harvard, he studied under [Joseph Nye](#) who remarked that Ban had "a rare combination of analytic clarity, humility and perseverance."^[9] Ban was awarded the degree of [Doctor of Laws \(Honoris Causa\)](#) by the [University of Malta](#) on 22 April 2009.^[10] He further received an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the [University of Washington](#) in October 2009.^[11]

In addition to his native [Korean](#), Ban speaks English, [French](#), and [Japanese](#). There have been questions, however, regarding the extent of his knowledge of French, one of the two working languages of the [United Nations Secretariat](#).^[12]

MK Kim

MK KIM's extraordinary talent that made the channel so successful. Over the last 27 years, MK has shared her stories and opinions on people's inner growth, dream and insight based on her superior ability to handle even the most complex and deep topics in the most appealing and intelligible manner. In particular, MKSHOW is acknowledged as the representative Korean talk show where the overseas best-selling authors wish to star in. Known as the famous host of 'Kim Mi-kyung Show' on TV a few years ago, MK now hosts her YouTube show, MKSHOW on a global level, inviting famous writers and celebrities from overseas.

MK also has created the reading boom in Korea by launching Book Drama, the best book review show in Korea. Every book MK has introduced became bestsellers, with more than tens of thousands of women reading MK's recommendations. Furthermore, dozens of 'Book Drama Clubs,' book clubs founded based on MK's review, are highly active all around the world including Korea, the U.S., and Southeast Asia. MK is not only an amazing content creator but also an extremely attractive show host.

In Korea, MK KIM is a synonym for 'the best instructor.' For the past almost 30 years, MK has shared her insights on women's dreams, future and growth through TV, corporate lectures and large-scale lectures. She also has been lecturing passionately on various topics including leadership, personal relations, speech and educating children.

In 2019, she founded MK YouTube University, and more than 60,000 students from all over the world are currently enrolled as paid-up students. MKYU is an entirely new education model that combined YouTube and on-line university in early stage. MKYU offers variety high quality classes. The students also participate in book clubs around the world to support each other and share motivation. The foundation of MKYU is the creation of a 'lifelong education platform' by integrating know-hows acquired from several decades of lecturing with new media, allowing students to study and develop themselves alongside each other.

MK is a representative best-selling Korean author. Among around 20 books she published, three topped the bestseller list, which are: 'MY DREAM, MY REALITY : 10 STEPS YOU MUST TAKE TO MAKE YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE(2013)' which is on personal dream and growth; 'ANSWER TO BEAUTIFUL LIFE : 50 ANSWERS TO MAKE YOUR LIFE MORE BEAUTIFUL(2016)' which reflects MK's insights on life; and, 'MOM, BUILD YOUR SELF-ESTEEM FIRST(2017)' which emphasizes the self-esteem of mothers and their children. The accumulated sales total of MK's books exceeds 5 million copies, and seven of her books were translated and published in Vietnam, China, Japan, Taiwan and Thailand. Her books are also available as electronic copies at Kindle Store.

<https://www.mkim.kr/my-story>

Bill Gates

William Henry "Bill" Gates III (born October 28, 1955 in [Seattle, Washington](#))^[4] is an American [business magnate](#), computer programmer and philanthropist. Gates is the former [chief executive officer](#) (CEO) and

current chairman of [Microsoft](#), the world's largest personal-computer [software](#) company he co-founded with [Paul Allen](#). He is consistently ranked among the [world's wealthiest people](#)^[5] and was the wealthiest overall from 1995 to 2009, excluding 2008, when he was ranked third;^[6] in 2011 he was the wealthiest American and the second wealthiest person.^{[7][8]} During his career at Microsoft, Gates held the positions of CEO and [chief software architect](#), and remains the largest individual shareholder, with 6.4 percent of the [common stock](#).^[9] He has also authored or co-authored several books.

Gates is one of the best-known entrepreneurs of the [personal computer revolution](#). Gates has been [criticized for his business tactics](#), which have been considered anti-competitive, an opinion which has in some cases been upheld by the courts.^{[10][11]} In the later stages of his career, Gates has pursued a number of philanthropic endeavors, donating large amounts of money to various charitable organizations and scientific research programs through the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#), established in 2000.^[12]

Gates stepped down as chief executive officer of Microsoft in January 2000. He remained as chairman and created the position of chief software architect. In June 2006, Gates announced that he would be transitioning from full-time work at Microsoft to part-time work, and full-time work at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He gradually transferred his duties to [Ray Ozzie](#), chief software architect, and [Craig Mundie](#), chief research and strategy officer. Gates's last full-time day at Microsoft was June 27, 2008. He remains at Microsoft as non-executive chairman.

Gates was born in [Seattle](#), Washington, to [William H. Gates, Sr.](#) and [Mary Maxwell Gates](#). His parents are of English, [German](#), and Scots-Irish descent.^{[13][14]} His father was a prominent lawyer, and his mother served on the board of directors for [First Interstate BancSystem](#) and the [United Way](#). Gates's maternal grandfather was J. W. Maxwell, a [national bank](#) president. Gates has one elder sister, Kristi (Kristianne), and one younger sister, Libby. He was the fourth of his name in his family, but was known as William Gates III or "Trey" because his father had the "II" suffix.^[15] Early on in his life, Gates's parents had a law career in mind for him.^[16] When Gates was young, his family regularly attended a [Congregational](#) church.^{[17][18][19]}

At 13 he enrolled in the [Lakeside School](#), an exclusive preparatory school.^[20] When he was in the eighth grade, the Mothers Club at the school used proceeds from Lakeside School's [rummage sale](#) to buy a [Teletype Model 33](#) ASR terminal and a block of computer time on a [General Electric](#) (GE) computer for the school's students.^[21] Gates took an interest in programming the GE system in [BASIC](#), and was excused from math classes to pursue his interest. He wrote his first computer program on this machine: an implementation of [tic-tac-toe](#) that allowed users to play games against the computer. Gates was fascinated by the machine and how it would always execute software code perfectly. When he reflected back on that moment, he said, "There was just something neat about the machine."^[22] After the Mothers Club donation was exhausted, he and other students sought time on systems including [DEC PDP](#) minicomputers. One of these systems was a [PDP-10](#) belonging to Computer Center Corporation (CCC), which banned four Lakeside students—Gates, [Paul Allen](#), [Ric Weiland](#), and Kent Evans—for the summer after it caught them exploiting bugs in the [operating system](#) to obtain free computer time.^[23]

At the end of the ban, the four students offered to find bugs in CCC's software in exchange for computer time. Rather than use the system via Teletype, Gates went to CCC's offices and studied [source code](#) for various programs that ran on the system, including programs in [FORTRAN](#), [LISP](#), and [machine language](#). The arrangement with CCC continued until 1970, when the company went out of business. The following year, Information Sciences, Inc. hired the four Lakeside students to write a payroll program in [COBOL](#), providing them computer time and royalties. After his administrators became aware of his programming abilities, Gates wrote the school's computer program to schedule students in classes. He modified the code so that he was placed in classes with mostly female students. He later stated that "it was hard to tear myself away from a machine at which I could so unambiguously demonstrate success."^[22] At age 17, Gates formed a venture with Allen, called [Traf-O-Data](#), to make [traffic counters](#) based on the [Intel 8008](#) processor.^[24] In early 1973, Bill Gates served as a congressional page in the U.S. House of Representatives.^[25]

Gates graduated from Lakeside School in 1973. He scored 1590 out of 1600 on the [SAT](#)^[26] and enrolled at [Harvard College](#) in the autumn of 1973.^[27] While at Harvard, he met [Steve Ballmer](#), who later succeeded Gates as CEO of Microsoft.

The Poker Room in [Currier House](#) at [Harvard University](#), in which Bill Gates and Steve Ballmer formed Microsoft

In his sophomore year, Gates devised an algorithm for [pancake sorting](#) as a solution to one of a series of unsolved problems^[28] presented in a [combinatorics](#) class by [Harry Lewis](#), one of his professors. Gates's solution held the record as the fastest version for over thirty years,^{[28][29]} its successor is faster by only one percent.^[28] His solution was later formalized in a published paper in collaboration with Harvard computer scientist [Christos Papadimitriou](#).^[30]

Gates did not have a definite study plan while a student at Harvard^[31] and spent a lot of time using the school's computers. Gates remained in contact with Paul Allen, and he joined him at Honeywell during the summer of 1974.^[32] The following year saw the release of the [MITS Altair 8800](#) based on the [Intel 8080 CPU](#), and Gates and Allen saw this as the opportunity to start their own computer software company.^[33] He had talked this decision over with his parents, who were supportive of him after seeing how much Gates wanted to start a company.^[31]

