

CHAPTER 2

James Franco: A Man of Many Talents



Preview Questions

- **Who is your favorite actor?**
- **What talents does he or she have?**

Actor James Franco has many talents. It's true he's an actor, but he also does many other things. Franco is a writer, an artist, a model, a filmmaker, and a student. Franco's story **began** in the late 1970s near San Francisco, California, where he **grew up** with two younger brothers. He **was** shy, but in high school he **tried** acting and **liked** it. In 1996, he **started** college as an English major. But after he **took** classes for a year, he **quit**. He **was studying** acting when he **decided** to move to Hollywood. As soon as he **arrived** in Hollywood, he **got** an acting role in the TV show, *Freaks and Geeks*.

In 2001, he **starred** in the TV movie *James Dean* and **won** a Golden Globe award. Over the next ten years, he **acted** in many films including *Spider-Man I, II, and III*; *Milk*; and *127 Hours*. While he **was making** these movies, Franco **completed** his bachelor's degree and **started** four master's programs. He also **had** an art show in New York City, **made** a documentary film, and **modeled** for Gucci.

Many people are watching Franco's success and asking, "What's next for this talented man?"

Reading Comprehension

Read the statements. Write T (true) or F (false). Correct the false statements.

is

F 1. James Franco ~~used to be~~ an actor.

college

F 2. He was in ~~high school~~ when he decided to move to Hollywood.

T 3. While he was acting in movies, he was also a student.

modeled for

F 4. He ~~made a documentary about~~ Gucci.

GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Complete the sentences with the words in parentheses. Use the simple past or the past progressive form.

Naomi Watts

1. The actress Naomi Watts (*grow up*) **grew up** in England.
2. She was living in Australia when she (*take*) **took** her first acting class.
3. Her first big film (*be*) **was** David Lynch's *Mulholland Drive*.

GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Complete the sentences with the words in parentheses. Use the simple past or the past progressive form.

Naomi Watts

4. While she (*make*) was making the film *King Kong*, she fell but wasn't badly hurt.
5. She acted in the film *The International* after she (*have*) had her second child.
6. She (*win*) won an award for her role in *21 Grams*.

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