

## Lingua Inglese - Generica

### ESEMPIO DI COMPrensIONE SCRITTA

#### Livello A2

Argomento: **The Biography of Gertrude Stein**

Gertrude Stein was born on February 3, 1874, in Allegheny, Pennsylvania. The youngest of five children born into a rich Jewish-American family, Stein lived in Vienna and Paris as a child but grew up mainly in Oakland, California. Although she had little formal schooling, and only one year of high school, Stein went to Radcliffe College in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she studied psychology. After leaving Radcliffe, she attended Johns Hopkins Medical School for four years.

In 1903, Stein moved to Europe with her older brother, Leo; they visited London but finally decided to settle in Paris, where Stein stayed for the rest of her life. She lived first with Leo, but soon moved in with Alice B. Toklas, a wealthy San Franciscan and Stein's lifelong companion. Soon after arriving in Paris, Stein established herself as one of the city's leading patrons of avant-garde art. In addition, her home in Paris became a famous salon for many of the leading artists and writers of her time, including Picasso and Hemingway. Stein formed the center of the talented circle of American expatriates in Paris, a group she later called "the lost generation".

Stein's first two books, *Three Lives* and *Tender Buttons*, found favor with a relatively small but sophisticated audience. *Three Lives*, her most realistic work, tells the stories of three working-class women; her later works of fiction, like *Tender Buttons*, were strongly influenced by the avant-garde art of the day. In the 1930s and 1940s, Stein concentrated more on non-fiction such as memoirs and art criticism. However, Stein's only book to reach a truly vast audience was *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*, which was actually her own autobiography. She became a legend in Paris, surviving the German occupation during World War II and writing about her experiences in several wartime books. Stein died on July 27, 1946, in France.

**A. According to the passage, the young Gertrude Stein:**

1. did not go to school regularly.
2. only went to school in Vienna.
3. also studied medicine in Paris.
4. came from a typically American middle-class family.

**B. According to the text, for most of her life Gertrude Stein lived with:**

1. Ernest Hemingway.
2. her younger brother.
3. her older brother.
4. Alice Toklas.

**C. According to the passage, which of the following is TRUE about Gertrude Stein?**

1. She escaped from France during the German occupation.
2. She met many famous artists and writers of her time.
3. Most of her books were very popular.
4. Her autobiography was greatly criticized.

**ANSWER KEY:**

**A-1**

**B-4**

**C-2**