

The professor and the madman

Do you often use a dictionary? (Yes, I...)

Vocabulary

1. chances 2. scared 3. entries 4. asylum 5. mentally 6. editor 7. contributors

True Story

"The Professor and the Madman" is a book about the making of the Oxford English Dictionary. It took 70 years to complete and many people helped to make it. One of the most important _____ was Dr. William Chester Minor, an American man who had fought in a war. He sent nearly ten thousand _____ for the dictionary, which were very helpful.

But the _____ of the dictionary, Sir James Murray, was surprised to learn that Dr. Minor was in an _____ for people who were _____ ill. Dr. Minor had killed someone during a time when he was very sick and _____. However, he was able to keep working on the dictionary because he had money from the army.

Dr. Minor and Sir James Murray became friends and worked together for many years. This book tells their story and shows how important it is to give people _____ to use their skills, even if they have problems in their lives.

Quiz

1. What is the book, "The Professor and the Madman", about?
2. What was Sir James Murray surprised to learn?
3. How was Dr. Minor able to keep working on the dictionary?

True or False

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. The Oxford English Dictionary was completed in 70 years. | True False |
| 2. Dr. Minor killed someone who was very sick and scared. | True False |
| 3. Dr. Minor and Sir James Murray did not become friends. | True False |

Conversation

A: Hey, I heard you're working on the Oxford English Dictionary?

B: Yeah, that's right. It's a pretty big project.

A: I bet! How many words are in there?

B: Oh, I don't know exactly. But it's a lot.

A: Well, I'm sure you'll do great. You're a smart guy.

B: Thanks, man. I appreciate the support.

Discussion

1. How do you usually check the meaning of words?
2. Do you think it's important to give people second chances?
3. What's the biggest project you've ever worked on?