

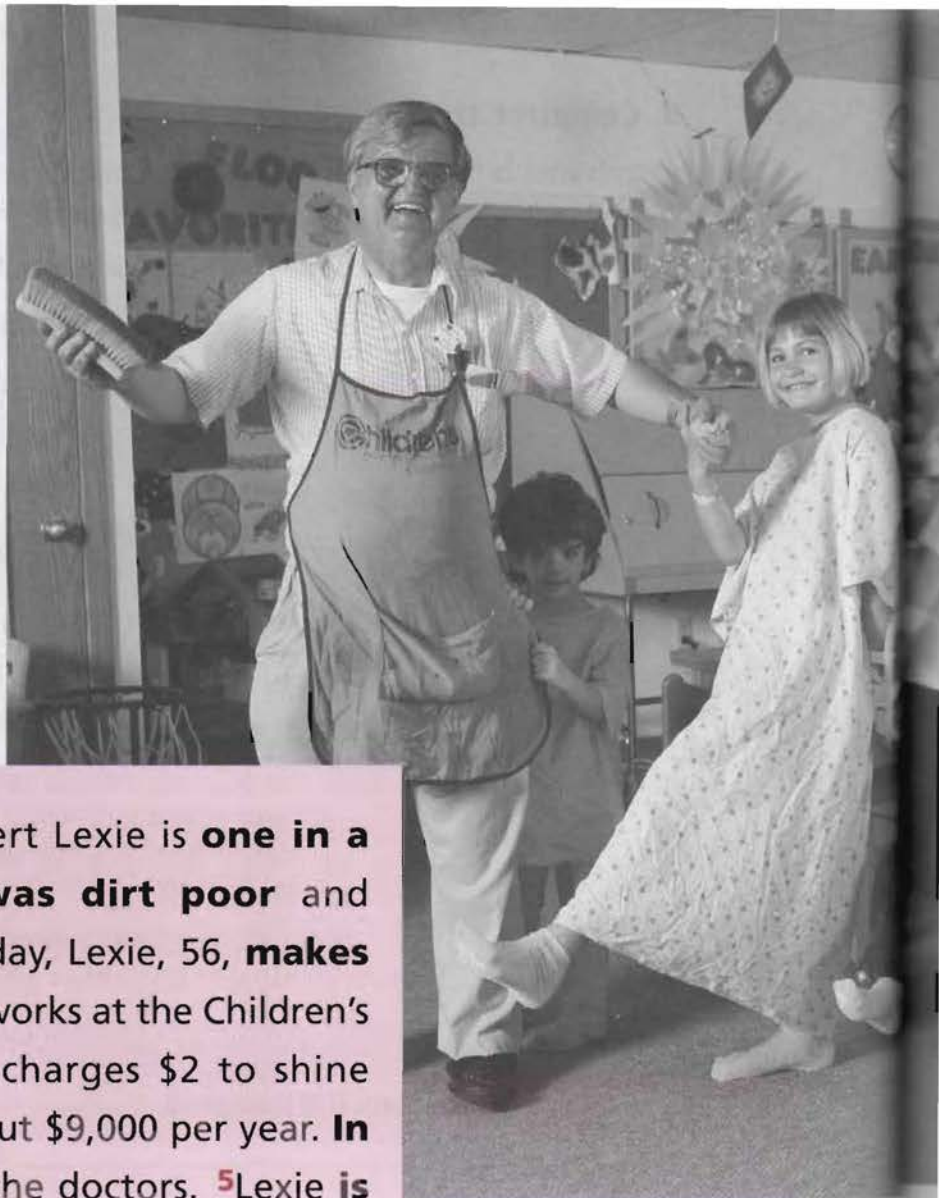
One in a Million

1. Quick Reading

Look at the pictures on page 67.

What is the story about?

Now read quickly to get the main idea.



PITTSBURGH, PA, USA ¹Albert Lexie is **one in a million**. ²As a child, he **was dirt poor** and **dropped out of** school. ³Today, Lexie, 56, **makes a living** by shining shoes. He works at the Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh. ⁴He charges \$2 to shine doctors' shoes and makes about \$9,000 per year. **In addition**, he gets tips from the doctors. ⁵Lexie is not **well-off**, but he **gives** all his tips **away** to the hospital. Since 1985, he has given more than \$40,000 to help sick kids. ⁶"Albert's work is as important as any doctor's work," says one regular customer, Dr. Samuel Kocoshis. "He is a true humanitarian."

humanitarian: someone who helps people and society

New idioms and expressions

one in a million	unique; very special
be dirt poor	have very little money
drop out (of something)*	quit (school, a race, etc.)
make a living	earn money for food, housing, etc.
in addition	also
be well-off	have a lot of money; be rich
give something away*	give something as a gift

*phrasal verb (see Lexicon and Appendix D)

2. Listen

Cover the story and look only at these pictures. Listen to the story two or three times.



3. Read the Story

Now read the story carefully. Pay special attention to the idioms so that you're ready for Exercise 4.

4. Match

Cover page 66. Draw a line from the first part of each idiom to the second. Then match the definitions with the idioms.

- | | | |
|------------|--------------|--|
| a. be dirt | away | ___ 1. give as a gift |
| b. in | addition | ___ 2. earn money for food and housing |
| c. give | in a million | ___ 3. leave (school, a race, etc.) |
| d. make | poor | ___ 4. have very little money |
| e. drop | a living | ___ 5. unique; very special |
| f. one | out | ___ 6. also |

5. Tell the Story

Cover the story and look at the pictures above. Tell the story using as many idioms as you can.

- First, work with the whole class to retell the story.
- Then tell the story to a partner or small group.

6. Answer the Questions

About the story

- What do you know about Lexie's childhood?
- Did he finish school?
- How does Lexie make a living?
- Is he well-off? How much does he make per year?
- What does he get in addition?
- What does he do with his tips?
- Do you agree that Lexie is one in a million? Why or why not?

About you

- Do you know someone (either famous or not) who is one in million? Tell why this person is one in a million.
- How do you make a living now? How do you hope to make a living in the future?
- In your opinion, is it necessary to be well-off to be happy?
- In your opinion, why do children drop out of school?

7. Write About Yourself

Complete the sentences, writing something true about yourself.

- I speak English. In addition, _____.
- I think _____ is one in a million because _____.
- I gave _____ away to _____.

8. Take a Dictation

As a child, Albert Lexie _____ and _____ school. Today, Lexie, 56, _____ by shining shoes at a hospital for children. He shines doctors' shoes, and he makes about \$9,000 per year. _____, he gets tips. Lexie _____ all his tips to the hospital. Since 1985, he has given more than \$40,000 to help sick kids. Lexie _____, but he's a true humanitarian. He's _____.

9. Complete the Story

a. Read the true story. Fill in the blanks with idioms from the box.

- makes a living
- one in a million
- dirt poor
- gives away
- well-off
- in addition



Man Gives Away Free Cash

NORFOLK, VA, USA

Don Stephenson is (1) _____. Stephenson, 36, was living on the streets a few years ago. He was homeless and (2) _____. "I didn't know where my next meal was coming from," he says.

Now Stephenson has a home and (3) _____ as a mechanic. But he has not forgotten the people on the streets. One night a week he goes to the poor side of town. Stephenson is not (4) _____, but he stands on street corners and **hands out*** \$5 or \$10 to anyone who needs it. (5) _____, he (6) _____ food and clothing. "I don't want to see anyone hungry," he says. "I understand these people because **I've been there.**"**

* hand something out: distribute something

** I've been there: I've experienced that

b. Read or tell the story to a partner.