Winston Churchill was a British statesman and the prime minister who led Britain during World War II.

Winston Churchill did not do well at school. He joined the army and had many adventures in Cuba, India and the Sudan. In 1899 Churchill left the army and went to South Africa as a newspaper reporter during the Boer War. He was captured by the Boers but he managed to escape.

In 1900 he was elected to parliament. He held several government posts. During the First World War he served as head of the Admiralty.

During the 1930s Churchill was not in the government. He warned that there was a danger of another world war, but many people ignored him. However, when the Second World War came the prime minister, Neville Chamberlain, put Churchill in charge of the Admiralty again.

When German armies were overrunning Europe in May 1940, King George VI asked him to be prime minister. His courage and his speeches inspired the people of England to withstand air raids and military defeats, and carry on to victory. His speeches were a triumph over difficulties, for in his early years Churchill had a stutter, and he had to fight hard to cure it.

Churchill remained prime minister until the election of 1945, just before the war ended. He became prime minister again from 1951 to 1955. He gave up politics in 1964 and died in 1965.

Churchill was also a writer. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1953 for such books as *The Second World War*.