

Dirk Nowitzki Answers

Part 1: Early Life

1. Dirk Nowitzki was born on June 19, 1978, in Würzburg, Germany.
2. Dirk's mother played basketball, and his father played handball.
3. As a child, Dirk liked handball, tennis, and basketball.

Part 2: Starting Basketball

4. Dirk started playing basketball when he was 13 years old.
5. Holger Geschwindner became Dirk's personal coach.

Part 3: Becoming a Star in Germany

6. Unlike other tall players, Dirk could shoot very well from far away.
7. Dirk was 16 when he started playing for DJK Würzburg's top team.

Part 4: Coming to the NBA

8. Dirk entered the NBA draft in 1998.
9. Dirk ended up playing for the Dallas Mavericks in the NBA.

Part 5: Early NBA Career

10. Dirk's first year in the NBA was difficult.
11. By his third year in the NBA, Dirk could score many points and get many rebounds.

Part 6: Becoming an All-Star

12. Dirk was first chosen to play in the NBA All-Star game in 2002.
13. Dirk played in 14 All-Star games during his career.

Part 7: MVP Season

14. Dirk won the Most Valuable Player (MVP) award in the 2006-2007 season.
15. Yes, Dirk was the first European player to win the MVP award.

Part 8: Winning the Championship

16. Dirk and the Mavericks won the NBA championship in 2011.
17. Dirk also won the Finals MVP award.

Part 9: Later Career

18. Dirk scored 31,560 points in his NBA career.

Part 10: Playing for Germany

19. Dirk played in the Olympic Games in 2008 (Beijing) and 2020 (Tokyo).
20. Germany won a bronze medal in the 2002 World Championship.

Part 11: Special Skills

21. Dirk's special shot was called the "one-legged fadeaway."
22. Dirk was good at free throws, which is unusual for very tall players.

Part 12: Awards and Records

23. Dirk played 21 seasons with the Dallas Mavericks.

Part 13: Personal Life

24. Dirk has three children: a daughter and two sons.
25. Dirk speaks German, English, and some Spanish.

Part 14: Retirement

26. Dirk played his last NBA game on April 10, 2019.
27. Dirk's jersey number was 41.

Part 15: Legacy

28. Dirk changed basketball for tall players by showing they could shoot well from far away.

Vocabulary Practice

29. "Humble" means not proud or showing off.

30. A "power forward" is a position in basketball, usually for tall, strong players.