

**Name:** Gareth Tidman

**Age:** 28

## Background:

Gareth was born and grew up in South Wales. He attended Bryn Celynnog Comprehensive School where he studied A Levels in English, History, Sociology and Media Studies. After completing a degree in politics at Manchester Metropolitan University, he began working on a free newspaper in the city. He passed his National Certificate of Training for Journalists preliminary examinations in Sheffield, before obtaining his Proficiency Test whilst working on a weekly newspaper in Macclesfield. Gareth currently works for a large evening newspaper in Yorkshire as a general news reporter.



## What sort of work do you do?

As a news reporter it is my role to keep our readers up-to-date with all developments in society. There is no typical day in journalism. One day I might find myself reporting on a case at Crown Court, while on another I may be asked to write a review of a theatre play. It is essential to have a broad knowledge of all subjects, from English and history through to science. Quite often I will have to write a story on the latest

breakthroughs in technology and science. Although most of my academic life has been spent studying social sciences, the knowledge I gained studying science at GCSE level has proved invaluable. Without a basic understanding of science, reporting on new inventions and health matters would be very difficult. Some journalists have a more in depth science background, and they can work on specialists papers or magazines, as well as for radio and television.

## What do you like about your work?

Ask any journalist why they do it and they will tell you they love being at the centre of things and the satisfaction of pulling a good 'scoop'. News gets into your blood after a while. You also get to meet people from every corner of society and the job is never predictable. You can never tell what any day is likely to throw up.

## What's the worst bit?

Where do I start? The long hours, poor pay and strong competition for the best jobs. Working for newspapers you are expected to work under extreme pressure and meet tight deadlines. You have to turn your hand to any topic at a moment's notice, often without the luxury of time, to report it. We are often expected to explore and investigate some of the more unpleasant aspects of life and society.

## What do you want to do in the future?

One day I might like to become a news editor and tell other reporters what to look at. Otherwise I would like to start my own news agency and sell stories to national newspapers.