

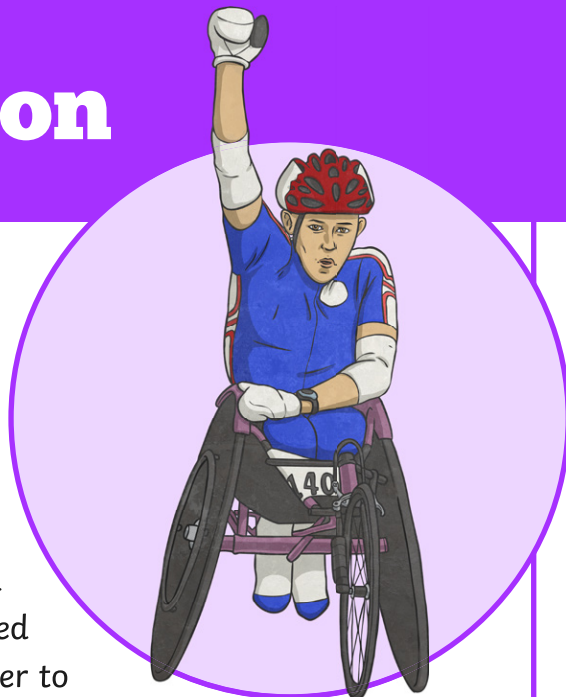
# Tanni Grey-Thompson

**Name:** Baroness Carys Davina 'Tanni' Grey-Thompson

**Born:** 26 July 1969 in Cardiff, Wales.

## Childhood

Tanni was born with a medical condition called spina bifida, which stopped her from being able to run or walk properly. Spina bifida affects a baby's backbone, meaning it does not grow normally. At the age of 7, Tanni began to use a wheelchair. Tanni's parents were determined to make her as independent as possible so they pushed her to take part in a number of sports, including archery, basketball, swimming and horse riding. However, it was when Tanni watched the wheelchair athletes taking part in the London Marathon on TV that she first dreamed of a career in athletics. By the age of 15, she was racing for Wales in the Junior Championship.



## Paralympic Games and Medals

1988 Seoul Games	1 bronze medal (400m)
1992 Barcelona Games	4 gold medals (100m, 200m, 400m and 800m) 1 silver medal (4 x 100m relay)
1996 Atlanta Games	1 gold medal (800m) 4 silver medals (100m, 200m, 400m and 4 x 100m relay)
2000 Sydney Games	4 gold medals (100m, 200m, 400m, 800m)
2004 Athens Games	2 gold medals (100m and 400m)

## Achievements:

In 1988, Tanni was chosen to race for Great Britain at the Seoul Paralympic Games and won a bronze medal in the 800m. In 1992, Tanni went to the Barcelona Paralympics, where she won four gold medals in the 100m, 200m, 400m and 800m and a silver in the 4x100m relay. In Barcelona, Tanni became the first woman in history to race 400m around the track in less than a minute. Tanni was now Britain's most famous disabled athlete but she didn't stop there. Over twelve more years and three more Paralympic Games, Tanni won a further 11 Paralympic medals.

## Life after the Paralympics

Tanni retired from racing in 2007 but she still spends a lot of time helping others to enjoy sport. She helps in the organisation of the London Marathon, raises money for Sportsaid, and has also presented some sports programmes for BBC Wales. She has received many special awards from The Queen, including an MBE in 1993, an OBE in 1997 and then in 2005, a Damehood. In 2010, Tanni became a member of The House of Lords, which is why we now call her a Baroness. The House of Lords is part of the Houses of Parliament in London where Lords make laws and challenge the work of the UK government. Tanni has given speeches there about the rights and benefits of people with disabilities and funding for sports in schools.

### Amazing Fact!

When she was born, Tanni was actually given the name Carys Davina Grey. It was her two-year-old sister, Sian, who called the baby 'tanni' (when she was actually trying to say 'tiny'). From then on, her family always called her Tanni!

# Tanni Grey-Thompson

## Comprehension

Answer the following questions using full sentences that give as much detail as possible.

1. What prevents Tanni from being able to walk properly?

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2. What did Tanni's parents encourage her to do as a child? Why?

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3. What did Tanni see on the TV that made her dream of being an athlete?

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4. How many Paralympic medals did Tanni win overall and over how many years?

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5. I would describe Tanni Grey-Thompson as an inspirational person.

Can you explain why?

I would describe Tanni as inspirational because...

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6. What special awards has Tanni been given by The Queen?

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7. Use the Internet to research another successful British Paralympian.

Produce your own fact file.

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# Tanni Grey-Thompson

## Comprehension

### Answers

1. What prevents Tanni from being able to walk properly?

**Tanni was born with a medical condition called spina bifida that prevented her from being able to run or walk properly. Spina bifida is a birth defect that happens when a baby's backbone does not form normally.**

2. What did Tanni's parents encourage her to do as a child? Why?

**Tanni's parents were determined to make her as independent as possible. They encouraged her to take part in a number of sports, including archery, basketball, swimming and horse riding.**

3. What did Tanni see on the TV that made her dream of being an athlete?

**Tanni watched the wheelchair athletes taking part in the London Marathon on TV and that made her dream of a career in athletics.**

4. How many Paralympic medals did Tanni win overall and over how many years?

**Over her 16 year Paralympic career, Tanni won a total of 16 medals - 11 gold, 5 silver and 1 bronze.**

5. I would describe Tanni Grey-Thompson as an inspirational person. Can you explain why? I would describe Tanni as inspirational because...

**Pupils' responses may include; she worked hard to achieve her dream, she didn't let her disability hold her back, she won a record amount of Paralympic medals, and/or she works hard to help others.**

6. What special awards has Tanni been given by The Queen?

**She has received many special awards from The Queen, including an MBE in 1993, an OBE in 1997 and then in 2005, a Damehood.**

7. Use the Internet to research another successful British Paralympian. Produce your own fact file.

**Pupil's own response.**

# Tanni Grey-Thompson

**Name:** Baroness Carys Davina 'Tanni' Grey-Thompson

**Born:** 26 July 1969 in Cardiff, Wales.

## Childhood

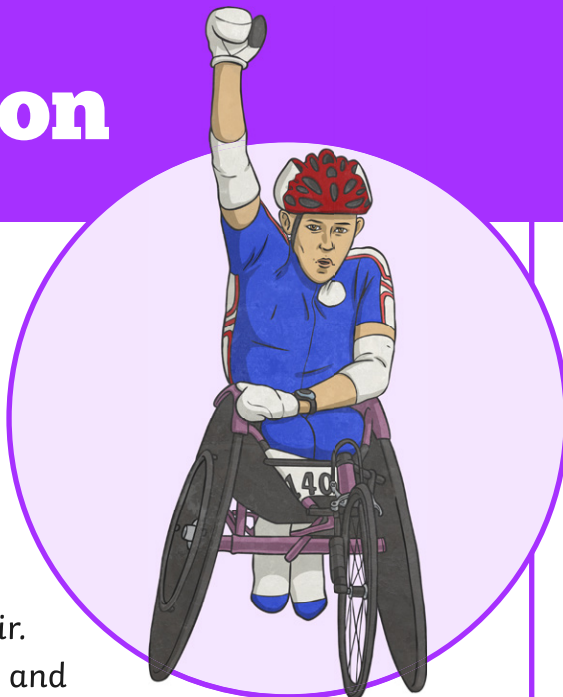
Tanni was born with a medical condition called spina bifida, which prevented her from being able to run or walk properly. Spina bifida is a birth defect meaning that a baby's backbone does not form normally. By the age of 7, it became clear that Tanni would need to use a wheelchair.

Tanni's parents were determined to make her as outgoing and independent as possible, so they encouraged her to take part in a number of sports, including archery, basketball, swimming and horse riding. However, it was when Tanni watched the wheelchair athletes taking part in the London Marathon on TV that she first dreamed of a career in athletics. By the age of 15, she was racing for

Wales in the Junior National Wheelchair Games and won the 100 metre race.

## Achievements:

In 1988, Tanni was chosen to race for Great Britain at the Seoul Paralympic Games and won a bronze medal in the 800m. Even after a year off after a back operation, Tanni still went to the Barcelona Paralympics in 1992, where she won four gold medals in the 100m, 200m, 400m and 800m and a silver in the 4x100m relay. It was at Barcelona that Tanni became the first woman to break the 60 second barrier in the 400m. Tanni was now Britain's most famous disabled athlete but she didn't stop there.



## Paralympic Games and Medals

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2000 Sydney Games	4 gold medals (100m, 200m, 400m, 800m)
2004 Athens Games	2 gold medals (100m and 400m)

Over 12 more years and three more Paralympic Games, Tanni won a further 7 gold and 4 silver medals. Over her career, Tanni also broke 30 World Records on the race track.

### **Life after the Paralympics**

Tanni retired from racing in 2007 but she still spends a lot of time helping others to enjoy sport. She helps in the organisation of the London Marathon, raises money for Sportsaid, and has also presented some sports programmes for BBC Wales. She has received many special awards from The Queen, including an MBE in 1993, an OBE in 1997 and then in 2005, a Damehood. In 2010, Tanni became a member of The House of Lords, which meant her name became Baroness Grey-Thompson of Eaglescliffe. The House of Lords is part of the Houses of Parliament in London where Lords make laws, and challenge the work of the UK government. Tanni has spoken there on a range of issues, including the rights and benefits of people with disabilities, and funding for sports in schools and communities.

### **Amazing Fact!**

When she was born, Tanni was actually given the name Carys Davina Grey. It was her two-year-old sister, Sian, who called the baby 'tanni' (when she was actually trying to say 'tiny'), and the name just stuck!

# Tanni Grey-Thompson

## Comprehension

Answer the following questions using full sentences that give as much detail as possible.

1. What stops Tanni from being able to walk properly?

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2. How did Tanni's parents try and make her independent when she was younger?

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3. How many Paralympic medals did Tanni win overall and over how many years?

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4. Which adjective would you use to describe Tanni Grey-Thompson? Explain why.

I would describe Tanni as \_\_\_\_\_ because...

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5. Why do you think The Queen has given Tanni so many special awards?

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6. What is The House of Lords? Why do you think Tanni accepted an invitation to become a member?

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7. Use the Internet to research another successful British Paralympian. Produce your own fact file.

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# Tanni Grey-Thompson

## Comprehension

### Answers

1. What stops Tanni from being able to walk properly?

**Tanni was born with a medical condition called spina bifida, which stops her from being able to run or walk properly. Spina bifida affects a baby's backbone and it does not grow normally.**

2. How did Tanni's parents try and make her independent when she was younger?

**Tanni's parents were determined to make her as independent as possible so they pushed her to take part in a number of sports, including archery, basketball, swimming and horse riding.**

3. How many Paralympic medals did Tanni win overall and over how many years?

**Over her 16 year Paralympic career, Tanni won a total of 16 medals - 11 gold, 5 silver and 1 bronze.**

4. Which adjective would you use to describe Tanni Grey-Thompson? Explain why. I would describe Tanni as \_\_\_\_\_ because...

**Pupils' responses may include; hard-working, determined, courageous or inspirational, with appropriate reasoning relating to the text.**

5. Why do you think The Queen has given Tanni so many special awards?

**Pupils' responses may include; she is a great role model for everyone especially other people with disabilities, she is a very determined person, she is one of Team GB's greatest Paralympians or/and she wants to make a difference to lives of other people through charity work and her work in The House of Lords.**

6. What is The House of Lords? Why do you think Tanni accepted an invitation to become a member?

**The House of Lords is part of the Houses of Parliament in London where Lords make laws, and challenge the work of the UK government. Tanni wanted to be part of the House of Lords to fight for the rights and benefits of people with disabilities, and for funding for sports in schools and communities.**

7. Use the Internet to research another successful British Paralympian. Produce your own fact file.

**Pupils' own response.**



# Tanni Grey-Thompson

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**Born:** 26 July 1969 in Cardiff, Wales.

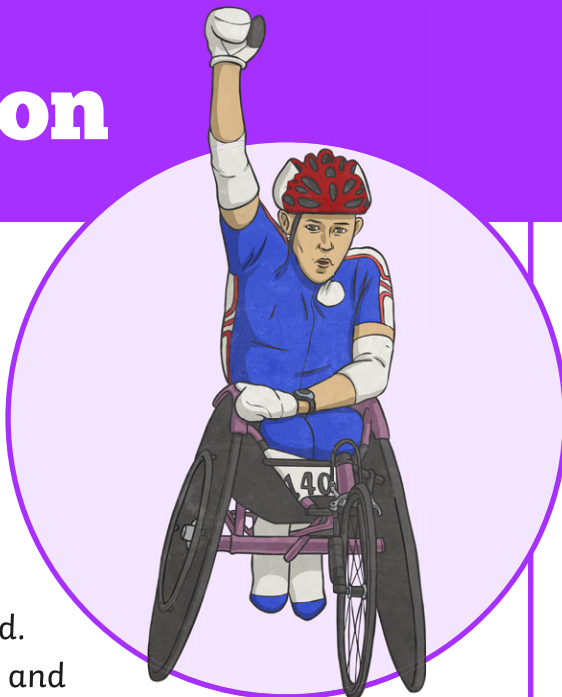
## Childhood

Tanni was born with a medical condition called spina bifida that prevented her from being able to run or walk properly. Spina bifida is a birth defect meaning that a baby's spine does not form normally. As a result, the spinal cord and the nerves in the back are left damaged.

As a young child, she wore braces on her legs to try and strengthen them but when she was 7, it was decided that she

needed to use a wheelchair. Tanni's parents were determined to make her as outgoing and independent as possible. They encouraged her to take part in a number of sports, including archery, basketball, swimming and horse riding. However, it was when Tanni watched the

wheelchair athletes taking part in the London Marathon on TV that she first dreamed of a career in athletics. By the age of 15, she was racing for Wales in the Junior National Wheelchair Games and won the 100 metre race.



## Paralympic Games and Medals

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## Achievements:

In 1988, Tanni was chosen to race for Great Britain at the Seoul Paralympic Games. She came home with a bronze medal in the 800m. Even after a year off after a back operation, Tanni still went to the Barcelona Paralympics in 1992, where she won four gold medals in the 100m, 200m, 400m and 800m and a silver in the 4x100m relay. It was at Barcelona that

Tanni became the first woman to break the 60 second barrier in the 400m. Tanni was now Britain's most famous disabled athlete but she didn't stop there. Over 12 more years and three more Paralympic Games, Tanni won a further 7 gold and 4 silver medals. Over her career, Tanni also broke 30 World Records on the race track.

### **Life after the Paralympics**

Tanni retired from racing in 2007 but she still spends a lot of time helping others to enjoy sport. She is a Board Member of the London Marathon and the Sportsaid Foundation, and has also presented some sports programmes for BBC Wales. She has received many accolades from The Queen, including an MBE in 1993 for 'services to sport', an OBE in 1997 and then in 2005, she was promoted to a Dame. Keen to fight for the rights of disabled people, in 2010 Tanni became a member of The House of Lords, taking the title of Baroness Grey-Thompson of Eaglescliffe. Tanni uses her experience and knowledge during debates in the House of Lords and she has spoken on a range of issues including disability rights, welfare reform for people with disabilities, and of course, funding for sports in schools and communities.

### **Amazing Fact!**

When she was born, Tanni was actually given the name Carys Davina Grey. It was her two-year-old sister, Sian, who called the baby 'tanni' (when she was actually trying to say 'tiny'), and the name just stuck!

# Tanni Grey-Thompson

## Comprehension

Answer the following questions using full sentences that give as much detail as possible.

1. What prevents Tanni from being able to walk properly?

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2. What did Tanni's parents encourage her to do as a child? Why?

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3. How many Paralympic medals did Tanni win overall and over how many years?

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4. Which two adjectives would you use to describe Tanni Grey-Thompson? Explain why.

I would describe Tanni as \_\_\_\_\_ because... \_\_\_\_\_

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I would describe Tanni as \_\_\_\_\_ because... \_\_\_\_\_

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5. In the final paragraph, it says Tanni was given many 'accolades' from The Queen.

Explain what this means. Use a dictionary if you need to.

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6. Give two reasons why you think Tanni has become a member of The House of Lords.

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7. Use the Internet to research another successful British Paralympian. Produce your own fact file.

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# Tanni Grey-Thompson

## Comprehension

### Answers

1. What prevents Tanni from being able to walk properly?

**Tanni was born with a medical condition called spina bifida, which prevents her from being able to run or walk properly. Spina bifida is a birth defect that happens when a baby's spine does not form normally. As a result, the spinal cord and the nerves in the back are left damaged.**

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I would describe Tanni as \_\_\_\_\_ because...  
I would describe Tanni as \_\_\_\_\_ because...

**Pupils' responses may include; hard-working, determined, courageous or inspirational, with appropriate reasoning relating to the text.**

5. In the final paragraph, it says Tanni was given many 'accolades' from The Queen. Explain what this means. Use a dictionary if you need to.

**An 'accolade' is a public recognition of somebody's achievements.**

6. Give two reasons why you think Tanni has become a member of The House of Lords.

**Pupils' responses may include; she is passionate about issues relating to people with disabilities and about sport, she is a very determined person or/and she wants to make a difference.**

7. Use the Internet to research another successful British Paralympian. Produce your own fact file.

**Pupil's own response.**