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Former Microsoft CEO Bill Gates has had a successful career - so to put it mildly. He has also had all sorts of adventures along the way, such as jamming with Slash during a Guitar Hero session. Keep up to date with the master mind in this picture gallery. Bill Gates founded Microsoft in 1975. He resigned as executive director in January 2000 and in 2006 began working full-time for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. See where Bill Gates went to school next. Bill Gates sits on stage during the start at Harvard University, June 2007. Gates, who enrolled at Harvard in a pre-law program in 1973 and left in his junior year, received an honorary doctorate in Law. See which Gates magazine is next. Time's September 16, 1996 cover featured Bill Gates. It has since been busy with Microsoft and helping to resolve the global problem on the next page. Bill Gates speaks at a press conference on the Millennium Development Goals at the annual meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, September 2008. The leaders discussed the global financial crisis. Then see what the singer joined Gates to support the global economy. Bill Gates and Bono attend a press conference during the third day of the World Economic Forum, January 25, 2008, in Switzerland. Gates does this activity on the next page to disconnect from solving global problems. Bill Gates performs Guitar Hero during his inaugural lecture at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in 2008. Gates stayed with the games by launching Microsoft's Silverlight for the following Olympics. Bill Gates talks about Silverlight in the 2008 consumer electronics showcase. Silverlight allows video, audio and animation to be transmitted to websites and was presented during the Olympic Games. See Gates in Beijing during the following games. IOC Press Committee President Kevin Gosper and Bill Gates watch swimming held at the National Swimming Center on Day 3 of the 2008 Beijing Olympics. See what the famous rapper Gates is watching one basketball game with the next. Bill Gates and Ludacris sit next to the court during the 2008 State Farm Basketball Challenge exhibition match between the United States and the Senior National Teams of the United States and Canada. See how more Gates is involved with the global competition below. Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates testifies before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee hearing on U.S. competitiveness on Capitol Hill. On the next page, see what the former U.S. president shakes hands with Gates. Bill Gates shakes hands with former US President Bill Clinton at the Clinton Global Initiative. The event brought together world leaders to develop feasible solutions to the challenges See a solution in Uganda below. Bill Gates listens to Yoweri Museveni, uganda's president, as he announces plans to launch a joint initiative to power small farmers at a press conference at the United Nations. The next world leader offered Gates a polar bear. Berlin Mayor Klaus Wowereit gives polar bear figure to Microsoft founder Bill Bill during a visit to Berlin. On the next page, see which country received \$3 million from Gates to alleviate natural disasters. Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Bill Gates answer questions during the Asia Government Leaders Forum conference. There Gates announced his \$3 million donation to myanmar cyclone victims. Gates then helps unemployed. The mayor of Paris, Bertrand Delanoë, welcomes Bill Gates before a meeting at the Paris City Council, where they signed a digital partnership to support new Parisian companies and help train unemployed people. Gates takes on smokers on the next page. Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg announce their half-billion dollar support for a new anti-smoking initiative. Gates continues to work in health care with the leader of the next country. Gordon Brown, uk prime minister, and Bill Gates join forces for a press conference on the World Health Campaign at the United Nations. See what Gates is currently doing to Microsoft afterwards. Bill Gates works at Microsoft part-time as non-executive chairman. See How Microsoft works for more information. In the past my articles have focused on the technology, products and applications used in the business world. This week entry is a little different. My friend and business partner at Odyssey Consulting Group, Daniel Egan has once in a lifetime opportunity this week. Be one of the fifteen people who have just had lunch with Bill Gates. He found out last week and called me directly. After the death of the initial emotion, I posed a simple but poignant question. You have this incredible opportunity to meet a true pioneer in the technology and computing industry, a world-class humanitarian, and the third richest man in the world. What question are you going to ask? He stopped dead in his tracks and realised he had no idea. So, my Fast Company readers, if they face the same opportunity, what question would you ask Mr. Gates? Is this a Microsoft product? His long battles with Apple, Intel and the EU? The future of Windows, Cloud Computing and WiMax? His work with One.org, RED, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation? Maybe what it's like to have Bono and Al Gore as friends? Maybe ask why you drive a Saturn when you could own any car on the planet? What would you ask for? Post your questions below. The best question will be asked and your answer will be published below. I'm very serious. I'll post a photo of Daniel and Bill next week from their lunch. I look forward to your ideas and suggestions. Bill Gates was a mastermind not only in terms of starting the most famous tech company of all time (apologies to Apple and Google), but also to figure out how to do business on such a large scale. These are your main commercial budgets. 1. Success is a lly shaved teacher. It seduces smart people to think they can't lose. 2. It is ok to celebrate success, but it is more important to ignore the lessons of This is a fantastic time to get into the business world, because the business will change more in the next 10 years than it has in the last 50 years. 4. Your most unhappy customers are your greatest source of learning. 5. Intellectual property has the shelf life of a banana. 6. The first rule of any technology used in a business is that automation applied to an efficient operation will expand efficiency. The second is that automation applied to an inefficient operation will increase inefficiency. 7. Everyone needs a coach. It doesn't matter if you're a basketball player, a tennis player, a gymnast, or a bridge player. 8. In business, the idea of measuring what you are doing, collecting the measures that count, such as customer satisfaction and performance ... you thrive on it. 9. From my mental cycles, you dedicated maybe 10 percent to business thinking. Business is not that complicated. I wouldn't want to put it on my business card. 10. [Intelligence is] an elusive concept. There is a certain sharpness, an ability to absorb new facts. To get into a situation, something explained to you and immediately say, Well, what about that? To ask an insightful question. To absorb it in real time. An ability to remember. Relate to domains that at first do not seem connected. A certain creativity that allows people to be effective. 11. Don't compare you to anyone in this world ... If you do, you're insulting yourself. 12. We always overestimat the change that will occur in the next two years and underestimate the change that will occur in the next 10. Don't let yourself fall into inaction. 13. Do not make the same decision twice. Spend time and thought to make a sound decision the first time so that you don't visit the topic unnecessarily again. If you are too willing to reopen problems, it interferes not only with your execution, but also with your motivation to make a decision in the first place. After all, why bother deciding a problem if it's not really decided? 14. Information and business technologies are being inextricably intertwined. I don't think anyone can talk significantly about one without talking about the other. 15. If I had to say what I feel best about, i'm involved in this whole software revolution and what comes out of it, because you can go all over the world and go to schools and see these computers being used and go to hospitals and see that they're used, and see how they're tools to share information that we hope will lead to more peaceful conditions , and only the great research advances that come out of this. 16. If you show people the problems and show people the solutions, they will move to act. 17. Whether it's Google or Apple or free software, we have some fantastic competitors and it keeps us on our feet. 18. To win big, sometimes you have to take big risks. 19. Our success has been really in associations from the beginning. 20. Evil it will fail no matter how good your information is, and lame execution will sty style a good strategy. If you do enough wrong things, you're going to go out of business. 21. Employers need to shake up the idea that information is hard to get. 22. Only a few companies will succeed in having the lowest price, so most will need a strategy that includes customer service. 23. Customers want high quality at low prices and want it now. 24. A company's ability to respond to an unplanned, good or bad event is a primary indicator of its ability to compete. 25. Reward worthy failure--experimentation. failure--experimentation.

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