

## Tony Hawk, the creator of Skateboarding\*



Tony Hawk jumped for the first time on a board when he was nine years old. **It** was a blue Fibreglas banana board, a present from **his** older brother, Steve. Two years later, Tony decided to quit baseball and dedicate himself to skating. Skateboarding would never be the same. He was pathologically determined and he had a great talent. That's why his brother gave him a skateboard, to put

5 his physical abilities into skateboarding. When he started getting good at skating it changed his personality. He became a different guy; he was calm, he started thinking about other people and became more generous. By age sixteen Tony Hawk was the best skateboarder in the world. In the following 17 years, Hawk

10 participated in about a hundred competitions. He won 73 of them, and placed second in 19. The best record in skate boarding's history. Tony Hawk had enough money that he could buy a house when he was 17 because he won a lot of prizes and made skateboards videos and got sponsorships. Now Tony is still making money thanks to the popularity of his skateboarding company, to the

15 Tony Hawk's Pro Skater video game for PlayStation and also thanks to his kid's skate clothing company . He now owns a house in California **which** has skate ramps outside and a special floor so he can skate inside the house. Right

now Tony Hawk has three sons - Riley, Spencer and Keegan. Keegan began skating on a mini-skateboard when he was just one year old. Tony Hawk rarely skateboards in competitions anymore - but he still skates almost every day and is always inventing new tricks. He invented a number of tricks: that list includes *ollie 540*, *kickflip 540*, *varial 720* and the *900* (two and a half mid-air spins).

**\*Adapted from [www.tonyhawk.com](http://www.tonyhawk.com) by Prof. Mara Casali**