

Track 15 – Unit 5/12–14

Announcer: No good at school but great at his job

Jamie Oliver makes cooking cool.

He's famous now and he's often on TV – and not just in Britain but around the world.

But Jamie wasn't a good pupil at school!

Here's his success story.

Jamie was born in the southeast of England in 1975. His mum and dad had a pub and Jamie started helping in the kitchen there when he was eight. School was hard for Jamie – he's dyslexic – but after school, when he was 16, he went to a college in London and trained to be a cook. Jamie was a brilliant college student. He left college in 1992. He worked in some famous restaurants in France, and then in London. In 1998, a British TV company made a film about one of the London restaurants. Everybody saw Jamie on TV and soon he was the star of the show. Jamie Oliver, the unsuccessful pupil, was famous!

Jamie opened his first restaurant in London in 2002 – but it wasn't a normal restaurant. He found 15 unemployed young people and trained them. The young people had lots of problems and it was hard work, but they were successful. They are now cooks. The restaurant was called Fifteen because there were 15 young cooks. Then Jamie trained more young people in a town in the south-west of England, in the Netherlands and in Australia.