"I don't think I could think of a single thing that's more isolating than being famous."

Lady Gaga, American pop star

1. Celebrities Discussion

1. What is a celebrity? How does one become a celebrity?
2. What's the latest celebrity gossip?
3. Do you have a favourite celebrity? Which other celebrities inspire you? Are there any celebrities you really don't like?
4. Who are the most famous celebrities in the world? What are they famous for?
5. Which celebrity families do you know about?
6. Have you ever met a celebrity? Who is the most famous person you have met? Which celebrity would you like to meet? Why?
7. Where would you go if you wanted to see some celebrities? Where do celebrities hang out?
8. How do you imagine the lives of celebrities to be? Do you think they are happy, or are there any downsides to being a celebrity?

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2. Celebrities Vocabulary

- **A-list celebrity** (noun) – *extremely famous or successful celebrities.*
- **D-list celebrity** (noun) – *minor celebrities who are usually famous only for appearing on reality TV shows.*
- **glamorous** (adjective) – *attractive, exciting, charming, and alluring.*
- **household name** (noun) – *a person or brand that is very well known by the general public.*
- **claim to fame** (noun) – *something that made someone famous; the most interesting or important thing about a person or thing they did.*
- **internet famous** (adjective) – *someone who became famous through the internet, social media or other online activities.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun):

1. Bruce Forsythe is one of the most beloved **household names** in the UK, although he's not famous in any other country.
2. Comedy panel shows often feature **D-list celebrities** only so people can laugh at them.
3. Logan and Jake Paul became **internet famous** for filming themselves doing stupid things and uploading the videos to YouTube.
4. Marilyn Monroe was the most **glamorous** celebrity in history.
5. My **claim to fame** is that I went to the same school as Bill Clinton's daughter.
6. The Met Gala in New York is attended by a host of **A-list celebrities**.

Celebrities vocabulary comprehension questions

1. Who are the A-list celebrities?
2. Who are some D-list celebrities?
3. Who are the most glamorous celebrities?
4. Who are the household names in your country?
5. What would your claim to fame be?
6. Which people have become internet famous?

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3. Video: A Brief History of Celebrities

You are going to watch a video by BBC Ideas called "From celebrities to influencers: A brief history of celebrity."

Watch the video here: https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-celebrities/

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. The word 'celebrity' originally meant a celebration of what?
   a) actors *b) musicians* ***c) religion***
2. Attitudes towards fame changed when who was executed?
   a) Charles I *b) Charles II* *c) Charles III*
3. What did Oscar Wilde represent?
   a) the cult of religion *b) the cult of worship* ***c) the cult of personality***
4. What was the point of life according to Oscar Wilde?
   a) self-denial ***b) self-realisation*** *c) self-expression*

Sentence completion

5. In the **1800s**, the most famous people were politicians, scientists, doctors and writers.
6. By 1920, the most famous people were singers, sportsmen and actors thanks to the invention of **film**.
7. Andy Warhol created a real **buzz** around himself and presented himself as an iconic figure that people wanted to be around.
8. Kim Kardashian's fans want to **look like** her and be as famous as her.

Short answer

9. What is everybody taking these days? **Selfies**
10. We are attracted to celebrities because we live in an age of profound what? **Anxiety**
11. What do people want in life? **Acceptance and approval**
12. If influencers reveal from their lives what most people hide, what will their followers think? **"I'm that way too"**

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4. Celebrities Conversation Questions

1. Does being famous mean the same as being successful?
2. Which celebrities are famous for being famous (i.e., that are famous for no apparent reason)? Which people became famous for their connections to other famous people?
3. Why do so many people crave fame?
4. Why do we elevate some people to the position of celebrity? Why are people so obsessed with the lives of celebrities? Are you?
5. Considering celebrities make a lot of their money just by being famous, do they deserve the right to privacy?
6. Which people have not coped with fame very well? What happened to them?
7. If you could be a celebrity for a day, who would you be and why?
8. How would your relationship with your friends change if you or one of them became a celebrity? Would you like to be famous? Why or why not?

5. Celebrities Writing Task

Write about your opinion of celebrities. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- Your favourite celebrity and why.
- A celebrity you don't like and why.
- How you imagine the lives of famous people to be.

Alternative exam practice question:

Some people argue that without intrusive media coverage into their lives, many celebrities would no longer be interesting to the public and would therefore lose their source of income. Other people argue that everybody, even celebrities, should have a right to privacy. Which side do you agree with?

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