
ProTalk
Discussion Files
afaq
Language Center
C1. Celebrity culture
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Goals

- Can read and understand a detailed text about celebrity culture.
- Can present my own opinion on celebrity culture, privacy and self-branding.



What do you think?

Many of us spend a few minutes a day catching up on the latest **celebrity** gossip. But when casual fandom tips over into an **insatiable** desire for all of the **sordid** details about the lives of the rich and **famous**, we begin to damage ourselves and those we are watching.

Celebrities

Who are some of the most famous celebrities in your country? Why are they famous?



Celebrity gossip

Do you follow celebrity gossip? Where can we read about celebrities?



the internet



newspapers

About you

If you could live the life of any celebrity for one day, who would you choose and why?



If I could, I would choose...

I think her life must be...

I'd love to know why...

Read the text and summarize it.

Celebrity culture

The term ‘celebrity culture’ carries with it an air of modernity, and **connotations** of screaming teenage fans throwing themselves at beautiful, untouchable people, who **lap up** the adoration.

The world has always looked for people to **idolise**; from the Greek Gods, through Medieval kings, past Marilyn Monroe, and on to popular pop stars of today’s world, we look for heroes, people who live lives far removed from our own **mundane** ones. We want to be close to them, and even to **emulate** them. However, while idolatry is as old as time, there has been a certain **ramping up** of interest in celebrity culture that is causing concern.

Read the text and summarize it.

Celebrity culture

Firstly, the impact on celebrities themselves cannot be **overlooked**. People have an **insatiable** desire to know everything about the rich and famous, and invasion of privacy and personal space is a long-held complaint of many a celebrity. Celebrity, in fact, is often described as both a blessing and a curse. Coupled with a seeming desire to see those we idolise fall from their **pedestal**, the pursuit and subsequent tearing down of celebrities has become an international sport. We watch and wait for them to put a foot out of line, to ruin their image, and then we **revel** in the **sordid** details. Does this make us happier? Is it pleasant to watch? Undoubtedly not, yet we keep on doing it.

Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps with the words from the text. Then answer the questions.

1. Do you think it is true that celebrities _____ attention from their fans?
2. Why do you think we enjoy watching people fall from their _____?
3. Do you enjoy hearing _____ details of other people's lives?
4. Why do you think teenagers in particular often _____ celebrities?
5. Why do you think there has been a _____ of interest in celebrities in recent years?

pedestals

ramping up

idolise

lap up

sordid

Celebrities from history

The text mentions some famous historical figures. Can you add any idolised figures to the list, especially anyone from your country?



Greek Gods

Medieval kings

Marilyn Monroe

About you

Would you like to be famous? What do you think would be the perks, and what would be the worst things?





Celebrity products

Have you ever bought anything because it was made by, or promoted by, a celebrity?

What was the appeal?







Privacy or spotlight?



Can you think of any celebrities who stay ‘off the radar’?

Why do you think they do this? If you were a celebrity would you do the same, or would you like to be in the spotlight?

Over to you

How frequently do you use social media? Do you make posts frequently or just read what others have written?

Do you think posting on social media automatically means a form of self-branding, or can it be more genuine than that?



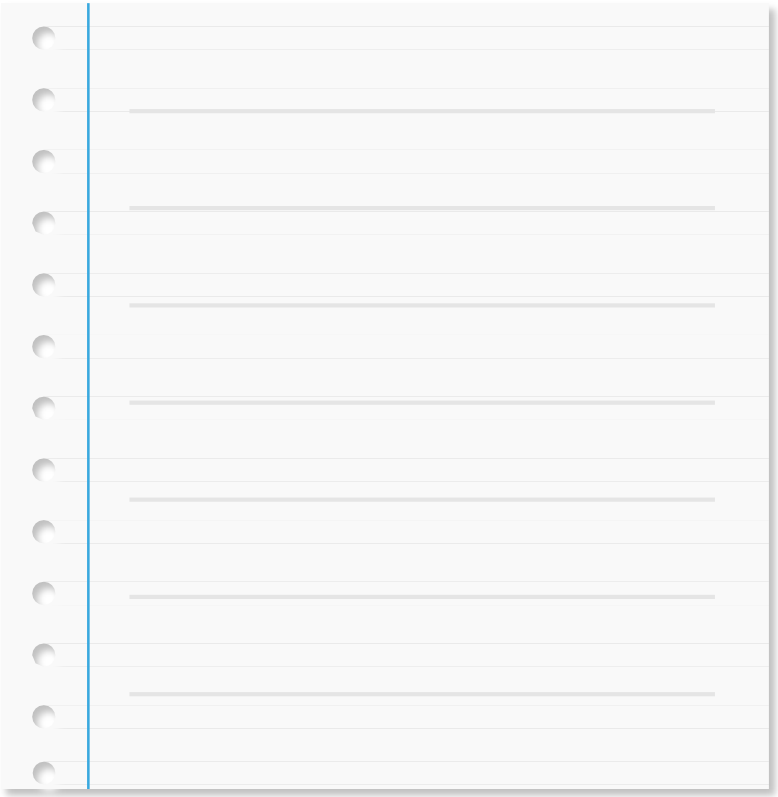
Words of warning

You have been invited to speak to a group of nine-year-old children about the dangers of celebrity culture and social media. Prepare a short speech you would give them based on your answers to the previous two exercises.

self-branding

in the public eye

validation



Blessing or curse?

Having discussed celebrity culture at length, do you think that being a celebrity is a blessing or a curse?





Complete the sentences

Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

1. People who idolise celebrities are…
2. We enjoy tearing down celebrities because…
3. Being famous can be a curse in that…
4. People’s self-worth can be diminished by…
5. Following celebrities is not necessarily shallow because…

Exercise p. 9

1. Lap up, 2. pedestals, 3. sordid, 4. idolise, 5. ramping up

Presentation

Think about the pros and cons of being a celebrity in your country.
Prepare a two-minute presentation about the prose and cons of being a celebrity.
Include several reasons to support your point of view.
Give your presentation to the class. Answer questions and get feedback.

