



CELEBRITIES:

A celebrity, also referred to as a “celeb” in popular culture, is a person who has a prominent profile in the media and is easily recognized. Celebrity status might be associated with certain professions, such as the entertainment industry, sports and politics, and the frequency of their appearances in the media. It can arise as a result of career planning but it can also arise by accident or as a result of infamy. Early recorded instances of celebrity include the winners at the Olympic Games in ancient Greece. In ancient Rome portraits of powerful men appeared stamped on coins. Works of art bearing their likenesses further enhanced their fame. Gladiators could also gain considerable fame as news of their victories spread by word of mouth.

In the 16th and early 17th centuries repeated performances of Shakespeare's plays contributed to his fame. Writers gained recognition as literacy levels improved and reading became a form of entertainment. In the Victorian era authors such as Charles Dickens built up their popularity by publishing their work in newspapers and magazines. Growth in the types of media in the 20th century led to increased exposure for celebrities. In the early 21st century there are more celebrities than previously. People may become celebrities in a wide range of ways: from their professions, following appearances in the mass media, or even by complete accident or infamy. Examples of that type of accidental celebrity would include Paris Hilton and Kim Kardashian. The term "instant celebrity" describes someone who becomes a celebrity in a very short period of time, such as Canadian pop star, Justin Bieber.

In the 20th century, public fascination with celebrities and demand for celebrity gossip gave rise to the gossip columnist, tabloids, paparazzi and celebrity blogging. “Paparazzi” is an Italian term used to refer to photojournalists who specialize in candid photography of celebrities, politicians, and other prominent people. Paparazzi tend to be independent contractors, unaffiliated with a mainstream media organization. The word "paparazzi" is originated from the 1960 film *La Dolce Vita* directed by Federico Fellini. One of the characters in the film is a news photographer named Paparazzo, a name which comes from an Italian dialect word that describes a particularly annoying noise, that of a buzzing mosquito.

The rise of international celebrities in acting and popular music originates in large part in the scope and scale of the media industries, enabling celebrities to be viewed more often and in more places. Most cultures and regions have their own independent celebrity systems with distinct hierarchies of popular film, television and sports stars. A person who garners a degree of fame in one culture may be considered less famous or obscure in another. A local celebrity is a person well known in one locality but are little known elsewhere. A person might have celebrity status within a particular culture (such as Santa Claus) or might be unique to a particular diaspora.

It's hard to measure someone's fame. Even worldwide celebrities might still be unknown to people in isolated countries like North Korea, to villagers without access to international news media or to people who are simply disinterested in celebrities. Certain phenomena have however been called definitive proof of fame, such as appearing on the cover of Time Magazine, being spoofed in Saturday Night Live, having a wax statue in Madame Tussauds, or receiving a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

VOCABULARY:

prominent literacy infamy columnist tabloid contractors unaffiliated
mainstream gladiators dialect garner hierarchies obscure spoof

GRAMMAR: Phrasal Verbs

DRAW

1. She drew ____ her cigarette and inhaled the smoke. (in, on, our)
2. There was a lot of time left, so I drew the questions ____ to fill the time. (off, out)
3. The president wants to draw ____ troops numbers to save money. (down, off, out)
4. We got drawn ____ their plans and ended up in a lot of trouble. (in, into, on)
5. We asked our lawyers to draw ____ the contract. (in, out, up)
6. If a car draws ____, it stops. (up, out, on)

FALL

1. I fell ____ with my work because I was ill for a few days and couldn't do anything. (in, behind, over)
2. His hair's falling ____ and he's worried about going bald. (off, through, out)
3. My holiday fell ____ when the travel agent went bankrupt, so I'll be staying at home this year. (down, out, through)
4. Nobody else would tell her the news so it fell ____ me to do it. (down, to, onto)
5. If everything goes wrong, you can always fall ____ your family for support. (into, out with, back on)
6. They met on holiday, fell ____ each other and were married within a month. (into, from, for)
7. I completely believed her; I fell ____ her lies. (for, down, to)
8. The handle broke and fell _____. (in, off, for)

CONVERSATION:

Who is your favourite celebrity? Have you ever seen him/her in person? Do have a celebrity story to tell? If you met your favourite celebrity, what questions would you ask him/her?

Who was the biggest celebrity in history? Why do you believe that?

If you could be a matchmaker, which two celebrities would you introduce to each other?

If you could be a celebrity, what would you want to be famous for?

The benefits of being a celebrity are quite obvious, but what is the downside of being a celebrity?