Fame and celebrity have become increasingly important in many countries in recent years. There is an increasing number of TV programmes, books, magazines and internet sites that report on film, TV and pop music celebrities’ lives in great detail. Not everyone, though, likes this ‘celebrity culture’ and not all celebrities enjoy the intense media attention.

Quiz

What is the name of the prize given for the best film actors?

a. Charlie  
b. Oscar  
c. Bravo
Reach for the Stars!

So you want to be rich and famous?
Do you dream of fame and fortune? (1) __________ We all know the road to success is hard, but those who are determined succeed. Here are a few tips for readers with stars in their eyes.

Know your strengths
Work out what your true talent is and focus on developing it. (2) __________ This is what will win people over and make you stand out from the crowd. You can always work on those dance steps once you’ve got the attention you need.

Study the competition
(3) __________ Newspapers, magazines and websites publish articles on famous people all the time. The stars of the future regularly make time to read what celebrities are doing and make a note of what they do right and what they do wrong.

Get yourself noticed
In some ways, it’s easy to become well known these days. Television reality shows give ordinary people the chance to show off their talents. (4) __________ The judges don’t always choose the contestants who are the best performers; they sometimes select the people who show they can work hard and have lots of potential.

Learn from your mistakes
Even the most successful celebrities make mistakes. (5) __________ You are still developing your talent, so recognising when you are doing something wrong and working to correct it will make you better in the future. Real stars never give up just because they sang a bit off key or slipped during a dance routine. They use this as an opportunity to improve.

Enjoy yourself
There’s no point in becoming rich and famous if it makes you miserable. The measure of true success is how happy you are when you achieve your goals.

Good luck on your journey to the top!

Vocabulary
Find the words in the text and circle the correct meaning, a or b.
1. hard
   a. difficult
   b. firm
2. tip
   a. extra money
   b. piece of advice
3. steps
   a. stairs
   b. movements
4. routine
   a. schedule
   b. performance
5. goals
   a. aims
   b. scores
6. hit
   a. success
   b. slap

Grammar
Present Simple and Present Continuous
We use the Present Simple to talk about:
- facts and general truths.
- routines and habits.
- The band goes on tour every autumn.
- permanent states or situations.
- The British Royal Family lives in Buckingham Palace.
- timetabled and programmed events in the future.
- The concert starts at 8 pm tomorrow.

Time expressions
Adverbs of frequency (always, often, usually, regularly, frequently, sometimes, rarely, never), once, twice a week/month, on Thursdays, in July, on April 22nd

We use the Present Continuous to talk about:
- temporary actions or situations or things happening now.
- fixed future plans.
- I’m interviewing Reese Witherspoon next week.
- annoying habits (with always, constantly or forever).
- That actor is always arguing with his friend.
- changing situations.
- He’s becoming richer and richer every year.
- what is happening in a picture or photograph.
- The actor is waving to his fans in this photo.

Time expressions
(right) now, at the moment, for the time being, tomorrow, this afternoon/week/winter, next week/month, these days

A Circle the correct words.
1. The Millionaire’s Club meets / is meeting once a week.
2. We’re not flying / don’t fly to Monaco tomorrow.
3. This newspaper is printing / prints gossip every day.
4. Does he break / Is he breaking the glasses often?
5. Do you read / Are you reading a biography at the moment?

B Complete the sentences with some of the words from A.
1. I’m full of __________ for the winners of the children’s talent competition.
2. You have to try hard to __________ as an actor.
3. Some people are __________ to become rich and famous.
4. I didn’t make a good __________ at the audition.
5. Winning the music award is my greatest __________ so far.
6. How many contestants will __________ in the talent show?

Speaking
Work with a partner. Take it in turns to tell each other about a famous person you admire. Use these phrases to help you.
He/She is a famous …
He/She lives in …
He/She is (nationally)twenty-eight years old/talented/Jealous.
He/She likes/dislikes …

Writing
Write a short paragraph about the person you told your partner about in the Speaking task.
Reading

Read the article below. What did someone buy for 87,000 dollars?

Collecting celebrities’ memorabilia appears to be a very popular, but very extravagant, pastime these days. Some people just love the possessions of the rich and famous. Many are even willing to hand over huge sums of money at auctions to purchase goods which their favourite star owns or has used. It seems that even higher amounts are paid when the owner is no longer alive.

In August 2000 at an auction in Indiana, USA, a car which was driven by former Beatle John Lennon was put up for auction. Lennon, who died in 1980 and who had an extremely successful solo career with tracks such as Imagine and Woman, designed the stunning paintwork on the luxury car. Thousands of people turned up in Indiana to see the car on display.

Genuine celebrity clothes are also in great demand at auctions and wealthy fans often pay an arm and a leg for clothes that they want. Take a look at these examples: a leather jacket worn on stage by U2’s lead singer Bono fetched over 37,000 dollars, while a jacket former Nirvana singer Kurt Cobain wore while performing fetched over 37,000 dollars, while a jacket former Beatles singer John Lennon was sold at auction in 1980.

Do you think these prices are outrageous and these buyers are crazy? You’re probably right, but stars’ possessions are often snapped up by museums which believe it’s worth it. Today, Beatles, Lennon and vintage car enthusiasts flock to the Sarasota Car Museum in Florida to see the car on display.

Imagine you are super-rich. What object belonging to a famous person would you buy?

All you need is a lot of spare cash!

Vocabulary

Circle the correct answers.
1 The Tutankhamun treasures are on ___________ at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.
   a display   b auction   c demand
2 Rush’s new CD is now on ___________
   a loan   b sale   c purchase
3 Who’s appearing on ___________ at the Apollo this weekend?
   a show   b exhibit   c stage
4 The fans were out of ___________ at the concert.
   a control   b fortune   c action
5 Did you get a ___________ of your favourite actor at the premiere?
   a look   b glimpse   c sight

Grammar

Stative verbs

We don’t usually use verbs which describe states (stative verbs) in continuous tenses. Stative verbs include verbs that refer to feelings, possession, opinion and understanding, state of mind and the senses.

I really like this DVD. This villa belongs to a millionaire.

I doubt the band’s next track will be a hit.

Some verbs can be either stative or non-stative with different meanings. These verbs include be, think, feel, appear and have.

It appears that a fan bought the celebrity’s motorbike. How many bands are appearing at the festival this year?

Complete the sentences using the Present Simple or the Present Continuous of the verbs in brackets.
1 Many pop stars drive expensive vintage / former cars.
2 Which track / auction do you like best from this CD?
3 The Solid Rock Museum displays all sorts of rock paintwork / memorabilia.
4 Many music fans want to get a glimpse / look of their favourite stars.
5 Most singers try to look stunning / extravagant on stage.
6 It’s absolutely genuine / outrageous how much he spends every week.

Vocabulary

Choose the correct answers.
1 The bank manager should ___________ the money to a museum.
   a display   b sell   c demand
2 Many young people ___________ (to look) be rich and famous.
3 Why ___________ (he / taste) your food?
4 The lead singer ___________ (hate) fans coming to rehearsals.
5 The singer ___________ (think) of going on tour.
6 Iris ___________ (doubt) her latest film will be a success.
7 The famous couple ___________ (have) a holiday on a remote island at the moment.
8 Why ___________ (people / love) reading about Hollywood actors?

Listening

Listen to the interview with Janice Porter and change the words in bold to make the sentences true.

1 Janice was Gary Allen’s ___________.
2 This is the ___________ interview Janice has given since Gary died.
3 The auction will take place next ___________.
4 Hanging Garden split up in ___________.
5 The record company should ___________ the memorabilia to a museum.

Phrasal Verbs

Complete the sentences with these words.

how much did Bono’s leather jacket go for? how much did Bono’s leather jacket sell for? how much did Bono’s leather jacket split up for?

1 How much did Bono’s leather jacket go for?
2 Tom’s disappointed because his favourite band is going to split up.
3 How many fans are expected to come on tour?
4 As soon as filming stops many actors will go for exotic island holidays.
5 Come on! I will ___________ the keys to my Bentley!
6 Josh wants to ___________ his favourite star’s costume at the auction.

Go for snap up hand over head for turn up

1 How much did Bono’s leather jacket sell for?
2 Tom’s disappointed because his favourite band is going to split up.
3 How many fans are expected to come on tour?
4 As soon as filming stops many actors will go for exotic island holiday.
5 Come on! I will hand over the keys to my Bentley!
6 Josh wants to head for his favourite star’s costume at the auction.

Comprehension

Write A if the sentence is correct and B if it is not correct.
1 Collecting rich and famous people’s possessions is an inexpensive hobby. a True b False
2 A car used by John Lennon was sold at an auction in 1980. a True b False
3 The car used by Lennon is now part of a car museum exhibition. a True b False
4 Bono’s leather jacket was bought for 87,000 dollars. a True b False
5 Celebrities’ memorabilia is often bought by museums. a True b False

Guess what!

In 2009, a glove that was tossed to an Australian fan by Michael Jackson at a concert in 1986 was sold to a hotel in Las Vegas for more than 25,000 dollars.
**Vocabulary**

A Circle the odd one out.

1 signed copy autograph charity  
2 glamorous former stunning  
3 millionaire TV guide front cover  
4 champion star orphan  
5 poverty-stricken familiar well known

B Complete the sentences using some of the words from Task A.

1 I enjoyed the ______ more than the first move.  
2 Unfortunately, Rachel doesn’t have any parents. She’s a(n) ______.  
3 That star works for a(n) ______ that helps children in need.  
4 He’s not poverty-stricken but he’s not a(n) ______ either.  
5 This model has been on the ______ of several magazines.  
6 The house where I live is the ______ home of a film star.

**Listening skills**

A Work with a partner and discuss the differences between the two sets of pictures below.

B Listen to the two dialogues and tick (√) the correct boxes to answer these questions.

1 What is the man showing the girls?  
2 How is the actor travelling to the film premiere?  
3 What does the fan win in the competition?  
4 What is the guitarist doing?  
5 What is on sale at the auction?  
6 What day is it today?

**Listening task**

O Listen and tick (√) the correct pictures.

1 How much does the T-shirt cost?  
2 How is the actor travelling to the film premiere?  
3 What does the fan win in the competition?  
4 What is the guitarist doing?  
5 What is on sale at the auction?  
6 What day is it today?

**Speaking skills**

A Tick (√) the most polite reply to these questions.

1 What do you think of the band’s performance?  
   a It’s terrible. They’re totally useless and shouldn’t be on stage.  
   b It could be better. I imagine they’re feeling very nervous.  
2 What’s your opinion of Amy’s new hairstyle?  
   a To be honest, I don’t think it suits her.  
   b She’s done it like that for a joke, hasn’t she?  
3 What do you think of the lead singer’s dress?  
   a It’s very glamorous, but she appears to be uncomfortable in it.  
   b It’s obviously meant for someone half her age.

B Work with a partner and take it in turns to describe what you can see in these pictures. Student A should talk about picture 1 and Student B should talk about picture 2.

**Speaking tasks**

A Read the task in B and tick the items which describe what you have to do.

1 describe what the people in the picture look like  
2 say where the picture has been taken  
3 describe the people’s clothes  
4 decide which picture you both like best  
5 say what the people are doing  
6 guess what happens next  
7 talk about your partner’s picture  
8 describe every object in the picture

B Work with a partner and take it in turns to describe what you can see in these pictures. Student A should talk about picture 1 and Student B should talk about picture 2.

C Now talk to your partner about what you would like to be famous for and what you imagine your life would be like as a famous person.
B Circle the correct words to complete the model review.

**My Life in Ruins**

The 2009 Tribeca Film Festival closed with a film premiere that many expected to be better. The comedy *My Life in Ruins* isn’t (1) a complete flop / absolute rubbish, but nor is it a huge hit.

The main weakness of the film is the plot, which is fairly (2) predictable / dim-witted. A tour guide (Nia Vardalos) lives an extremely boring life. *Every day she shows tourists cultural sights.* She becomes disappointed because she always seems to have (3) idiots / tourists who are not interested in ancient ruins. Everything always seems to go wrong with hilarious cultural and personality clashes.

The real star of this film is the set. Some scenes take place in the stunning Parthenon. The Greek government allowed filming here for (4) so film audiences all over the world can get a glimpse of this admirable monument. As far as the cast is concerned, the local actor Alexis Georgoulis (4) steals the limelight from / is allowed filming here for (4) so film audiences all over the world can get a glimpse of this admirable monument. As far as the cast is concerned, the local actor Alexis Georgoulis (4) steals the limelight from / is allowed filming here for (4) so film audiences all over the world can get a glimpse of this admirable monument. As far as the cast is concerned, the local actor Alexis Georgoulis (4) steals the limelight from / is allowed filming here for (4) so film audiences all over the world can get a glimpse of this admirable monument.

Overall, *My Life in Ruins* (5) is a complete waste of time / doesn’t fulfil its potential, but the scenery is (6) very impressive / not too bad. Producers made the film hoping to repeat the success of Vardalos’ 2002 film *My Big Fat Greek Wedding.* Critics are unlikely to give this film as much praise as that one received, but it will be in great demand with fans of Greece and Georgoulis.

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**Analyse it!**

**Answer these questions.**

1 What is the main tense used in the model review?
2 Why is this tense used?
3 What are the film’s negative points?
4 What are the film’s positive points?
5 Are the answers you circled in the model review polite or impolite?

**Writing plan**

**Complete the plan for the model review with these points.**

- a give your overall impression of the film and say who it appeals to
- b introduce the film you are going to review
- c narrate the plot of the film
- d say what the film’s negative points are
- e say what the film’s positive points are

**Paragraph 1**

**Paragraph 2**

**Paragraph 3**

**Paragraph 4**

**Grammar**

**Direct and indirect objects**

Some sentences have two objects. The direct object is the person, animal or thing to which the verb relates or the action is done. The indirect object is the person, animal or thing which can receive the direct object or to whom the direct object is given. The indirect object always comes before the direct object. Verbs which can take two objects are usually verbs of communication or giving such as send, offer, lend, take, tell, sell, buy, bring, show and give.

*The singer gave James his autograph.*

*Helen bought everyone tickets.*

We can also write these sentences using a prepositional phrase with to or for.

*The singer gave his autograph to James.*

*Helen bought tickets for everyone.*

**A Match.**

1 Jason sold the customer ______
   a for all my friends.
2 Will he tell you ______
   b your Muse CD?
3 Will you lend me ______
   c his secret?
4 The singer brought drinks ______
   d three tickets.
5 I’ll send a letter ______
   e to Mum.

**B Look at the sentences highlighted in the model review and answer the questions.**

1 Which are the direct and the indirect objects?
2 How can we rewrite these sentences?