

Fame

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Activity 1

Use the following questions to begin a conversation with your partner.

1. Who, in your opinion are the ten most famous men, and ten most famous women alive in the world today? Make a list and then compare it with your partner's.
2. Do people nowadays become famous for the same reasons as in the past? Why/not? Who, in your opinion are the ten most famous people from the past? Make a list and then compare it with your partner's.
3. Would you like to be famous? Why/not? What would you like to be famous for? Why? In your opinion what are the advantages and disadvantages of being famous?
4. Would you like to be the child, brother/sister or parent of someone very famous? Why/not? What would be the advantages and disadvantages?
5. 'People used to worship god(s), now they worship film stars, sports players, princesses and pop singers.' Do you agree? Discuss your opinion with your partner.
6. Do you think famous people should set an example to their fans? Should they behave correctly all the time? Do they have a responsibility towards their fans? Why/not?
7. Do you think famous entertainers such as pop singers, sports stars and actors are over-paid? Do you think there are any famous people who are under-paid?
8. Is it unfair of famous people to spend half their time seeking publicity and posing for photographs and half their time complaining about being in the public eye and criticizing the paparazzi?

Activity 2

Match the following words with the definitions below.

fame famously fanzine infamous world famous

1. A is a magazine for fans of a particular group or person.
2. If you are doing something it means that you are doing it very well.
3. People become when they become famous for doing something bad.
4. is similar to stardom or celebrity or being well-known.
5. If everybody in the world knows this person, product or event, it is

Fame: Is it the new religion?

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Activity 3

*Is fame the new religion? People used to worship god(s), now they worship film stars, sports players, princesses and pop singers. In the past people respected faith, now they respect fame.' Do you agree? You are going to take part in a discussion about this question on an Internet Forum at **EnglishClub.com**.*

Task 1

1. *Did most people agree or disagree that fame is the new religion?*
2. *What was the most common reason given for agreeing or disagreeing?*

Task 2

1. *Read the post your teacher has put on the board at: <http://forum.englishclub.com/projects/> and summarize the main points.*
2. *Choose one point from your teacher's post which you strongly agree or disagree with and post a short paragraph in reply, stating your reasons and giving examples from your own experience where possible.*

Task 3

1. *Read the responses other students post to your teacher. Choose one you strongly agree with and one you strongly disagree with and post responses, explaining your opinion.*
2. *Make notes of the new words and phrases you have learned from participating in this Forum discussion activity that will help you to communicate your point of view on this subject in a classroom discussion.*

N.B. Netiquette!

PLEASE CHANGE THE DEFAULT SUBJECT LINE TO INDICATE THE OPINION/S IN YOUR POST BECAUSE IN A BUSY THREAD IT HELPS PEOPLE TO DECIDE WHICH POSTS TO READ!

Activity 4

Have you ever seen the film 'Fame' about talented youngsters who are trying to become famous? Why not try to see it in the original language? Have you read the book 'Dead Famous' by Ben Elton? It takes a satirical look at the cult of fame today and contains a lot of English colloquialisms (and some taboo words).

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