



Public Figures, Past and Present

Task: Walt Disney

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the ISE 2.

You are going to hear a talk about **Walt Disney**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

Audio Script

Many fans know who Walt Disney is. Although, if you don't know who he is, then you might know one of the most famous mice of all time; Mickey Mouse. Well, Walt Disney was responsible for this popular cartoon character that has been known and loved throughout multiple decades. However, what do you know about Walt Disney himself?

So to continue, you must know that Walt Disney was considered a pioneer in American animation industry, creating several developments in the production of cartoons. It is no wonder that he stole almost every young heart who eagerly watched his cartoons while growing up. His artistic roots started early in his life. He was born to a woman from Spain in 1901 and would later be adopted by the Disney's, which looked after and raised him as one of their five children. As a child, he showed an interest in art. So, at the age of ten he had signed up to art classes and it is no surprise that at 18 he got a job as a commercial illustrator. In the early 1920s his brother Roy set up the Disney Brother Studios in California with Walt Disney. In conjunction with Ub Iwerks, who you may recognize as an American animator and cartoonist, they ended up creating the iconic Mickey Mouse character in 1928.

In spite of being a man that was shy, insecure and self-deprecating in his private life, as a public figure he used to be seen as warm and outgoing. He not only had high standards for himself, but also for those who worked with him. He was the father of two daughters, with the youngest being adopted just like him. Most people that knew Walt Disney have commented that he had some strong personal values. For instance, he was a hard worker and all that hard work helped him to win twenty-two Oscars. He had strong leadership skills by guiding those around him to produce their best, as well as gain the respect and loyalty of those that surrounded him. His reputation should be held intact by the meaningful work that he produced and how his brother and him grew a company from scratch into an worldwide venture that has developed animated cartoons, child-friendly films, the Disney T.V. channel, a streaming website, popular theme parks all over the world and merchandise, such as clothes and toys. Through all his achievements and compassion for the youth of America, he was able to create something worthwhile that has been bringing together a global Disney community throughout decades. If he had not been so dedicated, multiple generations would not have been able to share and take part of this with their children. He took over the hearts of millions of people around the world.



There is no doubt that Walt Disney ought to be somebody from the past that is worthy of admiration nowadays for multiple reasons. He had a love for art and creativity that he wanted to share with the world. His family values and high expectations of those who worked under his employment helped create the Disney empire that has become a timeless reminder of what somebody can do when they put their blood, sweat and tears into their lifelong passion without abandoning their moral beliefs and principles. If I were Walt Disney, I would feel proud to leave this legacy in the world.

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me about Walt Disney's early life and his personal values.

Now tell me about **Walt Disney's early life and his personal values**. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

Answers:

Walt Disney's early life	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 1901: born to a woman from Spain● adopted by the Disney's● at ten signed up to art classes● at 18 he got a job as a commercial illustrator● In the early 1920s: set up the Disney Brother Studios● 1928: Created Mickey Mouse character
Personal Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● shy, insecure and self-deprecating● warm and outgoing● hard worker● leadership skills● compassion● dedicated

Marks: +_ / +10

Activity 2: Reading

Find grammar in the audio script and highlight it, writing behind the grammar: For example:

You must know that... = You **must [modal verb: must]** know that

Grammar list:

- Second conditional
- Simple passive
- Used to
- Relative clauses
- Modal verb: Must
- Modal verb: Should / Ought to
- Modal verb: May / Might
- Third conditional
- Present perfect continuous
- Past Perfect Simple
- Reported speech / Reported Verb
- Linking expressions: Although
- Linking expressions: In spite of / despite of
- Cohesive devices: So to continue,

Once you have found all the grammar, write down some vocabulary and ideas in the audioscript.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.



Activity 3: Writing

Write an article for your teacher (150 to 180 words) about a public figure from the past that is worthy of your admiration.

- >> Give some information about who this person is and what they did
- >> Explain what good personal values that person had and
- >> Tell why you admire that person so much

Plan your writing with the grammar, writing format, and ideas from the writing prompt before starting.

Activity 4: Speaking

Now, think about having a two minute conversation about: What a well-known person should do in order to receive admiration? You can use ideas from the listening activity and/or add your own ideas.

What ideas can you use?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

What questions can you ask?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.