

Personal Values and Ideals

Task: Celebrities as Role Models

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 8.

You are going to hear a talk about **celebrities as role models**. 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

It is not uncommon that children and teenagers look up to famous celebrities, which end up becoming their role models. This can be positive or even negative, depending on different aspects. Did you ever have a famous role model when you were young?

Well, let's look at the negative aspects first. Firstly, it can be very difficult to change a child's opinion on a famous role model. This especially happens when they become obsessed with their idol. Also, it isn't a good idea for young minds to see their favourite celebrities using poor behaviour in public, because then they might want to do the same. Furthermore, although some celebrities that are teen t.v. shows actors have a really good image on the show, these same celebrities have been dressing inappropriately in their free time. Sometimes these sort of celebrities are seen in award shows giving the wrong body image. Some psychologists commented that young people could even imitate unhealthy diets and eating habits from their idols, who may be seen eating frequently in fast food restaurants or not eating enough to maintain a low level of weight. Moreover, some celebrities take part in risky and dangerous behaviour, which by all means is not good for a young person to observe. This could be anywhere from drinking and driving, doing drugs or getting in fights.

So to continue, not all is bad. There are also celebrities that make fantastic role models. There are many celebrities that had given support to charities. This might have helped make people aware of certain diseases or social situations that motivated other people to make donations. Something else that can be really positive is for a young person to follow the difficult journey of some sport figures. In spite of all the difficulties, these people are able to share their sacrifices and how they became successful in sports. It is often very inspiring for most people. Another aspect is that there are celebrities that encourage youth to do well in school and usually have a positive impact on the education of their youngest fans. Also, when celebrities give back to the community they give a positive image to others. So, others might follow their lead and volunteer and donate things. For example, children might donate some of their toys to those that need them, which is a beautiful gesture. One of the best things is by seeing these celebrities succeed and do well in their career, they often encourage young people to follow their dreams.

Having a role model is important for a young person, but it is important to have the right role model too. If some parents had known how much celebrities help form the minds of their children, they would have made sure to take an active role in making sure they have positive role models in celebrities to help form their way of thinking and acting.

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 the negative and positive aspects of having a celebrity as a role model for a young person.

Now tell me about the negative and positive aspects of having a celebrity as a role model for a young person. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

Answers:

<p>Negative aspects of having a celebrity as a role model</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hard to change a child's opinion; obsessed on their idol ● Celebrities that have poor behaviour in public ● Teen t.v. show actors that dress inappropriately in their free time; wrong body image at award shows ● Imitating unhealthy diet, fast food restaurants or not eating enough ● risky and dangerous behaviour; drinking and driving, doing drugs, getting in fights
<p>Positive aspects of having a celebrity as a role model</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Celebrities that support charities; diseases, social situations, make donations ● Sport figures that have a difficult journey; share sacrifices and how they became successful ● encourage them to do well in school ● give back to the community; volunteering or donate things like toys ● inspire them to follow their dreams

Marks: +_ / +10