

Public Figures, Past and Present

Task: Being a Celebrity

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 8.

You are going to hear a talk about **being a celebrity**. 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

Everybody has thought about being famous at some point. When we think of being famous, we only see the glass half full and not half empty. This is probably because we have been thinking about only the benefits of being famous and not the drawbacks. However, there is no doubt that you can't have one without the other.

So, if you are a well-known celebrity figure, one advantage is that no matter where you go, you are likely to get a special treatment. For example, this may happen when going to a restaurant, where you neither will have to wait for a table nor have to ask for the best table in the restaurant because you will already be provided with one. A further positive aspect is that many famous people are usually very good at their job and since they are, they tend to earn a lot of money. Therefore, they are able to live a rich and wealthy life that many could only dream of living, such as living in luxury houses, driving expensive cars, and wearing the best name brand clothing. In addition to this, many celebrities state that the best thing about being famous is that they are recognized wherever they go. Many celebrities love to connect with their fans who adore them. Also, one of the main advantages is that most famous people have more opportunities available to them. This could be from sending their children to the most exclusive private schools, to going on exotic holidays in faraway countries or having more work opportunities that allow them to meet other famous individuals that they would otherwise not get the chance to meet.

So to continue, there are certainly some aspects that are not so favorable. For instance, despite having many doors open to them, a well-known person is more limited in the things they can do compared to common day people. They may not be able to spend a day out with their family or go on a date without being sought after by the press. An additional consequence to being famous is that although they are loved by their fans, they might also bring forth other unwanted attention and attract stalkers. This can be very stressful and potentially dangerous. One disadvantage is that apart from stalkers, being famous can attract many fake friends as well. Multiple celebrities admit that this is difficult for them, because they don't know who is trustworthy and who isn't. Some also mention that if they had known this before being famous, they would have appreciated more their true friends and loved ones before becoming famous. Another obvious drawback that celebrities had had in the past and continue to have these days, is being constantly judged by the press and common people alike. So, somebody famous always needs to always be on their best



appearance. The moment they say something out of sorts or do something they shouldn't, it makes a huge impression with the masses. Many agree that the greatest disadvantage is that celebrities have no or little privacy. Almost everywhere they go, they can find the press following them and their family.

To make a long story short, there are obvious downsides to being famous as there are to having many upsides. Certainly it is clear that being a well-known public figure isn't always fun, but then again you get to live life in a way that most people don't have the possibility of living. So, what say you, would you rather be famous or not?

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 pros and cons of being a celebrity.

Now tell me about the pros and cons of being a celebrity. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

Answers:

Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Get special treatment wherever they go● Earns a lot of money / Rich● Recognized wherever they go● Have fans and are adored● More opportunities available
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● More limited in the things the can do● Attract stalkers● Attract many fake friends● Celebrities are constantly being judged● Have no or little privacy

Marks: +_ / +10