

Public Figures, Past and Present

Task: Why Actors Are Paid So Much

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 8.

You are going to hear a talk about **why actors are paid so much**. 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 unusual for people to think that some actors are overpaid for what they do. However, I wonder if they have ever considered the reasons that are justified for such a high pay?

So to continue, it is pretty safe to say that if a lot of people want to see that particular actor, they'll be well paid. For this reason, the film industry justifies that they pay good money to celebrities with the goal of making good money by hiring them, since they are so popular. Furthermore, **many directors remarked that** well-known actors will hire the best publicist, agents and personal trainers, which might make a difference in the job offers that they are able to acquire. Another point to consider is that **despite** that fans are spread all over the world, with the internet, actors have created a global audience, and therefore with a larger audience comes to mean that more money is earned for the actor in the long run. Something else is that people become attached to their favourite actors. They end up analyzing, admiring and wanting to be more like them. So, they often see them as idols and role models. As a consequence to this, most people would agree by having said that society is addicted to the T.V. nowadays. When having watched programs, individuals **had experienced** pleasurable and relaxing feelings. They identify actors as being responsible for these good feelings of joy or pleasure, which in turn these actors are compensated for providing people with this gratification by bringing in more money.

Although some actors are discovered, you mustn't think that some don't work very hard to become the actors they are today. Many actors are not only talented, but have a lot of skill that they **have been training** from a young age and they spend decades honing their craft. Additionally, because of their early preparation they have to work hard, repeat until they are perfect, and often have to become the character they are portraying if they are a method actor. Also, **in spite of** the fact that there are many actors, those that are paid highly are often because they are rather unique actors that stand out and are rare to find. Owing to this, they are practically impossible to replace, which makes an actor's value go way up. Hence this is the reason they often get paid more money. Notwithstanding, this isn't the only way they make money. These popular actors also monetize out of their typical career choice. For instance, with commercials, product lines; like with perfumes and clothing lines, not to mention with social networks, endorsing companies and being an ambassador for paid brands. On a final note, the viewers have witnessed the good contributions that actors have had in the world through T.V. or magazines. Some illustrations of this would be seen when gathering money for charities, talking about social, global and environmental problems, as well as topics that are of interest, which makes people want to watch and see them even more. In the end, this also helps them earn more money.

In a nutshell, we can see that there are a variety of reasons supporting the high income a-list actors are able to earn. So, **if you had known** all the reasons why certain actors are paid so much money before, **would you have thought** this was reasonable?

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 reasons why actors are paid well and how they can improve their income.**

Now tell me about **the reasons why actors are paid well and how they can improve their income.** You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

Answers:

<p>Reasons why actors are paid well</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they are paid a lot because people pay a lot to see them, film industry pay money to good celebrities in order to make good money • Popular actors hire the best publicist, agents and personal trainers, which might make a difference in the job offers they get • With the internet, have created a global audience; a larger audience means more money for the actor • People become attached to their favourite actors; analyze them, admire them, want to be more like them, see them as idols and role models • Society is addicted to the T.V.; pleasurable, relaxing. Being responsible for these good feelings of joy or pleasure and they are compensated for providing individuals with this gratification
<p>How actors can improve their income</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they are talented, have a lot of skill, trained from a young age and spend decades honing / developing their craft • Work hard, repeat until perfect, have to become the character they are portraying • Unique, they stand out and are rare to find, practically impossible to replace, making an actor's value go way up, hence getting paid more • They monetize out of their typical career choice; commercials, product line like perfumes and clothing line, social networks, endorsing companies and being an ambassador for paid brands • See the good things they do in the world; gather money for charities, talk about social, global and environmental problems, as well as topics of interest, which makes people want to watch and see them, helping them earn more money

Marks: +_ / +10



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Grammar Used in the listening task:

- **Past Perfect**
- **Present Perfect Continuous**
- **Reported Speech**
- **Third Conditional**
- **Connectors**
 - **So to continue**
 - **Although**
 - **In spite / despite**