

PRE-INTERMEDIATE UNIT 12

- 1 Work in pairs and discuss. Why do you think people might want to be famous? Do you think fame is always a positive thing?
- 2 Read the article about fame. Does it mention any of your ideas?

Who wants to be famous?

Looking at the number of people who auditioned for TV talent shows in the UK last year, it seems that almost everyone wants to be famous. Of course, fame has lots of benefits: you can make a fortune, travel the world, wear nice clothes, and people admire you. But fame also comes at a cost. There are a lot of downsides, which some people don't think about until it's too late.

Once you become a star, you never have a moment's peace. You are **hounded** by the paparazzi from the moment you leave your house in the morning until you get home at night. You are always **under the media spotlight**, which puts you under pressure to look and act your best, even when you don't feel like it.


Sometimes you get more attention for the things you do in your private life than you do for acting in a blockbuster film or recording a hit record. Even if you don't do anything scandalous, some journalists will still write about you.

Spreading rumours about celebrities is a great way to sell more newspapers and magazines! And people love reading them – just look at the number of gossip magazines on sale in your local newsagent's.

Overnight success can be difficult to **cope with** alone and you're so busy travelling the world, **promoting** your latest film or record, that you have no time to spend with your loved ones. Even though you make lots of new friends, you don't know which ones are real friends, and which ones are only interested in your money and fame; it's difficult to know who you can trust.

So, almost everyone wants to be famous, but fame isn't for everyone. If you're not careful, **hitting the big time** could be the worst thing you ever do.

- 3 Read the text again. Are the sentences below true (T) or false (F)?
 - 1 A lot of people wanted to be on TV talent shows last year.
 - 2 You still have time to relax when you're famous.
 - 3 If you are famous, people will be more interested in your private life than in what you do professionally.
 - 4 Not everything written about celebrities is true.
 - 5 You still have lots of time with your family when you are famous.
 - 6 It can be difficult to make real friends when you are famous.

- 4 Match the words and phrases in bold in the text with their meanings 1–6.
 - 1 followed around all the time in an aggressive way
 - 2 telling lots of people things that are not true
 - 3 advertising
 - 4 deal with a difficult situation
 - 5 becoming very successful and famous
 - 6 always being looked at by the press
- 5 Work in pairs and discuss. Which of the disadvantages in the text do you think is the worst? Why?
- 6  12.1 Listen to someone being interviewed about fame. Would he/she like to be famous or not?
- 7 Listen again and circle the correct answer.
 - 1 The woman ____ very famous already.
a) is b) isn't
 - 2 The woman performs
a) at lots of different events.
b) at just one type of event.
 - 3 The woman ____ to go on a TV talent show.
a) would love b) would hate
 - 4 The woman has got
a) no fans. b) lots of fans.
 - 5 The people who watch the woman perform are
a) always different. b) always the same.
 - 6 The woman is in a
a) rock band. b) pop group.
- 8 The words and phrases in the box are from the recording. Complete the sentences with the correct words/phrases.

take this the wrong way off chance
 what a coincidence draw the line sell out
 build up quite a big fan base

 - 1 Please don't _____, but I think you looked better with long hair.
 - 2 Thanks to social media, we've managed to _____. Some of them come to every concert we play!
 - 3 I didn't make a reservation at the restaurant, but I went there on the _____ they had a free table.
 - 4 So you studied English in Dublin, too? _____ – so did I!
 - 5 Some musicians are prepared to _____ and completely change their image to become famous.
 - 6 I'll sing at almost any event, but I _____ at children's birthday parties!
- 9 If you had to go on a TV talent show, what would you do and why? Compare your answers with other students.