



lingoda

# Celebrity culture

SPEAKING

LEVEL  
Advanced

NUMBER  
C1\_2028S\_EN

LANGUAGE  
English

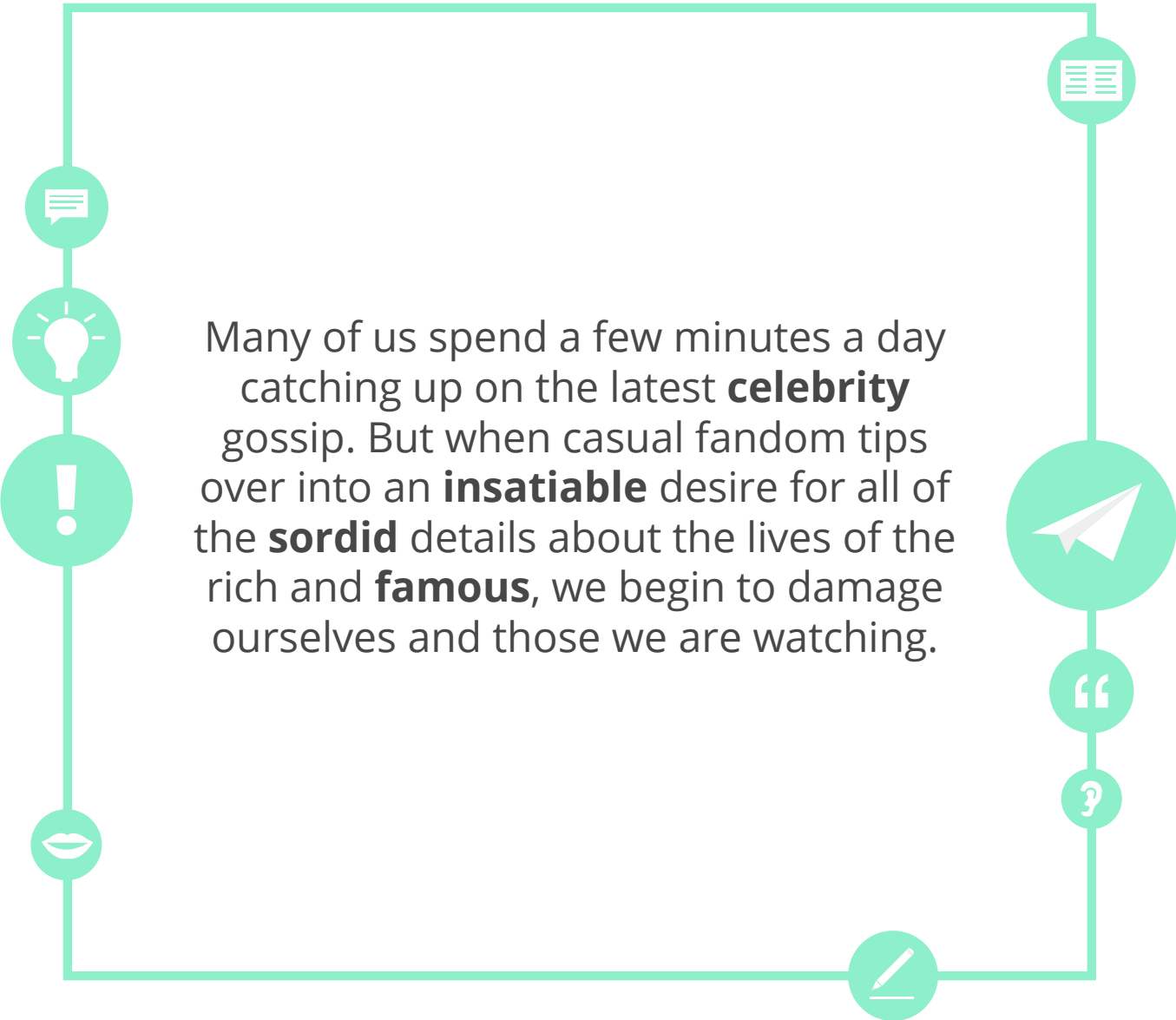




## Goals

- Can read, listen to and understand a detailed text about celebrity culture.
- Can present my own opinion on celebrity culture, privacy and self-branding.





Many of us spend a few minutes a day catching up on the latest **celebrity** gossip. But when casual fandom tips over into an **insatiable** desire for all of the **sordid** details about the lives of the rich and **famous**, we begin to damage ourselves and those we are watching.



## Celebrities

**Who are some of the most famous celebrities in your country?  
Why are they famous?**





## Celebrity gossip

**Do you follow  
celebrity  
gossip?**

**Where can we  
read about  
celebrities?**



the internet



newspapers



## About you

**If you could live the life of any celebrity for one day, who would you choose and why?**



If I could, I would choose...

I think her life must be...

I'd love to know why...





## Celebrity culture

The term 'celebrity culture' carries with it an air of modernity, and **connotations** of screaming teenage fans throwing themselves at beautiful, untouchable people, who **lap up** the adoration.

The world has always looked for people to **idolise**; from the Greek Gods, through Medieval kings, past Marilyn Monroe, and on to popular pop stars of today's world, we look for heroes, people who live lives far removed from our own **mundane** ones. We want to be close to them, and even to **emulate** them. However, while idolatry is as old as time, there has been a certain **ramping up** of interest in celebrity culture that is causing concern.



## Celebrity culture

Firstly, the impact on celebrities themselves cannot be **overlooked**. People have an **insatiable** desire to know everything about the rich and famous, and invasion of privacy and personal space is a long-held complaint of many a celebrity. Celebrity, in fact, is often described as both a blessing and a curse. Coupled with a seeming desire to see those we idolise fall from their **pedestal**, the pursuit and subsequent tearing down of celebrities has become an international sport. We watch and wait for them to put a foot out of line, to ruin their image, and then we **revel** in the **sordid** details. Does this make us happier? Is it pleasant to watch? Undoubtedly not, yet we keep on doing it.





## Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps with the words from the text. Then answer the questions.

1. Do you think it is true that celebrities \_\_\_\_\_ attention from their fans?
2. Why do you think we enjoy watching people fall from their \_\_\_\_\_?
3. Do you enjoy hearing \_\_\_\_\_ details of other people's lives?
4. Why do you think teenagers in particular often \_\_\_\_\_ celebrities?
5. Why do you think there has been a \_\_\_\_\_ of interest in celebrities in recent years?

**pedestals**

**ramping up**

**idolise**

**lap up**

**sordid**



## Celebrities from history

The text mentions some famous historical figures. Can you add any idolised figures to the list, especially anyone from your country?



Greek Gods

Medieval kings

Marilyn Monroe



## About you

**Would you like to be famous? What do you think would be the perks, and what would be the worst things?**





## Get ready to listen



The next few slides will focus on training your listening comprehension.



## Match the vocabulary from the listening with the definition

1. era



To make smaller, or less, e.g. I don't want to \_\_\_\_\_ her accomplishments.

2. self-worth



Not showing intelligent thought, e.g. Celebrity worship is often seen as \_\_\_\_\_.

3. vacuous



A period of time in history, e.g. the modern \_\_\_\_\_.

4. diminish



Not serious, e.g. Celebrity magazines are seen as \_\_\_\_\_.

5. shallow



The value you give to your life, e.g. my \_\_\_\_\_ comes from my work.



## Discuss

**Discuss the quote below in relation to the text you listened to. Do you agree or disagree with what this person has said about social media and self-branding?**

// With the rise of social media, so too is this concept of self-branding: now it's normal for any person on the street to have their own carefully cultivated public identity. Nobody cares about privacy anymore – nowadays it's all about getting your life validated by people you don't truly know. //



## Charitable causes



The text mentions celebrities promoting charitable causes. Can you think of any specific examples of important issues that have been brought to light by celebrities?





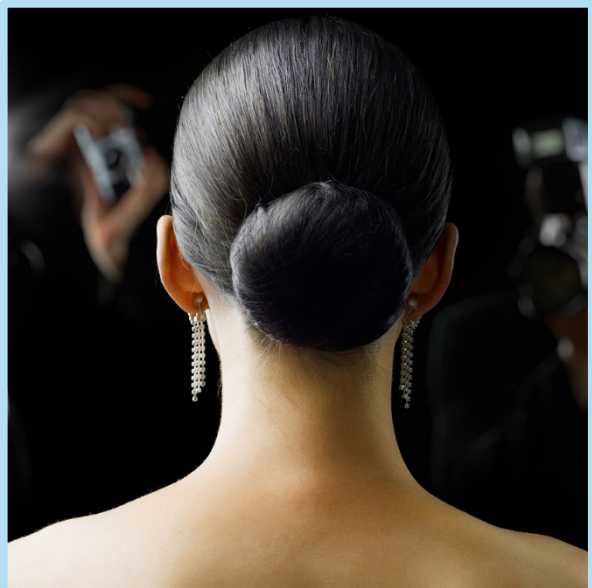
## Celebrity products

**Have you ever bought  
anything because it  
was made by, or  
promoted by, a  
celebrity?  
What was the appeal?**





## Privacy or spotlight?



Can you think of any celebrities who stay 'off the radar'?

Why do you think they do this? If you were a celebrity would you do the same, or would you like to be in the spotlight?



## Over to you

How frequently do you use social media? Do you make posts frequently or just read what others have written?

Do you think posting on social media automatically means a form of self-branding, or can it be more genuine than that?





## Words of warning

**You have been invited to speak to a group of nine-year-old children about the dangers of celebrity culture and social media. Prepare a short speech you would give them based on your answers to the previous two exercises.**

self-branding

in the public eye

validation

A blank sheet of lined paper with a blue vertical margin line on the left and punch holes along the left edge. The paper is white with light gray horizontal lines.



## Blessing or curse?

Having discussed celebrity culture at length, do you think that being a celebrity is a blessing or a curse?





## Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!





## Answer key

### Exercise p. 13

1. A period of time in history, e.g. the modern \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The value you give to your life, e.g. my \_\_\_\_\_ comes from my work.
3. Not showing intelligent thought, e.g. Celebrity worship is often seen as \_\_\_\_\_.
4. To make smaller, or less. e.g. I don't want to \_\_\_\_\_ her accomplishments.
5. Not serious, e.g. Celebrity magazines are seen as \_\_\_\_\_.

### Exercise p. 9

1. Lap up, 2. pedestals, 3. sordid, 4. idolise, 5. ramping up



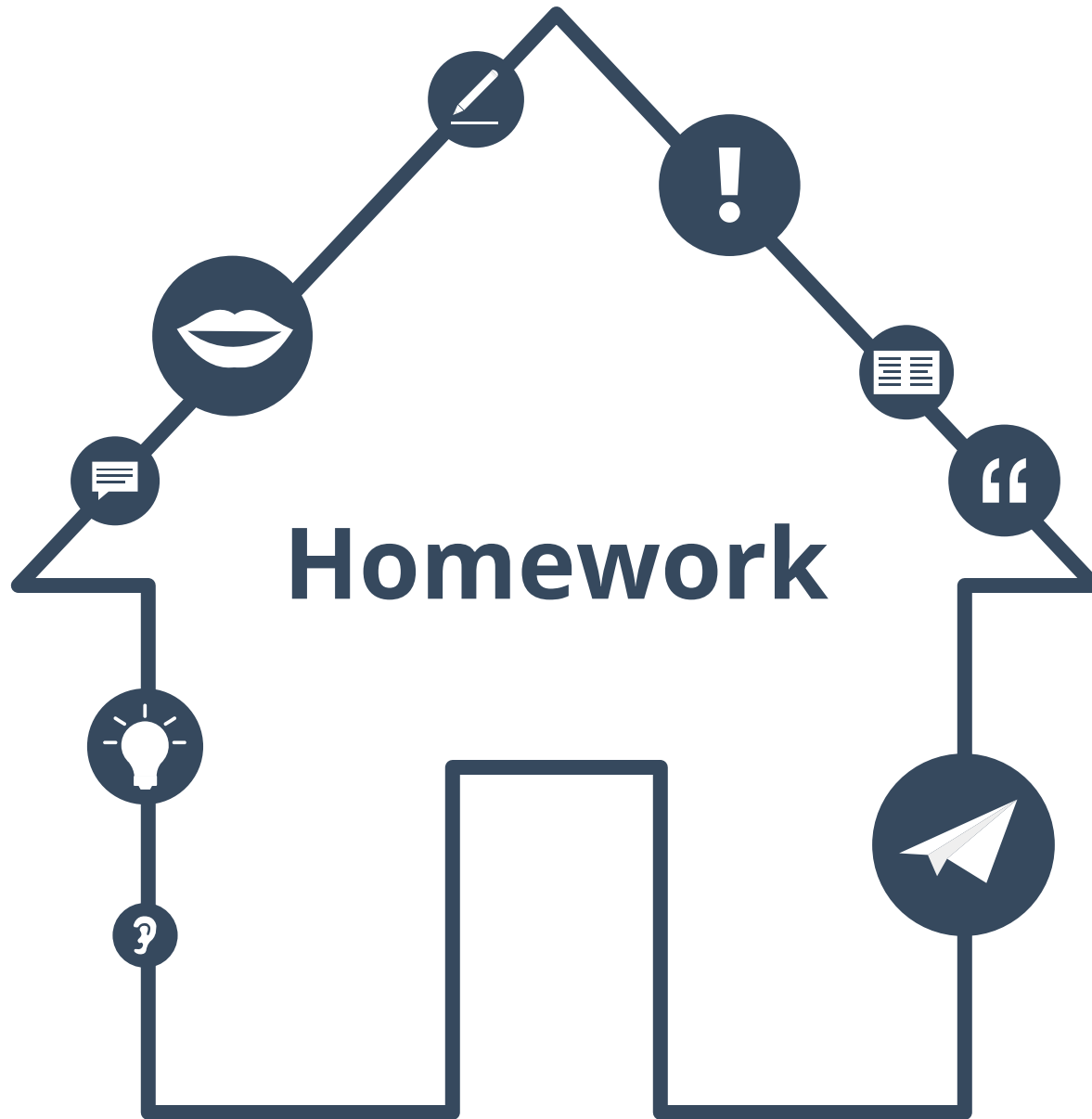


## Transcription

### Exercise p. 13

First of all, celebrities in the modern **era** have become brands. They are there to sell: both themselves and any products which come into their orbit. We buy any products they advertise, or make, because we believe that by doing so we will be closer to them, or more like them. This desire to become like those celebrities we worship can be very damaging. Many young people now have a goal of being 'famous', not for anything in particular, but just for the money and adoration it brings. This **vacuous** desire is rarely realised. Furthermore, the need for recognition can be at the very least unsettling and upsetting when it isn't found: when a person posts on social media they expect their picture to get hundreds of likes. When it doesn't, they feel rejected, and their **self-worth** is **diminished**.

On the other hand, certain celebrities' support for charities and causes can bring the spotlight to them, and can engage people who otherwise wouldn't have cared. Many celebrities make trips to different parts of the world in order to highlight different **topical** issues, and many businesspeople in the public eye make points of giving large donations to important causes. This encourages normal individuals to give money and promote the cause themselves. It is often seen as **shallow** to imitate celebrities, but when it is for a good purpose, is it really so bad?





## Complete the sentences

**Complete the sentences with your own ideas.**

1. People who idolise celebrities are...
2. We enjoy tearing down celebrities because...
3. Being famous can be a curse in that...
4. People's self-worth can be diminished by...
5. Following celebrities is not necessarily shallow because...



## New Vocabulary

**Write a list of any new vocabulary here. Check it in the dictionary if you are still not sure what it means.**

A spiral-bound notebook with a light gray cover and white pages. A white sticky note with a torn bottom edge is attached to the top right of the notebook. The sticky note has the text "New Vocabulary" written on it. The notebook pages are lined, and the word "mundane" is written on one of the lines.



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