

32 I can talk about celebrity

A Instant fame

Britain's got talent – but should it remain hidden?

Large TV audiences prove that talent shows are compulsive viewing. Who will **rise to the occasion**? Who will **go to pieces**? But whilst these shows are an opportunity for instant fame, it can **come at a price**. When people are plucked from obscurity and acquire fame **beyond their wildest dreams**, it can **go to their head**. Many of these 'instant stars' quickly **fall by the wayside**, and the public can be very fickle: **building somebody up** one minute, then **knocking them down** the next. Perhaps we should **tread** more **carefully** rather than allow a single audience reaction to **make or break** a young performer.

Glossary

rise to the occasion	do well in a difficult situation.
go to pieces	become so upset or nervous that you cannot do sth as well as you should.
at a price	involving an unpleasant consequence (come at a price).
beyond your wildest dreams	better than anything you could have imagined.
go to sb's head	If success or praise goes to sb's head , it makes them feel more important than they really are, and they usually suffer as a result.
fall by the wayside	not be successful or effective any longer.
tread carefully	be very careful about what you do or say.
make or break sb/sth	be the thing which makes sb/sth either a great success or a complete failure. (Also as ADJ a make-or-break situation.)

spotlight build up

If you **build sb up**, you talk about them in a positive way so that people are impressed by them. If you then **knock sb down**, you are negative about them. If you **build up sb's hopes**, you make them think something good is going to happen when in fact it is very unlikely.

1 Is the speaker sounding positive or negative about Mel? Write P or N.

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| 1 Success went to Mel's head. | 4 Mel rose to the occasion. |
| 2 Mel went to pieces. | 5 Mel's fallen by the wayside. |
| 3 This is beyond Mel's wildest dreams. | 6 They built up Mel's hopes. |

2 Complete the sentences.

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|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 This could be a make-or- | performance for Jessica. |
| 2 Winning the competition was beyond my | dreams. |
| 3 It's a big challenge for Connie, but I'm sure she'll | to the occasion. |
| 4 Ravi was too young to cope with fame, and the money went to his | . |
| 5 As soon as I got up on stage I just went to | and couldn't sing. It was horrible. |
| 6 The press built him up, and then | him down; that happens so often. |

3 Rewrite the sentences using the word in capitals. Keep the meaning the same.

- 1 A lot of actors fail and give up. **WAYSIDE**
- 2 We must be very careful what we say. **TREAD**
- 3 He was successful but it wasn't all pleasant. **PRICE**
- 4 It was better than anything I could've imagined. **DREAMS**
- 5 Holly was too nervous and she performed badly. **PIECES**
- 6 I'm sure Jason will perform very well on the night. **RISE**