

24 Celebrity and scandal

1 Describing why people are famous

Complete each description with one of the groups in the box, putting the words in the correct order.

doing + former + embroiled
lay + chequered + maverick
pear-shaped + wrangling + hits
shot + rough + consecutive
stint + launched + lucrative
stir + host + contestants

1. He's a ... cabinet minister who became ... in this big financial scandal. He was accused of corruption and ended up ... six years in jail.
2. She started out in theatre, but then got offered this ... modelling contract. She did a brief ... in Hollywood and has just recently ... her own line of designer jewellery.
3. He ... to fame in the 1980s, winning the World Snooker Championships for three ... years, but he then went completely off the rails and was last seen sleeping ...
4. She used to be in this girl band which had a few smash ... , but they all fell out and the whole thing went ... There was an acrimonious split and endless legal ... after that!
5. He used to ... this game show on Channel Nine, but ended up marrying one of the ... As you can imagine, that caused quite a ... in the press!
6. She's had quite a ... career. She started out as a ... politician, but then got embroiled in a sex scandal. She quit and ... low for a few years, before re-emerging as a campaigner for social justice.

Language note

If you get / become *embroiled*, you become involved in unpleasant situations that can be tricky to get out of.

An *acrimonious split* is unpleasant and involves lots of anger and arguments. The opposite is an *amicable split*.

Things went *pear-shaped* is an informal way of saying things went wrong and ended badly.

If you have a *chequered career*, you have more than your fair share of *ups and downs* – you experience both successes and failures.

2 Key word: career

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in the box.

be dogged	embark	revive	span
carve out	launch	ruin	take off

1. He got a lucky break with a role in this hit movie, and that his career.
2. Basically, what the firm needs is highly intelligent, motivated young people who are keen to a career for themselves.
3. He was caught kerb-crawling and the ensuing infamy basically his career.
4. After graduating, he on a career in the oil industry and only retired last year.
5. He had a long and distinguished career in the navy, some 35 years.
6. She's had a fairly illustrious career, but one that by controversy and incident.
7. She had her first poems published when she was in her 20s, but her career didn't until the publication of her third novel.
8. She's basically a glamour model, but she's recently a sideline career as a singer as well.

Now complete the sentences with these nouns.

downs	peak	structure
guidance	prospects	ups

9. He's had a chequered career, full of and
10. I'm doing an MBA next year and that'll hopefully enhance my career quite substantially.
11. It's quite a strange story. He had this glittering career and then at the very of it, he quit and went to live on an island!
12. I like the work, but there's no clear career in the whole field, so it's hard to see how I'll ever get promoted.
13. I drifted around for quite a few years after school. I don't feel like I got much career when I was younger.

3 Expressions with *and* and *or*

The order of words in expressions is generally fixed. Decide if the words in these expressions are in the correct order.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. bright and early | 7. pick and choose |
| 2. break or make | 8. rightly or wrongly |
| 3. give or take | 9. straight and narrow |
| 4. later or sooner | 10. swim or sink |
| 5. nothing or all | 11. tested and tried |
| 6. outs and ins | 12. to and fro |

Now complete these sentences with eight of the expressions above.

- Mr T has produced motivational videos to keep kids who might otherwise fall into crime on the ...
- I never do things by halves. It's always ... with me.
- I don't know all the ... of the situation, all I know is they're not speaking to each other.
- This is really a ... year for my career. If things don't go well, I might have to consider doing something else.
- My boss threw me in at the deep end and left me to ...
- I work in Germany, but my family lives in the UK. So there's a lot of travelling ..., which is quite wearing.
- You need to cook it for an hour, ... a few minutes.
- You should tell them. They're going to find out ...

4 News headlines

Complete the news headlines with these words.

axed	dumped	haul	quizzed	split
blaze	foiled	probe	sham	weds

- Pop group to
- Picture exclusive – TV star childhood sweetheart
- Top comedian after drugs bust shame
- for another woman
- Footballer's son kidnap
- Outed! MP's marriage is a
- £100m in customs raid
- Death toll rises from nightclub
- PM orders into police abuse allegations
- Four over bomb plot

5 Card-playing idioms

A cabinet *reshuffle* is an example of an idiom from playing cards. Match the meanings with the card-playing idioms.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. You never know what he's thinking. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. I wish he'd tell me exactly what he wants. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. He's not very good at dealing with people. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. He's not really going to carry out his threat. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. I didn't think he would, but he's actually done it. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. He's in a very strong position. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. I think he's slightly mad. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. He had a disadvantaged upbringing. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
-
- He should lay his cards on the table.
 - You should call his bluff.
 - It's not his strong suit.
 - He keeps his cards very close to his chest.
 - He was dealt a poor hand.
 - He's holding all the aces.
 - He's come up trumps.
 - He's not playing with a full deck.

6 Drugs and drug problems

Complete the sentences with these words.

care	habit	relapse
draconian	prescription	shooting up
endemic	rehab	snort

- Drug use and the attendant problems that go with it has become in our society.
- You sometimes see people heroin in the street.
- Addicts will often £1,000 worth of coke a week.
- Much crime is driven by addicts trying to fund their
- People can sometimes become addicted to drugs such as antidepressants and sleeping pills.
- A lot of drug addicts have grown up in
- Some countries have introduced legislation, including the death penalty, to combat the problem.
- Some people feel addicts should be forced into
- Once out of prison, many addicts into addiction.