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# Lady Gaga

WORKSHEET A

Though she is already one of the most famous pop stars of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, you've probably never heard of a 25-year-old singer-songwriter called Stefani Germanotta – but that's only because almost everyone knows her by her stage name, Lady Gaga. Born in New York City in 1986, Lady Gaga enjoyed music, singing and dancing from an early age: she started playing the piano when only four years old and loved performing in musicals at high school. At 17 she went to a special school for the arts but later left because she wanted to become a professional singer as soon as possible. She became a global star with her first album *The Fame* in 2008 and followed it in 2009 with *The Fame Monster*. Earlier this year she released a single, 'Born this Way', that broke the record for quickest sales for a piece of music on iTunes, with one million downloads in only five days. Her third album, also called *Born this Way*, went on sale in May this year.

Because of how much money she earns, how much she is written and talked about in the media, and how many internet searches are made with her name, *Forbes* magazine recently put her at number one in its list of the 'world's most powerful celebrities'. Most music critics say that what makes Lady Gaga's music stand out are her strong voice and also the strong electronic rhythm of most of her songs, which makes them popular in nightclubs. They also say her music often sounds a bit like the work of other artists, and she herself is quite open about the fact that groups such as Queen and female singers such as Madonna have been a big influence on her.

More original than her music, perhaps, is the way she looks. A big part of her image is her outlandish clothes, with her strangest piece of clothing probably having been a dress made partly out of meat, which she wore once in 2010.

Part of what has made Lady Gaga so famous so quickly is the way she has used social media. She has over 30 million Facebook friends, for example, and almost 10 million followers on Twitter.

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## Exercise 1

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F), or if the text doesn't say (D).

1. Lady Gaga released her first album in 2009.
2. She released the single 'Born this Way' in 2008.
3. She writes songs as well as sings them.
4. She says no other singer has been an influence on her.
5. She wore the dress that was made partly out of raw meat about ten times.
6. One of her singles has the same name as one of her albums.
7. She writes something on Twitter every day.
8. She often goes to nightclubs.
9. She started playing the piano when she was a young child.
10. She says the singer Christina Aguilera has been a big influence on her.

## Exercise 2

Answer the questions below.

1. What record did Lady Gaga's single 'Born This Way' break?
2. When did her third album go on sale?
3. Why did she leave the special school for the arts?
4. Which female singer has been a big influence on her?
5. What made her a global star?
6. Why are most of her songs popular in nightclubs?
7. What did she enjoy doing at high school?
8. What two examples of social media are given in the text?
9. What was Lady Gaga's second album called?
10. What three things does *Forbes* magazine consider in deciding how 'powerful' a celebrity is?

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WORKSHEET C

## Exercise 3

The text from Worksheet A has been copied below, but contains some mistakes. Twenty of the words in bold are incorrect, and five are correct. Decide which are incorrect, and correct them.

Though she is already one of the most famous (1) **pip** stars of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, you've probably never heard (2) **of** a 25-year-old singer-songwriter called Stefani Germanotta – but that's only because almost everyone knows her by her (3) **stag** name, Lady Gaga.

Born in New York City in 1986, Lady Gaga enjoyed music, singing and dancing from an early age: she started playing the piano when only four years old and loved (4) **porferming** in musicals at high school. At 17 she went to a special school for the arts but later left because she wanted to become a (5) **profissional** singer as soon as possible.

She became a global star with her first album *The Fame* in 2008 and followed it in 2009 with *The Fame Monster*. Earlier this year she released a (6) **songle**, 'Born this Way', that (7) **broke** the record for quickest sales for a piece of music on iTunes, with one million (8) **loads** in only five days. Her third album, also called *Born this Way*, went on sale in May this year.

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Most music (13) **critic** say that what makes Lady Gaga's music stand (14) **out** are her strong (15) **foice** and also the strong electronic (16) **rhythm** of most of her songs, which makes them popular in (17) **dayclubs**. They also say her music often sounds a bit like the work of other artists, and she herself is quite (18) **pen** about the fact that groups such as Queen and (19) **male** singers such as Madonna have been a big (20) **fluence** on her.

More (21) **origin** than her music, perhaps, is the way she looks. A big part of her image is her (22) **uplandish** clothes, with her strangest piece of clothing probably having been a dress made partly out of (23) **meet**, which she wore once in 2010.

Part of what has made Lady Gaga so famous so quickly is the way she has used social (24) **midia**. She has over 30 million Facebook friends, for example, and almost 10 million (25) **flowers** on Twitter.