

1. Lady Gaga

This week's lesson is about the 25-year-old female singer-songwriter from New York whose music and outlandish outfits have made her one of the most talked-about celebrities in the world: Lady Gaga.

Level

Pre-intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level A2–B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Ask your students who their favourite pop singers/groups are, and why. Then brainstorm on the subject of Lady Gaga: what do your students know about her? If any of your students particularly like or dislike her music/clothes/performances, encourage them to explain why. Why do your students think Lady Gaga has become so famous?
2. Tell students they are going to read a text on Lady Gaga. Give them five to ten minutes to read through Worksheet A, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Tell them they are going to answer a series of questions on the text, but that they shouldn't write anything down at this stage.
3. Divide the students into pairs and hand out Worksheet B. Ask them to work together to complete the different types of comprehension questions in Exercises 1 and 2.
4. Check answers in open class.
5. Keeping the students in their pairs, ask them to turn over their copies of Worksheet A or to hand them back to you temporarily. Then ask them to attempt Exercise 3 on Worksheet C, which contains the text from Worksheet A with twenty incorrect words that they have to identify and correct. The words containing the mistakes are all in bold, as are five other words that are correct. Point out that the mistakes are all grammatical or lexical, and that no correction requires them to write any additional words.
6. Check answers in open class.

Answers:

Exercise 1

1. F 2. F 3. T 4. F 5. F 6. T 7. D 8. D 9. T 10. D

Exercise 2

1. The record for quickest sales for a piece of music on iTunes.
2. In May (2011).
3. Because she wanted to become a professional singer as soon as possible.
4. Madonna.
5. Her first album (*The Fame*, 2008).
6. Because of their strong electronic rhythm.
7. Performing in musicals.
8. Facebook and Twitter.
9. *The Fame Monster*.
10. How much money they earn; how much they are written and talked about in the media; how many internet searches are made with their name.

Exercise 3

1. pop 3. stage 4. performing 5. professional 6. single 8. downloads
9. earns 11. powerful 12. celebrities 13. critics 15. voice 17. nightclubs
18. open 19. female 20. influence 21. original 22. outlandish 23. meat
24. media 25. followers

Words in bold that are correct: 2. of 7. broke 10. searches 14. out 16. rhythm

2. Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

www.ladygaga.com

Lady Gaga's official website, parts of which would be accessible to Pre-intermediate level students.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_8580000/newsid_8580000/8580072.stm

A test-your-knowledge quiz about Lady Gaga from the CBBC Newsround website. Accessible to Pre-intermediate level.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-13458791>

An article (May 2011) on the BBC News website asks, 'Why is Lady Gaga so powerful?' Challenging for Pre-intermediate level.