


Lead-in

- 1 Work in pairs. Who is the most famous celebrity in your country at the moment? Discuss names with your partner.
- 2 Look at the following definition of the word 'celebrity' and complete the gaps.

Celebrity (noun): The word celebrity refers¹ a person or group of people² attract public attention in the media. Celebrity status is often associated³ those who have careers in the fields of sport and entertainment.⁴ other occasions people become celebrities because they are wealthy, or have⁵ certain lifestyle, or because of⁶ actions or connection to famous people.

- 3 Look at the pictures your teacher gives you. Discuss who you can see in the pictures and what you know about them. In your opinion, who most deserves their celebrity status?

Input

- 1  You are going to listen to part of a panel discussion on the topic of Celebrity culture. The four members of the panel are:

- Dr John Smith – a psychiatrist and expert on celebrity culture
- Mr Simon Campbell – the judge of a well-known talent show
- Lauren Levy – winner of a talent show
- Mrs Catherine Knowles – chairman of the 'People against celebrities' organisation


Who do you think says the following? Then listen and check.

1 Singing and dancing have always been my life.

3 So much energy is focused on winning – it's just incredible!

2 It's interesting you should say that. Research also shows that after becoming famous, celebrities often become insecure and start wondering if people love them for who they are, or for who they've become.

4 If someone loves being in the limelight, they become more and more self-conscious and more self-aware because of all the attention, and that can be very stressful.

- 2  Listen again and answer these questions.

- 1 Why did Lauren want to become famous?
- 2 According to the psychiatrist, what type of people want fame?
- 3 What does Lauren associate being famous with?
- 4 Why does Catherine think celebrities aren't good role models?
- 5 Why does the psychiatrist say being a celebrity can be stressful?

Language focus

1 Look at the sentences in the speech bubbles and underline all the *-ing* forms. When do we use *-ing* forms? Look at the information and add examples from the speech bubbles.

-ing forms can be used:

- as the subject of a sentence, e.g.¹
- as an adjective, e.g.²
- after time linkers, e.g.³
- after certain verbs such as **start, love, enjoy**, e.g.⁴
- after a preposition, e.g.⁵

2 Work in pairs. Complete these sentences with your own ideas.

- 1 Why is watching talent programmes ?
- 2 Since becoming famous Beyoncé has
- 3 Celebrities spend a lot of time creating
- 4 Celebrities enjoy having
- 5 Talent shows focus on producing
- 6 It's fascinating how celebrities

3 Work in groups and discuss these questions.

- 1 In your opinion, why are celebrities becoming more important in society today?
- 2 What do you think of celebrities who are famous for being famous?
- 3 Are we living in a world where appearance is more important than personality or intelligence?
- 4 Are there any celebrities you can't stand watching?

4 Look at the phrases in bold in the paragraph below and related to fame and check their meaning with your partner.

Five years ago Jenny Jacks was a **household name** after she **leapt to stardom** in the talent programme **X Style**. She **rose from obscurity to fame almost overnight** and appeared to have a **bright future** ahead of her. She gained fame for her amazing dance routines and her deep husky voice. **At her peak**, she was in the newspaper gossip columns every day and **media coverage** of her exploits both on and off the stage was constant. She was **in the spotlight** 24 hours a day and she seemed to revel in it. But then it all stopped and the **media circus** moved onto **the next big thing**. It was as if nothing had ever happened, and at the age of 25 she was a **nobody – a has-been**. Only time will tell if she can **bounce back** with another hit.

5 Work in pairs. Describe a celebrity you know of using some of the language above. Can your partner guess who it is?

Task

- 1 You are going to take part in a radio panel discussion programme on celebrity culture. Here are the topics you will be discussing.
 - Is having a private life compatible with being a celebrity?
 - Are money and fame important in defining someone's success in life?
 - Are we paying celebrities such as football players and actors far too much?
 - Who would you choose as the most interesting personality/celebrity of this year?
- 2 Look at the role-card your teacher gives you and plan what you'll say about each of the topics.
- 3 Take part in the radio programme with your group.
- 4 Report to the rest of the class on what you discussed.

Review
