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Teacher's pack

Lesson plan and student worksheets
with answers

Lesson 25
Wannabe



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Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

Lesson 25: Wannabe

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Level: Intermediate and above

Topic: Fame

Aims: Listening skills – A short talk

Language: Phrases and words and expressions connected to fame

Materials: Worksheet 1 – Introductory speaking and vocabulary exercises,
Listening section 1
Worksheet 2 – Listening section 2
Worksheet 3 – Extra work: Vocabulary and language
Tapescript – Available in teacher's notes
Recording of the talk – Available online at bbclearningenglish.com

This plan was downloaded from:

bbclearningenglish.com/radio/specials/1728_uptodate/page26.shtml

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LESSON STAGES

A

Explain to the students that they are going to listen to a talk by Professor Crystal and that the talk is about the way the English language changes. This particular talk is about a word which became popular through an association with pop music and musicians

B

Hand out **Student Worksheet 1**. Students do **Speaking Exercise 1** in small groups or pairs.

C

Students do the **Vocabulary Exercise 2**, without dictionaries at first.
Practise the pronunciation of the vocabulary, as they will hear it in the talk.

D

Students read **Listening Exercise 3** and then listen to Section 1 of the talk.
They answer the questions.

Students listen again and answer **Listening Exercise 4**

E

Hand out **Student Worksheet 2**

Students answer **Listening Exercise 5**

Students listen to section 2 of the talk and check their answer for **Listening exercise 5**

F

Students try to answer **Listening Exercise 6**. They listen again to **Listening Section 2** to check/complete their answers.

G

If you wish to do some extra work with the class, hand out **Student Worksheet 3**

For the vocabulary exercise, give the students copies of the tapescript and play the complete talk as they read.

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TAPESCRIPTS

Listening Section 1

A very unusual feature of some languages, and of English in particular, is that you can have phrases that can be used as words: a phrase used as a word! ‘Wannabe’ is a good case in point. It’s of course a colloquial version of “want to be” – wannabe: w - a- double n- a – b – e. Sometimes there are two e’s at the end. If I say “he’s a wannabe”, what I mean is he’s an admirer or a fan; somebody who wants to emulate a celebrity by copying that celebrity’s dress or behaviour or something like this.

Listening Section 2

It actually started back in the United States sometime in the 1980s. I think it first became very popular when people wanted to be like Madonna the pop star. Certainly that’s when I first heard it very very regularly and a ‘wannabe’ person is someone who wants to be as famous, or just get some reflected glory from the person, in this case Madonna, that they were admiring. It reflects the colloquial pronunciation. Notice, it’s not a very polite expression. You can talk about other people as being wannabes, but you wouldn’t say that you yourself were a wannabe, and if you say about somebody “he’s a wannabe”, you’re really being a bit sceptical about that person’s state of mind I think, to some extent. But it’s a very popular term – you’ll hear everybody use it these days.

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ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY

- 2.
- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|--|
| a. | colloquial | slang or informal |
| b. | to emulate someone | to copy someone, to try to achieve the same as someone |
| c. | glory | honour or praise that you earn |
| d. | expression | common phrase or saying |
| e. | sceptical | unbelieving or doubting |
| f. | state of mind | mental condition, mental health |

LISTENING SECTION 1

- 3.
- a. wannabe
 - b. want to be
- 4.
- a. False – “A very unusual feature of SOME languages, and of English in particular, is that you can phrases that can be used as words”
 - b. False – “It’s of course a colloquial version”
 - c. True – “somebody who wants to emulate a celebrity by copying that celebrity’s dress or behaviour or something like this.”

LISTENING SECTION 2

- 5.
- a. ii. – The USA
 - b. It is rather negative
- 6.
- a. True
 - b. False – “but you wouldn’t say that you yourself were a wannabe”
 - c. False – “But it’s a very popular term – you’ll hear everybody use it these days.”

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EXTRA WORK

1.

- a. a version
- b. an admirer
- c. a celebrity

LANGUAGE

2.

- a. britpop
- b. to plug something
- c. a must-see movie
- d. a megastar
- e. a blockbuster
- f. a celeb
- g. a B-list celebrity
- h. a turkey
- i. a hanger-on

WORKSHEET 1

SPEAKING

1. Discuss these questions with other students

- a. Who do you think are the most famous people in the world?
- b. Are you a fan of anyone famous? Do you have favourite pop stars or film stars?
- c. Do you copy how famous people dress or style their hair?
- d. Would you like to be famous? Would you be a pop star? A TV star? A film star? A writer? A painter?
- e. What are the advantages and disadvantages of being famous?

VOCABULARY

2. Match these words and phrases to their definitions

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|--|
| a. | colloquial | to copy someone, to try to achieve the same as someone |
| b. | to emulate someone | slang or informal |
| c. | glory | mental condition, mental health |
| d. | expression | honour or praise that you earn |
| e. | sceptical | common phrase or saying |
| f. | state of mind | unbelieving or doubting |

LISTENING SECTION 1

3. Now, listen to Professor Crystal talking about a word that has come from the world of fame and fans.
- a. What is the word?
 - b. What three words does it come from?
4. Listen again and decide if the following statements are true or false, according to Professor Crystal.
- a. It is common in languages for phrases to become words
 - b. Wannabe is a formal word
 - c. A wannabe copies a famous person in some way

WORKSHEET 2

LISTENING SECTION 2

5. Professor Crystal goes on to give the origin of this word

Try to answer these questions before listening.

a. In what country do you think the word first appeared?

i. The UK

ii. The USA

b. Do you think it is a polite thing to call someone, or is it rather negative?

Listen to Section 2 of the talk and check your ideas. Were you correct?

6. Are the following sentences true or false? Listen and check.

a. Many people wanted to copy a music star called Madonna

b. People often call themselves wannabes

c. Not many people use the word these days

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WORKSHEET 3 - EXTRA WORK

VOCABULARY

1. Look at the tape script and find words or phrases that mean the following.
- a particular form of something, a type of something
 - someone who respects someone else
 - a famous person

LANGUAGE

2. There are many colloquial words connected to fame, movies and music. Match these words to the definitions.

a celeb britpop a megastar a blockbuster a turkey
to plug something a must-see movie a hanger-on a B-list celebrity

- A type of music from the UK, featuring melodious guitars
- To publicise something, usually your latest film/book, on a TV show
- A film that you have to watch
- An incredibly famous person
- An expensive and probably successful film, often from Hollywood
- A famous person
- A minor famous person
- A very unsuccessful and bad film
- Someone of no talent who thinks he or she is important because they spend time with a famous person