Objectius de les tasques:

- Fomentar la predicció per tal d’abordar un tema.
- Revisar vocabulari relacionat amb la fama.
- Fomentar la paràfrasi de frases i ús de sinònims.
- Llegir per obtenir informació general i específica.
- Llegir un text amb connectors utilitzats sobretot en contextos orals per entendre’n els significat.
- Llegir per identificar els elements de coherència i cohesió textual (contingut) que permetin la reconstrucció d’un text. (discourse markers).
- Escoltar per extreure la idea general i específica d’un text oral.

Once you have done and corrected the exercises you will have to fill out the self-assessment worksheet that will help you evaluate your learning process.

Activity 1. You are going to read a text about the celebrities called The Cult of Celebrity.

- A. Before you read the text, answer this question and check you know this vocabulary:
  1. What do you understand by the term the ‘cult of celebrity’?
  2. An icon:
  3. A sitcom
  4. Confessional TV:
  5. The afterlife:
  6. To ogle something or someone:
  7. Fair game for criticism:
  8. To scrutinize something or someone:
  9. To bestow fame on somebody:
  10. A fly-on-the-wall documentary:
  11. Like a lamb to the slaughter:

- B. Read the article and put these phrases in the correct place:

**THE CULT OF CELEBRITY**

We are fascinated by their every move, we want to know everything about them. Jack Delaney asks why we are obsessed with the rich and famous.

Some are born famous (like royalty), some achieve fame (like film stars) and some have fame thrust upon them (like crime victims). Sometimes their celebrity is short-lived, 1) ___________. In some rare cases, for example Diana, Princess of Wales, and Marilyn Monroe, it can be transformed by death into a sort of iconic status. But whatever the causes or circumstances, being a celebrity changes your relationship with the world. From being a private person, you become public property, and 2) ___________. You are the object of envy as well as admiration, fair game for criticism, interrogation, ridicule and spite.
We make ‘em, we break ‘em
We treat the famous people with a mixture of reverence and brutality. We adore them, praise them, scrutinize them and destroy them. We make them unable to tell where their real selves end and the PR-manufactured images begin. We have no mercy, we show no shame. It is easy to assume that all aspects of a celebrity life are free to be examined because he or she is on show, which means he or she doesn’t have the same reality as everyone else. And it is precisely because many modern celebrities that we feel justified in treating them with such contempt. We build them up and knock them down.

So who are the famous?
It used to be the case that fame was a consequence of some mighty achievement or an unpleasant criminal act, when newspapers were filled largely with accounts of such things as earthquakes and wars, and when it was badly considered for journalists to examine the private lives of famous people, even the very famous.
It is now possible for people who are living ordinary private lives to become famous, for at least a short time, through the media – by appearing on game shows or confessional TV, for instance, or of a fly-on-the-wall documentary. The readiness of people to let programme-makers into their homes, to answer the most intimate questions about their lives, and to allow themselves to be filmed in the most situations, never ceases to amaze.

Given this ghastly invasion of one’s life, why is fame so desirable? Ask an average bunch of 10-year-olds what, and a large proportion of them will say that they would like to be famous. Not for anything in particular. Just famous. Period. In the adult population, otherwise perfectly normal people think nothing of confessing all about their personal tragedies on daytime television.

Why are we so obsessed?
The American writer Normal Mailer said that in an age without religion, celebrities are our new gods. If we have no faith in an afterlife and then celebrity is the nearest any of us will get to immortality, and the pursuit of it becomes more urgent. At the pathological extreme of this motivation are murderers like Mark Chapman, who assassinated John Lennon partly, he said, to make himself famous.
Another feature of modern society is the power and omnipresence of the mass media. Its explosive expansion in the last couple of decades has created an insatiable need for new material. All the newspapers, magazines, television and radio programmes require . These are increasingly delivered in the form of interviews, profiles, gossip columns, photo-shoots at gatherings, etc about people who are celebrated for something they have done, or for a position they occupy in society, or in some cases for just being a celebrity. There are some totally talentless people who are simply famous for being famous. As Andy Warhol said: “In the future, everyone will be famous for fifteen minutes”.

Love it or loathe it?
The American writer, Jay McInerney, commented, “I have enjoyed a little celebrity in my time, and I have looked at any number of models, about popular film stars. But at least I hate myself in the morning. I fear as a nation we’re losing our sense of shame in this regard”.
So how do you feel when you read a gossip magazine, or tune into confessional TV? Do you love it or loathe it? to curb our fascination, particularly when the glittery sacrificial lambs go so willingly to slaughter? Probably not a lot. But perhaps we
should be more aware of the viciousness of voyeurism and the myths we too readily absorb.

- **C. After reading the text. Think of celebrities currently in the news who fit the three categories of fame mentioned in the first paragraph.**
  - What two reasons does the writer provide to explain our obsession? Do you agree?
  - Why does Jay McInerney hate himself in the morning?
  - What do you understand by the ‘viciousness of voyeurism’? What are the myths that we too readily absorb?

- **D. VOCABULARY: SYNONYMS**
  1. Find words in the article that you have read that mean approximately the same as these:
     - **Paragraph 1:**
       1. Forced
       2. Fame
       3. Respect (noun)
     - **Paragraph 2:**
       4. Great respect and admiration
       5. Cruelty
       6. Worship (verb)
       7. Examine:
       8. Ruin (verb)
       9. Compassion, sympathy
       10. Guilt
       11. Suppose
       12. Exactly
     - **Paragraph 3:**
       13. Result (noun)
       14. Mainly
       15. Considered
     - **Paragraph 4:**
       16. Belief
       17. Killers
       18. killed
  2. Complete the sentences with a synonym of the words in *italics*. Often the word class changes. The words appear in the article.
     - **a.** She *succeeded* in building up a $50 million company. This ____________ won her many awards.
     - **b.** She’s always *finding fault* with her kids. She ____________ them for their appearance, their laziness, everything.
     - **c.** He *admitted* murdering his employer. This ___________ came after days of interrogation.
     - **d.** His recovery after the operation was *astonishing*. I was___________ to see him sitting up in bed when I visited him in hospital.
     - **e.** You simply must *control* your finances better. If you don’t ________ your spending, you’ll be in serious trouble.
Activity 2. DISCOURSE MARKERS.

A. Complete the text about A-list stars below with the right expressions from the box. Sometimes more than one answer is correct.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>anyway</th>
<th>all in all, though</th>
<th>to tell you the truth</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>at least</td>
<td>by the way</td>
<td>I mean</td>
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<td>naturally</td>
<td>no doubt</td>
<td>quite honestly</td>
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<td>still</td>
<td>so to speak</td>
<td>as a matter of fact</td>
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<tr>
<td>obviously</td>
<td>guess what?</td>
<td>as I was saying</td>
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<tr>
<td>actually</td>
<td>mind you</td>
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<td>apparently</td>
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“All the A-list stars were there. That model, Angeline, 1)______ I think it was Angeline, was there with her new boyfriend. 2)______ they’ve been secretly going out for months. 3) ____ , it was a glittering occasion. Stars everywhere and the crowds outside simply beggin for autographs. 4) ____ I couldn’t believe my eyes. And the dresses! 5) ____ I don’t know how much they would have cost- a fortune, I imagine. All designer labels, 6)______ . The photographers were 7) _____ having a field dau, and 8)______ there were reporters everywhere, falling over each other 9)______ , to interview the biggest names. 10) _____ we didn’t have the best seats, 11) _____ we were in the back row. 12)_____, we could still see everything. 13)______, I was so busy star-spotting that I didn’t take in the plot. 14)____ you’d have been the same. 15) ____, I’m not too keen on thrillers but it must have been good because at the end the whole audience rose to its feet and clapped. 16)______ , I’m not terribly sure what the story was about, but you really must go and see it when it’s on general release. 17)______, it was an amazing evening and to top it off we went to Quaglino’s for supper afterwards, and 18)____ Sarah Jane Fox and Brad Brat were at the next table! How cool is that? 19)____ , Sarah Jane Fox has awful skin problems. 20)____ , who cares about that when you’ve got that much money!”

B. Writing: put the sentences below in the dialogue in the correct order. Pay special attention to discourse markers.

C. As a matter of fact, it’s in my diary. I’ll give it to you.
D. Oh no! What happened?
E. He’s been married three times before. Did you know that?
F. Thank goodness for that. I should get in touch with them, but I don’t have their address.
G. Where did he get his money from?
H. Oh, well. Good luck to them.
I. Great. Thanks a lot. Anyway, I must be going. I’m meeting Jan for lunch.
J. Really? I don’t know what she sees in him.
K. Right. Nice to talk to you. Bye.
L. Actually, it’s just the once, I think.
M. I know what you mean. Mind you, he is a millionaire.
N. Apparently, he made a fortune in IT.
O. Absolutely. By the way, did you hear that Sara and Jeff had a car accident?
P. It wasn’t serious. They skidded into a tree, but fortunately they weren’t going fast. The car’s a write-off, but at least no one was injured.
Q. Yes, I suppose having all that money does help.
R. I suppose they’ll have a big wedding.
HAVE YOU HEARD...?

ANNA: Have you heard that Jan is thinking of marrying Paul?
BEN: 
ANNA: 
BEN: 
ANNA: 
BEN: 
ANNA: 
BEN: Of course they will. It'll be massive.
ANNA: 
BEN: 
ANNA: 
BEN: 
ANNA: 
BEN: 

The previous activities on this worksheet have been taken from *New Headway Advanced* (Student's Book) By Liz and John soars. OUP.

Activity 3. LISTENING

A. Before you watch the video in exercise B, check the following vocabulary:
1. Billboard
2. Caught up
3. Bodyguard
4. Unlikely
5. Flamboyant
6. Genes
7. Prodigy
8. Raise through the ranks
9. Inner city
10. Inaugural
11. Trombone
12. Conductor

B. You are going to watch a video about Gustavo Dudamel, a world music celebrity. Read the questions and answer them after watching the video.

1. What is Dudomania?
2. How old is Gustavo?
3. Where is he a well-known figure?
4. What is he famous for?
5. What is he doing this week in Los Angeles?
6. How does he feel about his fame?
7. Where did he learn music?
8. What is “El Sistema”?
9. What project has he started in L.A. inner city?
10. What do they say about his inaugural concert?
Activity 1

A. Before you read the text:

1. The term cult of celebrity refers to the way ordinary people are so fascinated by the lives of celebrities that they love to watch them, read about their private lives, follow their careers, in a way that is almost worshipful.
2. A famous person who people admire and see as a symbol of a particular idea or way of life.
3. A situation comedy - a TV comedy which is set in a typical situation, for example, in a family home.
4. TV programme where people reveal secrets about their personal lives. Most famously, Oprah in the US.
5. Life after death; heaven.
6. To stare at someone rudely, usually with a strong sexual interest.
7. If you are fair game you are an acceptable target and it is not unfair to criticize you.
8. To look at it/them in detail/critically.
9. To make them famous - usually, bestow means give, in the sense of give an honour/a title.
10. Where a secret or intrusive camera follows the real lives of people in the documentary.
11. Going to meet your fate naively/without resistance.

B. Put the phrases in the correct spaces:

1. G
2. D
3. B
4. F
5. I
6. J
7. A
8. C
9. E
10. H

C. After reading the text:

- Students’ own answers.
- In an age without religion or belief in an afterlife, celebrity is the nearest we get to immortality. The mass media has created an insatiable need for celebrity stories.
- Because he is guilty of being as obsessed with celebrity as everybody else.
- The viciousness of voyeurism is a dramatic way of saying that constantly reading about and being interested in celebrities is a cruel invasion of privacy, equivalent to spying on people in a voyeuristic way.
- The myths we too readily absorb are the invented stories which surround famous people.

D. Vocabulary: synonyms.

1.

1. Thrust upon
2. Celebrity
3. Admiration
4. Reverence
5. Brutality
6. Adore
7. Scrutinize
8. Destroy
9. Mercy
10. Shame
11. Assume
12. Precisely
13. Consequence
14. Largely
15. Deemed
16. Faith
17. Murderers
18. assassinated

2.

a. achievement
b. criticizes
c. confession
d. amazed
e. curb
Activity 2
A.
1. At least
2. Apparently
3. Anyway/naturally/obviously
4. Quite honestly/anyway/To tell you the truth
5. I mean/ quite honestly
6. Naturally/ of course
7. Obviously/naturally
8. Of course/ naturally
9. So to speak
10. Admittedly/ I mind you/ to tell you the truth
11. As a matter of fact
12. Mind you
13. Actually/ to tell you the truth
14. No doubt
15. To tell you the truth/ as a matter of fact/ quite honestly/ actually
16. As I was saying
17. All in all, though/ anyway
18. Guess what?
19. By the way/ mind you, / to tell you the truth
20. Still/ mind you

B. Writing:

HAVE YOU HEARD...?

ANNA: Have you heard that Jan is thinking of marrying Paul?
BEN: Really? I don’t know what she sees in him.
ANNA: I know what you mean. Mind you, he is a millionaire.
BEN: Yes, I suppose having all that money does help.
ANNA: Where did he get his money from?
BEN: Apparently, he made a fortune in IT.
ANNA: He’s been married three times before. Did you know that?
BEN: Actually, it’s just the once, I think.
ANNA: I suppose they’ll have a big wedding.
BEN: Of course they will. It’ll be massive.
ANNA: Oh, well. Good luck to them.
BEN: Absolutely. By the way, did you hear that Sara and Jeff had a car accident?
ANNA: Oh no! What happened?
BEN: It wasn’t serious. They skidded into a tree, but fortunately they weren’t going fast. The car’s a write-off, but at least no one was injured.
ANNA: Thank goodness for that. I should get in touch with them, but I don’t have their address.
BEN: As a matter of fact, it’s in my diary. I’ll give it to you.
ANNA: Great. Thanks a lot. Anyway, I must be going. I’m meeting Jan for lunch.
BEN: Right. Nice to talk to you. Bye.

Activity 3 LISTENING
A. Before you watch:
1. Billboard: a large board used for displaying advertising posters
2. Caught up: to seize and take up (something) quickly
3. Bodyguard: a person or group of people who escort and protect someone
4. Unlikely: improbable
5. Flamboyant: elaborate or extravagant, exuberant.
6. Genes: a unit of heredity composed of DNA occupying a fixed position on a chromosome
7. Prodigy: a person, esp a child, of unusual or marvellous talents
8. Raise through the ranks: to ascend in status
9. Inner city: the parts of a city in or near its centre, esp when they are associated with poverty, unemployment, substandard housing, etc
10. Inaugural: characterizing or relating to an inauguration
11. Trombone: a brass instrument, a low-pitched counterpart of the trumpet, consisting of a tube the effective length of which is varied by means of a U-shaped slide.

B. Video activity answers:

1. What is Dudomania? L.A. A city in which Gustavo Dudamel has achieved fame. His fame is in billboards, on buses, he’s even got his own hot dog…
2. How old is Gustavo? 28
3. Where is he a well-known figure? Venezuela
4. What is he famous for? He is a rock star. (an unlikely rock star)
5. What is he doing this week in Los Angeles? He’s doing classical music. He’s making it revolutionary. This week he takes over the philharmonic orchestra.
6. How does he feel about his fame? He doesn’t feel overwhelmed.
7. Where did he learn music? He started studying music when he was 4 years old in his house. His parents were musicians. He wanted to play trombone like his father.
8. What is “El Sistema”? A youth orchestra programme in Venezuela which is his innovation. He’s been teaching music to hundreds of thousands of children from poor neighbourhoods.
9. What project has he started in L.A. inner city? He started a youth programme in LA inner city modelled in El Sistema.
10. What do they say about his inaugural concert? It was free. The man who says classical music changed him, ceases his opportunity to change it.
Un cop fets i autocorregits els exercicis, ompliu aquesta fitxa d'autoavaluació i reflexió. Encercleu el número que correspongui, tenint en compte que el 5 correspon a “més” difícil i “més” útil.

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