

# 4

# Celebrity

Synonyms and antonyms 1 • Discourse markers • Tags and replies



## STARTER

1 Match the lines to make quotations about fame and success.

- 1 "A celebrity is a person who works hard all his life to become well known,
- 2 "I don't want to achieve immortality through my work.
- 3 "There is only one thing worse than being talked about,
- 4 "What goes up,
- 5 "Winning isn't everything,
- 6 "Whenever a friend succeeds,
- 7 "Genius is one per cent inspiration,
- 8 "If at first you don't succeed,
- 9 "Nothing succeeds
- 10 "Let me tell you about the rich.

- must come down." ANONYMOUS
- like success." PROVERB
- a little something in me dies." GORE VIDAL
- and that is not being talked about." OSCAR WILDE
- I want to achieve it through not dying." WOODY ALLEN
- and then wears dark glasses to avoid being recognized." FRED ALLEN
- try, try again." ROBERT BRUCE
- but it sure as hell beats losing." CHARLIE BROWN
- ninety-nine per cent perspiration." THOMAS EDISON
- They are different from you and me." F SCOTT FITZGERALD

2 **TA** Listen and check. Do you agree with any of them? What is your recipe for success?

## READING AND SPEAKING

### The cult of celebrity

# The

#### 1 Discuss the questions as a class.

- 1 Which celebrities are in the news at the moment?  
What is the gossip about them? What is their claim to fame?  
How do they spend their days? Which trendy places do they go to? Where can you find out about them?
- 2 *'We cannot avoid becoming entangled in what is called "the cult of celebrity." The only question is to what degree we want to pretend to resist.'*  
What do you understand by the term the 'cult of celebrity'?  
Do you pretend to resist, or do you indulge your fascination for celebrities? Who are you most interested in?

#### 2 Check you know these words and phrases.

- an icon
- a sitcom
- confessional TV
- the afterlife
- to ogle something/one
- fair game for criticism
- to scrutinize something/one
- to bestow fame on somebody
- a fly-on-the-wall documentary
- like a lamb to the slaughter

#### 3 Read the article and put these phrases in the correct place.

- a this life is our only one
- b are no more special than the rest of us
- c an endless supply of human-interest stories
- d everybody wants to claim a bit of you
- e I have indulged in small talk
- f by volunteering to be the subject
- g sometimes it lasts a lifetime
- h What can be done
- i undignified and unflattering
- j they want to do with their lives

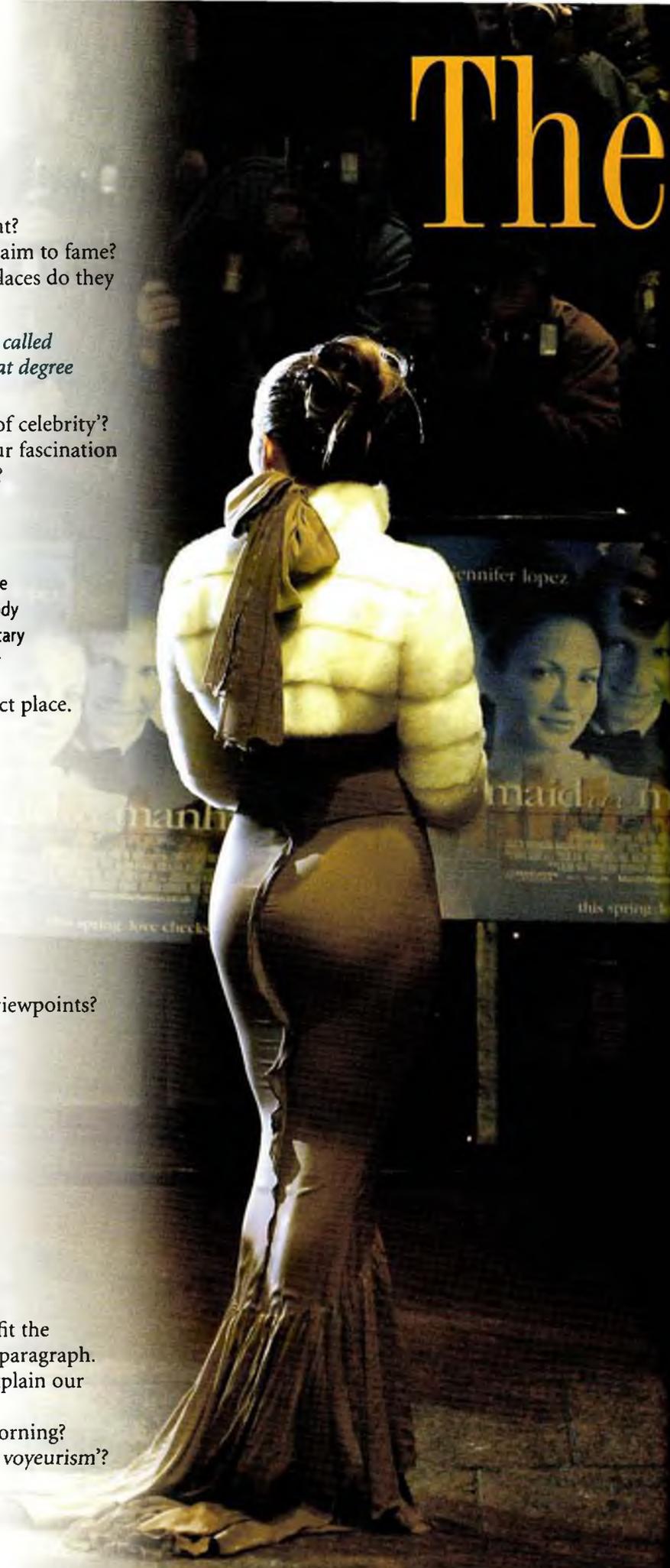
#### 4 Would Jack Delaney agree or disagree with these viewpoints? Find evidence in the article.

- Most fame is undeserved.
- It is possible to survive fame intact.
- The public is consistent in the way it treats celebrities.
- Newspapers used to be more respectful.
- Television subjects ordinary people to humiliation.
- Most people want to be famous.
- The cult of celebrity should make us feel ashamed.

Do *your* views differ?

#### 5 Answer the questions.

- 1 Think of celebrities currently in the news who fit the three categories of fame mentioned in the first paragraph.
- 2 What two reasons does the writer provide to explain our obsession? Do you agree?
- 3 Why does Jay McInerney hate himself in the morning?
- 4 What do you understand by the 'viciousness of voyeurism'?  
What are the 'myths we too readily absorb'?



# 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.**

**S**ome 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 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 (3)\_\_\_\_ 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 bestowed only as a consequence of some mighty achievement or gruesome misdeed, when newspapers were filled largely with accounts of such things as earthquakes and wars, and when it was deemed contemptible for journalists to delve into 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 (4)\_\_\_\_ 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 (5)\_\_\_\_ 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 (6)\_\_\_\_, 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 Norman Mailer said that in an age without religion, celebrities are our new gods. If we have no faith in an afterlife and (7)\_\_\_\_, 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 past couple of decades has created an insatiable need for new material. All the newspapers, magazines, television and radio programmes require (8)\_\_\_\_. These are increasingly delivered in the form of

interviews, profiles, gossip columns, photoshoots at gatherings, and soundbites by or 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 ogled any number of models, (9)\_\_\_\_ 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? (10)\_\_\_\_ 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.



## What do you think?

### 1 Discuss the questions.

- Why do we want to hear bad news about famous people more than good news? In what ways are celebrities unreal?
- What do you understand by 'reality TV'? Are there TV programmes in your country like the ones described in the article? What are they like?
- What is the mentality of stalkers? What makes someone want to kill the object of their obsession?

### 2 Read what celebrities themselves say on the subject of fame. What do you think each quote means, and do you agree with it?

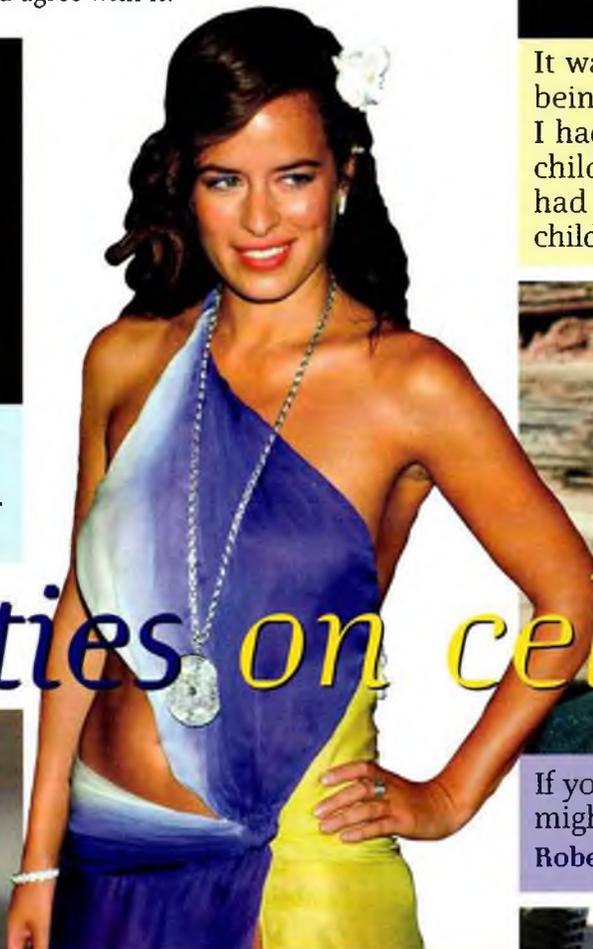


For years I've been popular in America – not because of my talent, but because I'm famous.  
*Cher singer and actor*

# celebrities on celebrity



People want you to be a crazy, out-of-control teen brat. They want you miserable, just like them.  
*Leonardo DiCaprio actor*

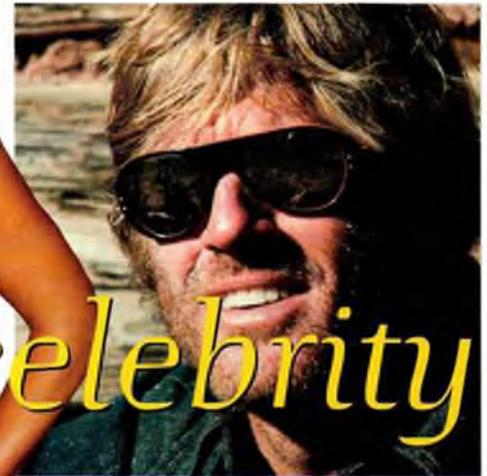


People create you and then you end up believing it. You become their soap opera. And what they want is not your success story but your failure.

*Jade Jagger model and jewellery designer, daughter of Mick*



It was no great tragedy being Judy Garland's daughter. I had tremendously interesting childhood years – except they had little to do with being a child.  
*Liza Minnelli singer and actor*



If you were me for a month, you might change it to two weeks.  
*Robert Redford actor and director*



Sometimes I don't like the person I'm supposed to be. I don't feel like I deserve any of this.

*Mena Suvari actor*

### 3 Do you know ...

- any other icons? What do they represent?
- someone who the press has built up and knocked down?
- an ordinary person who has become a celebrity?
- anyone who is famous simply for being famous?
- any children of celebrities who have had problems?

# VOCABULARY

## Synonyms

- 1 Find words in the article on p39 that mean approximately the same as these.

paragraph 1	forced	
	fame	
	respect (noun)	
paragraph 2	great respect and admiration	
	cruelty	
	worship (verb)	
	examine	
	ruin (verb)	
	compassion, sympathy	
	guilt	
	suppose	
exactly		
paragraph 3	result (noun)	
	mainly	
	considered	
paragraph 6	belief	
	killers	
	killed	

- 2 Complete the sentences with a synonym of the words in *italics*. Often the word class changes. The words appear in the article on p39.

- 1 She *succeeded* in building up a £50 million company. This \_\_\_\_\_ won her many awards.
- 2 She's always *finding fault with* her kids. She \_\_\_\_\_ them for their appearance, their laziness, everything.
- 3 He *admitted* murdering his employer. This \_\_\_\_\_ came after days of interrogation.
- 4 His recovery after the operation was *astounding*. I was \_\_\_\_\_ to see him sitting up in bed when I visited him in hospital.
- 5 You simply must *control* your finances better. If you don't \_\_\_\_\_ your spending, you'll be in serious trouble.

## Antonyms

Look at these examples of antonyms from the article on p39. Sometimes their celebrity is *short-lived*, sometimes *it lasts a lifetime*.

From being a *private* person, you become *public* property.

- 3 Complete the sentences with a word that has the opposite meaning to the words in *italics*. Sometimes the word class changes. The first three words appear in the article on p39.

- 1 You thought those stories about her were *real*, but she \_\_\_\_\_ them all.
- 2 His ability to make money is *admirable*. However, I have nothing but \_\_\_\_\_ for the appalling way he deals with his employees.
- 3 I know most people *love* travelling, but I \_\_\_\_\_ it. I'd rather stay at home.
- 4 I've always been *successful* at work, but my private life is a total \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 At first people thought it was a *genuine* Van Gogh, but later it turned out to be a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 I find it difficult to *relax*. There is so much \_\_\_\_\_ in my life. So much to do, so little time to do it.
- 7 I was sure I had seen her before. I *didn't recognize* her face, but her voice was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 This road is *straight* for a few kilometres, but then there are a lot of tight \_\_\_\_\_, so be careful.
- 9 One of my cats is quite *tame and domesticated*. The other is totally \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10 You thought she dropped the vase *accidentally*, but believe me, it was \_\_\_\_\_.



*'It's not enough that we succeed. Cats must also fail.'*

# LANGUAGE FOCUS

## Discourse markers

- 1 **T 4.2** Listen carefully to a woman speaking, and decide what she's talking about. Answer the questions.
- 1 What was the most important aspect of the occasion for the speaker?
  - 2 What was special about the dresses?
  - 3 How were the people from the press behaving?
  - 4 What *wasn't* so important to the speaker?
  - 5 What was the occasion?

- 2 **T 4.3** Listen to another version of the monologue. What are the differences? Can you remember any?

1 There are many adverbs and expressions which give the speaker's attitude to what he or she is saying.

*Quite honestly, I think you should pack in the job.*

*Admittedly, you'd lose a lot of money.*

*Surely job satisfaction is more important than money?*

2 These expressions can also structure and direct a piece of discourse.

*As I was saying, I'm still enjoying the work.*

*As a matter of fact, I earn very little in my job.*

*Anyway, who cares about money?*

*By the way, do you know how much Justin earns now?*

▶▶ Grammar Reference p151

- 3 Complete the monologue with expressions from the box.

anyway	apparently	mind you	as I was saying
at least	all in all, though	admittedly	of course
naturally	by the way	to tell you the truth	
still	no doubt	I mean	
obviously	so to speak	quite honestly	
actually	guess what?	as a matter of fact	

“ 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 begging 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 day, 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!

- T 4.3** Listen again and check. Which expressions could be used in more than one place? Where?

4 Complete the conversation, either with a discourse marker from exercise 3, or with appropriate words.

# HAVE YOU HEARD ...?



**ANNA** Have you heard that Jan is thinking of marrying Paul?

**BEN** (1) Really? I don't know what she sees in him.

**ANNA** I know what you mean. Mind you, (2) \_\_\_\_\_.

**BEN** Yes, I suppose having all that money does help.

**ANNA** Where did he get his money from?

**BEN** Apparently, (3) \_\_\_\_\_.

**ANNA** He's been married three times before. Did you know that?

**BEN** (4) \_\_\_\_\_, it's just the once, I think.

**ANNA** I suppose they'll have a big wedding.

**BEN** Of course (5) \_\_\_\_\_.

**ANNA** Oh, well. Good luck to them.

**BEN** Absolutely, (6) \_\_\_\_\_, 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 (7) \_\_\_\_\_ they weren't going fast. The car's a write-off, but (8) \_\_\_\_\_ 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, (9) \_\_\_\_\_, I'll give it to you.

**ANNA** Great. Thanks a lot. (10) \_\_\_\_\_, I must be going. I'm meeting Jan for lunch.

**BEN** Right. Nice to talk to you. Bye.

**T 4.4** Listen and compare your answers.

5 Complete the sentences with your ideas.

1 **A** Hello. Your face looks familiar. Have we met before?

**B** Actually, \_\_\_\_\_.

2 **A** How come your business has been so successful?

**B** Basically, \_\_\_\_\_.

3 Why did the Prime Minister award himself a 50% pay rise? Surely \_\_\_\_\_?

4 Have you heard the latest about Cathy and Dave?  
Apparently, \_\_\_\_\_.

5 I don't think Harry and Lucinda should get married.  
I mean, \_\_\_\_\_.

6 I wish I was famous. All that money, all those parties every night. Mind you, \_\_\_\_\_.

7 **A** Wasn't that a brilliant play last night!

**B** To tell you the truth, \_\_\_\_\_.

8 I agree, it was a great match, and they deserved to win it. By the way, \_\_\_\_\_.

9 Why doesn't James ever phone me? Why is it always me who phones him? After all, \_\_\_\_\_.

10 I don't have a clue what the answer is to all these problems. Anyway, \_\_\_\_\_.

## SPEAKING

### How to become an A-list celebrity

- 1 Work in small groups. You have decided that it is your destiny in life to be famous. You want to get on the A list of celebrities who are invited to all the best parties, opening nights, balls and social events.
- 2 Read the situation on the card below and talk together until you all agree on what to do. Your teacher will give you your next card with more information and more decisions.
- 3 Keep discussing each situation until you get to the end of the activity. You might hit the big time or you might not!

★ It is time to start your journey on the road to fame and fortune. You want to make it to the big time as quickly as possible. You have identified two routes that could find you a way to join the rich and famous.

**Invent an interesting new past for yourself – become a new person! One that would make you newsworthy.**

GO TO 7

**Work your way into the elite groups of famous people by hanging out in the right places. Basically you will party your way to the top!**

GO TO 2

### What do you think?

When you have finished, discuss these questions.

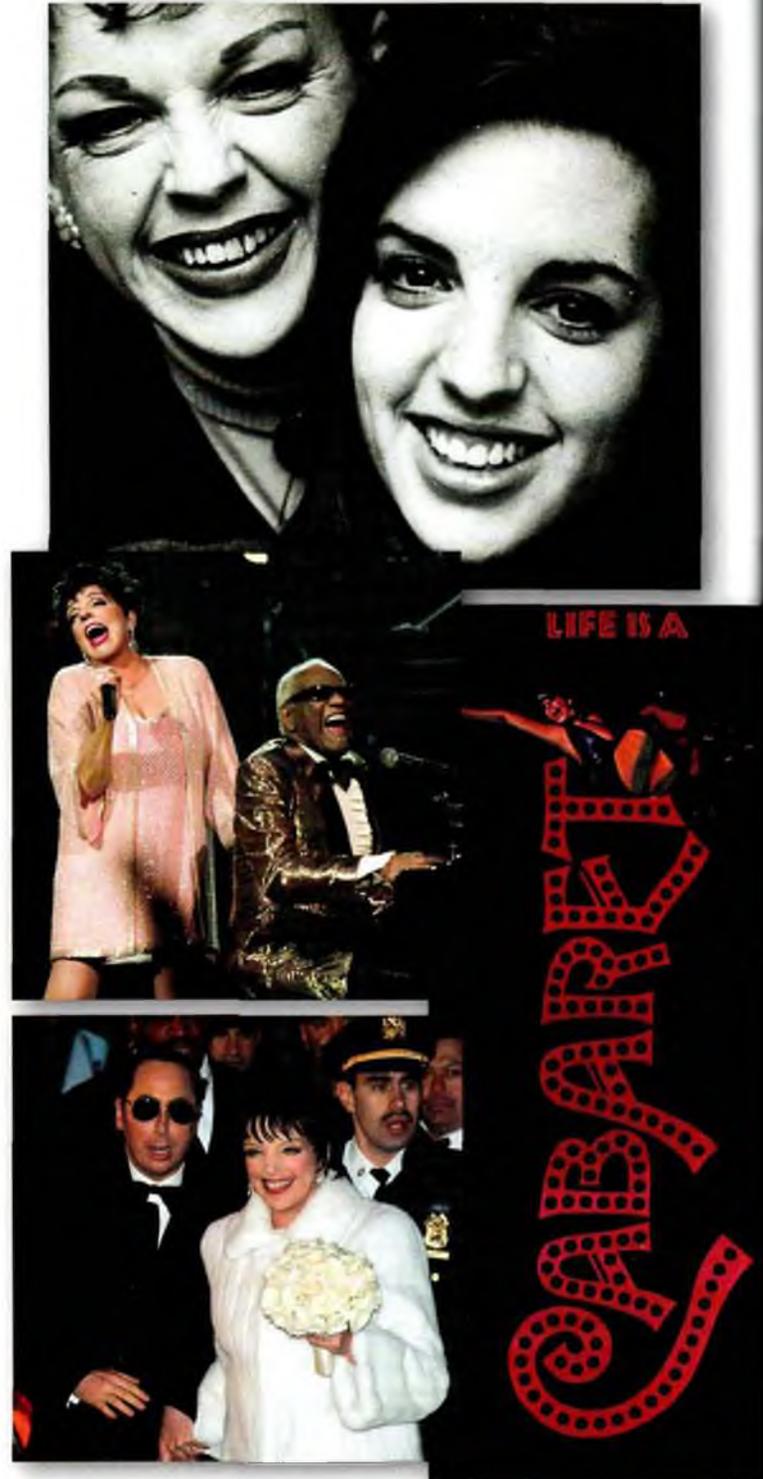
- In retrospect, did you make any wrong decisions? What should you have done?
- How did you make your decisions? Was everybody involved? Did one person dominate? Were your decisions democratic?
- Games such as these are used in management training to practise qualities of good leadership. What are the qualities of a good leader?

## LISTENING

### An interview with a Hollywood star

- 1 Work with a partner. Are these statements about Liza Minnelli, the singer and actor, true or false?
  - 1 She has been married five times.
  - 2 Her recent wedding had no guests.
  - 3 Her mother was Judy Garland.
  - 4 She has had similar health problems to her mother.
  - 5 She was born in England.

What else do you know about her? Tell the class.





# THE LAST WORD

## You did, did you?



1 Read the lines below from the interview with Liza Minnelli.

**Interviewer** I like Cabaret.  
**Liza Minnelli** Oh, you do, do you?

What kind of question tag is this?  
 What is Liza Minnelli expressing?

2 **T 4.8** Listen and underline the tags and replies in the conversation on the right. Do they rise or fall?

▶▶ **Grammar Reference p151**

- A Liza Minnelli is just fantastic! Her concert was amazing.
- B It was, wasn't it? And she puts so much energy into her songs, doesn't she?
- A Yes, she does. Who wrote that song about marriage, and the way it changes the world?
- B She did. It's one of the few songs she ever wrote, actually.
- A So she can write as well as sing, can she? What a talent! Did you like her costumes?
- B Yes, I did. I thought they were fantastic. I've seen most of them before.
- A Have you? I haven't. She's playing again tomorrow, isn't she?
- B Yes, I think so. Let's go again, shall we?
- A All right. She's one of the all time greats, Liza Minnelli is.

3 Work with a partner. Decide where tags and replies can naturally go in these conversations. Do they rise or fall?



- 1 A You haven't seen my car keys.
- B No. You had them this morning.
- A Yes. If I can't find them, I'll be late for work.
- B Panic over. Here they are!
- A Well done. You're a star.



- 2 A You didn't like that meal. You were pushing it around the plate.
- B No. Well, it hadn't been cooked properly. Your steak was all right?
- A Yes. It was fine. Let's get the bill and go home.
- B OK. We won't be coming back here in a hurry.



- 3 A You've forgotten the map?
- B Oh, dear. Yes.
- A But I put it next to the car keys.
- B Well, I didn't see it.
- A You're blind.
- B Oh, and you're perfect?

**T 4.9** Listen and compare. Practise the conversations with your partner.

4 Respond to these statements in different ways.

1 Jeremy earns an absolute fortune!

*He does, doesn't he?  
 Does he? I had no idea. How much?  
 So he's rich, is he? Well, well, well.  
 He's a rich man, Jeremy is.*

2 Peter's new German girlfriend, Anna, is very beautiful.

3 Jane and John are going to Florida on holiday. They're so lucky.

4 Zidane played really well in the match on Sunday, didn't he?

5 Harrods is a great shop. You can buy everything there.

6 I think our teacher is the best.

7 Simon's a very experienced traveller. He's been everywhere.

**T 4.10** Listen and compare.