

Madonna

In this lesson, you'll learn and talk about Madonna, a famous American singer, dancer, and writer. You will also practice asking and answering questions and share your own taste in music.

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. What kind of music does Madonna sing?
2. Do you like Madonna's music?
3. Why do you think Madonna became so famous?
4. Do you know Madonna's full name?



B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.
Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

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|----------------------|---|
| _____ 1. scholarship | a) to be the main actor in a movie |
| _____ 2. huge | b) to hurt, to bother |
| _____ 3. hit | c) very big |
| _____ 4. famous | d) a collection of music recordings |
| _____ 5. upset | e) bad (referring to behavior) |
| _____ 6. suggestive | f) something that is very successful and popular |
| _____ 7. publicity | g) a monetary award to put toward the cost of one's studies |
| _____ 8. star | h) having an overly sexy look |
| _____ 9. immoral | i) well known |
| _____ 10. album | j) attention from the public, being seen by many people |

Reading

1. Madonna is an American singer and songwriter, actress, and children's writer. She is also the top-selling female singles artist in history and has sold over 300 million records.
2. Madonna was born in Bay City, Michigan, on August 16, 1958. Her full name is Madonna Louise Veronica Ciccone.
3. In high school, Madonna won a dance **scholarship** to the University of Michigan. She attended for a while but left before she graduated. Then she moved to New York City.
4. In New York, Madonna studied dance, did some acting, and sang in rock bands. She became famous in the 1980s when she recorded two albums: *Madonna* in 1983 and *Like a Virgin* in 1984. Both were **huge hits**. In 1985, she was in a movie called *Desperately Seeking Susan*. People liked her acting, and this made her even more **famous**.
5. Madonna's live shows and videos have **upset** some people. They think that her clothes and dance moves are too **suggestive**. A book she published in 1992 called *Sex* also upset many people, who thought it was **immoral**. Others believe she is a wise businesswoman who knows how to get **publicity**.
6. In the last 20 years, Madonna has done many things. In 1996, she **starred** in a movie musical called *Evita*, and people thought she was very good in it. She acted in several other movies, but most of them were not very popular. She has also written and performed songs for movies.
7. Madonna, her band, and her dancers have performed in many places in the world. In 2001, they went on the *Drowned World Tour*. In 2002, she acted in a live stage play in London. When she recorded a new **album** called *American Life* in 2003, it was a number one hit. That year, she also wrote her first children's book, *The English Roses*.
8. Madonna and her husband of seven years, Guy Ritchie, a British film director, were divorced in 2008. She has two biological children (daughter Lourdes and son Rocco) and four adopted children from Malawi. In 2017, Madonna used funds from her charity, *Raising Malawi*, to open a children's hospital there.

"I stand for freedom of expression, doing what you believe in, and going after your dreams."

—Madonna

Comprehension

A. True or False?

Read the statements below.

If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence.

If it is false, write F and correct the information in your notebook.

- _____ 1. Madonna was not a good dancer when she was in school.
- _____ 2. Madonna graduated from the University of Michigan.
- _____ 3. Her 1983 album, *Madonna*, was not very successful.
- _____ 4. Some people are upset by Madonna's videos.
- _____ 5. Madonna has two biological children.

B. Ask & Answer

Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner.

Then write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

- 1. What is Madonna's full name?
- 2. What did she do after she left the University of Michigan?
- 3. When did she first become famous?
- 4. Why do Madonna's live shows and videos upset some people?
- 5. Name three things she does in addition to singing.
- 6. What movie musical did she star in?
- 7. When did she write her first children's book?
- 8. Who is Guy Ritchie?

Vocabulary Review

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1.
You may need to change the word forms.

1. Michael Jackson is a very _____ singer.
2. My son loves music. I'm going to buy him a new _____ for his birthday.
3. She is an excellent student. She won a \$5000 _____ for her university studies.
4. Have you seen *The Lord of the Rings*? It was a big _____.
5. Do you know who is going to _____ in the new Spielberg movie?
6. Famous basketball players earn a _____ amount of money.
7. Her clothes are too _____. They are not suitable for work.
8. That star is always talking to reporters. She loves _____.

Discussion

1. What kind of music do you like?
2. Who is your favorite singer?
3. Do you enjoy watching music videos?
4. Do you think certain kinds of music have a bad influence on young people?
5. Do you know any other famous celebrities who are known by their first name only?
6. Do you know any other singers who are also actors?