

Paparazzi

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. What language do you think the word "paparazzi" comes from?
2. What does "freedom of the press" mean?
3. What are some of the downsides of being famous?

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.

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| _____ 1. perk | a) a lot of money |
| _____ 2. annoying | b) a bonus |
| _____ 3. intrusive | c) to take a person to court |
| _____ 4. lack | d) an insufficient amount |
| _____ 5. downside | e) the public's need of something |
| _____ 6. pursue | f) a negative aspect |
| _____ 7. intimate | g) to chase or follow |
| _____ 8. tabloids | h) creating an unwanted presence |
| _____ 9. demand | i) bothersome |
| _____ 10. big bucks | j) magazines and newspapers that are full of gossip and stories that might not be true |
| _____ 11. sue | k) private and romantic |
| _____ 12. bodyguard | l) a person who has the job of protecting an important figure's safety |



Reading

PAPARAZZI

The Downside of Celebrity Life

1. Privacy is not one of the **perks** of being a celebrity. Celebrity photographers, known as “paparazzi,” follow actors, musicians, models, and royalty wherever they go. Paparazzi is an Italian word that describes the buzzing sound of an **annoying** mosquito. In English, it has come to mean “**intrusive** photographers.”
2. Many celebrities say that a **lack** of privacy is the only **downside** to being famous. Celebrities hate how photographers set up camp outside private homes or hotel suites. Some famous people have risked their lives trying to protect their own privacy. The vehicle Princess Diana died in was being **pursued** by paparazzi when it crashed in a tunnel. Did this tragedy convince photographers to stop following the British Royals? Not for long. Diana’s son, Prince William, was furious when a French photographer took **intimate** photos of his new wife Katherine. Photos of the sunbathing newlyweds were published in **tabloids** all over the world.
3. The **demand** for private photographs of the rich and famous is huge. Everyday people are fascinated by the lives of celebrities. As a result, photographers can earn **big bucks** from a single shot. Occasionally, celebrities try to **sue** the paparazzi for profiting from this behavior. On the flip side, frustrated celebrities have been fined for attacking the paparazzi and damaging their equipment.
4. Some people don’t choose to be rich and famous. They are born with silver spoons in their mouths and **bodyguards** at their sides. Michael Jackson’s kids may come to mind. Was the King of Pop asking for trouble when he named his children Paris, Blanket, and Prince? Celebrities have been known to seek out the attention of the paparazzi when they’re lacking publicity. You might say they don’t know what they’ve got till it’s gone.

“I think one of the hardest things to come to terms with is the fact that the people that chased her into the tunnel were the same people that were taking photographs of her while she was still dying on the back seat of the car.”

—Prince Harry, on the death of his mother, Princess Diana

Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers below.

1. Where does the word “paparazzi” come from?

2. What is identified as the greatest downside to being a celebrity?

3. Why was Prince William so furious after his marriage to Duchess Katherine?

4. Why might a photographer sue a celebrity?

5. Why does the reading mention Michael Jackson’s kids?

Vocabulary Review

A. Guessing from Context

Look at some of the expressions used in the reading.
What do you think they mean? Work with a partner and try to come up with other examples where you could use these expressions.

#	Expression	Meaning	Example
1	set up camp		
2	on the flip side		
3	to be born with a silver spoon in one's mouth		
4	to come to mind		
5	You don't know what you've got till it's gone.		

B. Complete the Sentences

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

- It's so _____ when you chew your gum loudly like that.
- The _____ to getting this new job is that I'll have to work weekends.
- I read in the _____ that Tom Cruise is going to be a father again.
- There is a _____ of communication between the boss and his workers.
- One of the _____ of working in a bookstore is that I get 50% off new releases.

Role-Play

Work with a partner. One of you is a celebrity and the other is a security guard or chauffeur. Talk about the paparazzi that is currently pursuing you. Describe how annoying it is to be followed 24/7.

Discussion Questions

1. Do wealthy, famous people have a right to complain about being followed and photographed?
2. What types of moments, expressions, and situations do the paparazzi try to capture?
3. Do you think most celebrities would vote for a law that made it illegal for photographers to take and publish photos of people without permission? Would you vote for or against a law like that?

Critical Thinking

Work with a partner and discuss this question.

In 2009, an anti-paparazzi law was created in California. The law was supposed to make it easier for celebrities to sue photographers for driving recklessly in order to take pictures for commercial gain. In 2012, Justin Bieber tried to sue a photographer for a high-speed chase on a Los Angeles freeway. The photographer argued that the anti-paparazzi law infringed on the First Amendment ("freedom of the press"). The judge agreed. Do you think Bieber should have won?

Listening

🔊 <http://blog.esllibrary.com/2012/12/19/podcast-paparazzi/>

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

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