

PRUEBA/PROVA: CELEBRITY NEWS

EXAM

Celebrity news

In her quest to meet the rich and famous, Emma has bribed security guards, donned disguises, and even climbed through windows! But she does not think of herself as a criminal. “I’m just doing my job. I only get paid for good stories, so I have to take extreme measures if I want to earn a decent income!”

Emma Worth writes for a famous gossip magazine. She is one of a growing number of journalists who are using their skills to hunt and capture the so-called 'glitterati' unawares, in the hope of getting an exclusive – and preferably shocking – scoop.

Gossip-mongering is nothing new. Indeed, sensationalist stories about the royal family (the A-list of their time) were published only a century after the invention of the printing press – in 1453!

However, in recent years, our celebrity obsession seems to have escalated. Last year, *Heat* and *Closer*, the two best-selling UK gossip magazines, sold over a million copies every week, and new celebrity publications and websites pop up every month. Even the traditionally more ‘serious’ press are turning to celebrities to boost sales. For example, the broadsheet newspaper *The Telegraph* now has a regular gossip column called ‘The Spy’.

But many people are critical of celebrity gossip hunters like Emma. Some stars complain that they are being denied a basic right to privacy, and even that their lives have been ruined by press intrusion. And, according to one highly-regarded news reporter, “Our appetite for gossip means that there is less media coverage of more important issues, such as politics and the environment. I didn’t join the profession to write kiss-and-tell stories. We need to stop taking this trivia so seriously!”

1. Say whether the following sentences are TRUE or FALSE according to the text. COPY the evidence from the text. No marks will be given without the evidence. (1.5 points)

- a) Emma worries about breaking the law.
b) People in the 1500s were just as interested in gossip as we are today.
c) *Closer* is a very popular UK gossip magazine.

2. ANSWER the questions below. COPY no more than 10 words and/or a number from the text to answer each question. (1.5 points)

- a) What does Emma Worth do?
- b) How many copies did Heat and Closer sell last year?
- c) What issues do some think are more important than gossip?

3. WRITE a synonym (=), an opposite (≠), a definition or a sentence for each of the following words to show that you understand their meaning in the text. Use your own words. (1 point)

- a) income (line 4)
- b) growing (line 5)
- c) to boost (line 13)
- d) to deny (line 16)

4. READ this conversation between two people. COMPLETE their conversation. Write the numbers (1–6) and each complete sentence on your exam paper. (1.5 points)

Waitress: Hello. (1) _____ to see a menu?

Customer: Thank you.

Waitress: Here (2) _____.

Customer: We (3) _____ have two ham and cheese pizzas please.

Waitress: Of course. Would you (4) _____ drink?

Customer: Yes, (5) _____ coke and a water please.

Waitress: A large (6) _____ water?

Customer: Small please.

Waitress: Can I get you anything else?

5. Read the following situations and WRITE what you would say in each one to show that you understand the context of the situation. Write between 10 and 25 words. (1.5 points)

- a) The sky is very black and cloudy. Predict what you think is going to happen.
- b) Your friend is taking an exam tomorrow and she is very nervous. Give her some advice.
- c) You are in a foreign city and you want to find the nearest bank. Ask someone for directions.
- d) You are on a train and you want to ask if a seat is free.

6. WRITE a composition of about 120–150 words on the following topic. (3 points)

What are the advantages and disadvantages of being a celebrity?