

PRUEBA: CELEBRITY NEWS

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 professional skills to hunt and capture the so-called 'glitterati' unawares, each hoping to score an exclusive, and preferably shocking, scoop.

Celebrity news is a huge market. Last year, *Heat* and *Closer*, the two best-selling UK gossip magazines, sold over a million copies every week, and new celebrity websites and TV programmes 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, salacious 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 fundamental human right to privacy and respect, and even that their lives have been ruined by press intrusion. What's more, according to one highly-regarded news reporter, 'Our fascination 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. Choose the correct answer a, b or c. (3 points; 0.5 each)

1. Emma sometimes uses extreme measures because ...
 - a. she is obsessed with celebrities.
 - b. she wants to get close to celebrities.
 - c. she is a criminal.
2. For Emma, being a gossip hunter is a way to ...
 - a. show off her writing skills.
 - b. get other's respect.
 - c. earn money.
3. Which statement is true?
 - a. Magazine readers are extremely interested in the lives of the rich and famous.
 - b. *The Telegraph* is a famous gossip magazine.
 - c. Most journalists work together with famous people to get their stories.
4. What is 'The Spy'?
 - a. a popular gossip magazine
 - b. part of a serious newspaper that deals with gossip
 - c. a serious newspaper
5. Some celebrities criticize gossip hunters because ...
 - a. they don't write about important news.
 - b. they think trivia is serious.
 - c. they don't give celebrities any privacy.

6. Which of these best summarises the view of a highly-regarded news reporter.

- a. gossip columns are a great way to make money
- b. celebrities get publicity in gossip columns
- c. important news gets covered less in the media because of the obsession with gossip

2. Answer these questions in no more than 5 words. (1 point; 0.25 each)

- a. Who is Emma Worth?
- b. What does Emma receive money for?
- c. What are *Heat* and *Closer* examples of?
- d. Why are serious newspapers starting to print celebrity gossip?

3. Find a word in the text for these definitions. (1 point; 0.25 each)

- a. salary, wage (*paragraph 1*)
- b. follow, pursue (*paragraph 1*)
- c. increase (*paragraph 2*)
- d. in an unhappy manner (*paragraph 3*)

4. Rephrase the following sentences so that their meaning is as similar to the original as possible. (1 point; 0.25 each)

- a. Emma says, 'I'm just doing my job. I only get paid for good stories.'

Emma said that _____

- b. I have to take extreme measures if I want to earn a decent income.

If I didn't _____

- c. The journalists are hoping to score an exclusive scoop. They are using their professional skills to hunt the glitterati.

The journalists, _____

- d. Some stars complain that press intrusion has ruined their lives.

Some stars complain that their _____

5. Write an opinion article of 150 words on this topic: Being famous has many advantages and disadvantages. Do you agree? Mention both positive and negative aspects of being famous and say whether you think there are more advantages than disadvantages (specify the number of words at the top right-hand side of your essay). (3 points)

6. You have just seen a celebrity. Write a text message to your friend Lenny telling him about the incident. Say who the celebrity was, where you saw him or her and what happened. (Write between 35 and 50 words). (1 point)