

MARY J. BLIGE

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THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Mary Jane Blige is a singer, rapper, songwriter and actress. She is widely known as the "Queen of Hip-Hop Soul" for mixing the two musical genres together. Blige has sold over 40 million albums worldwide and has won eight Grammy awards. She also has a World Music Legends Award, despite her young age. Her musical style has influenced many other female vocalists, including Alicia Keys and Ashanti.

Blige was born in 1971 in New York. She grew up listening to the new sounds of hip-hop and rap that were starting to come out of New York. She also loved her mother's collection of 60s and 70s soul records. She won a talent competition when she was seven and decided she wanted to be a singer.

Blige improved her singing technique in the local church choir. In 1988, she recorded an Anita Baker song at a recording booth in a local mall. Her mother's friend loved it and sent it to a recording company executive, who signed Blige instantly. She spent several years as a backup singer, before releasing her debut album in 1992.

Blige has recorded eight studio albums, including the highly successful 'The Breakthrough', for which she scooped many awards. She also branched out into acting and has appeared in television series, Broadway plays and movies. Blige is also actively involved in several charities and started the Foundation for the Advancement of Women Now, "to inspire women from all walks of life to reach their individual potential."

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the words from the article on the left with their synonyms on the right. Are your answers the same as other students'?

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1. widely | a. kinds |
| 2. genres | b. contest |
| 3. influenced | c. music |
| 4. sounds | d. commonly |
| 5. collection | e. shaped |
| 6. competition | f. selection |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 7. improved | g. a number of |
| 8. executive | h. immediately |
| 9. instantly | i. polished |
| 10. highly | j. promise |
| 11. several | k. senior manager |
| 12. potential | l. hugely |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. She is widely known as the | a. collection |
| 2. Her musical style has influenced | b. many other female vocalists |
| 3. She grew up listening to the new | c. many awards |
| 4. She also loved her mother's | d. sounds of hip-hop |
| 5. She won a talent | e. as a backup singer |
| 6. Blige improved her | f. potential |
| 7. She spent several years | g. of life |
| 8. she scooped | h. "Queen of Hip-Hop Soul" |
| 9. inspire women from all walks | i. competition |
| 10. reach their individual | j. singing technique |

LISTENING GAP FILL:

Mary Jane Blige is a singer, rapper, songwriter and actress. She is _____ the "Queen of Hip-Hop Soul" for mixing the two _____ together. Blige has sold over 40 million albums worldwide and has won eight Grammy awards. She also has a World Music Legends Award, _____ age. Her musical style has _____ female vocalists, including Alicia Keys and Ashanti.

Blige was born in 1971 in New York. She grew up _____ sounds of hip-hop and rap that were starting _____ New York. She also loved her mother's _____ 70s soul records. She won a talent competition when she was seven and _____ to be a singer.

Blige improved her _____ in the local church choir. In 1988, she recorded an Anita Baker song at _____ in a local mall. Her mother's friend loved it and sent it to a recording company executive, who _____. She spent several years as a backup singer, before releasing _____ in 1992.

Blige has recorded _____, including the highly successful 'The Breakthrough', for which she _____. She also branched out into acting and has appeared in television series, Broadway plays and movies. Blige is also _____ several charities and started the Foundation for the Advancement of Women Now, "to inspire women _____ life to reach their individual potential."

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs in italics.

Mary Jane Blige is a singer, rapper, songwriter and actress. She is *widely / width* known as the "Queen of Hip-Hop Soul" for mixing the two musical *genes / genres* together. Blige has sold over 40 million albums worldwide and has won eight Grammy awards. She also has a World Music Legends Award, *despite / spite* her young age. Her musical style has influenced many *other / another* female vocalists, including Alicia Keys and Ashanti.

Blige was born in 1971 in New York. She *grown / grew* up listening to the new sounds of hip-hop and rap that was *started / starting* to come out of New York. She also loved her mother's *collects / collection* of 60s and 70s soul records. She won a talent competition when she was seven and *decided / decision* she wanted to be a singer.

Blige *improved / improvement* her singing technique in the local church choir. In 1988, she *records / recorded* an Anita Baker song at a recording booth in a local mall. Her mother's friend loved *them / it* and sent it to a recording company executive, who signed Blige *instant / instantly*. She spent several years as a backup singer, before releasing her debut album in 1992.

Blige has recorded eight studio albums, including the *highest / highly* successful 'The Breakthrough', for which she *scoops / scooped* many awards. She also branched *in / out* into acting and has appeared in television series, Broadway plays and movies. Blige is also actively involved in several charities and started the Foundation for the Advancement of Women Now, "to inspire women from all *walks / runs* of life to reach their individual potential."

SPELLING:

These jumbled words are from the text. Spell them correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. She is iwdule known as the "Queen of Hip-Hop Soul"
2. musical nrsgee
3. pesietd her young age
4. Her musical ystle has influenced many other female vocalists

Paragraph 2

5. the new ussdno of hip-hop and rap
6. her mother's lcoioectln of 60s and 70s soul records
7. She won a etlant competition
8. eeidddc she wanted to be a singer

Paragraph 3

9. singing chtiqenu
10. a recording company eeuctevxi
11. She spent eelvasr years as a backup singer
12. her dbteu album

Paragraph 4

13. Blige has recorded eight stuiod albums
14. She also cnadberh out into acting
15. tciyeval involved in several charities
16. inspire women from all akslw of life

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () Blige improved her singing technique in the local church choir. In 1988, she recorded an Anita Baker song at a
- () plays and movies. Blige is also actively involved in several charities and started
- (**1**) mixing the two musical genres together. Blige has sold over 40 million albums worldwide and has won eight
- () recording booth in a local mall. Her mother's friend loved it and sent it to a recording company executive, who
- () style has influenced many other female vocalists, including Alicia Keys and Ashanti
- () come out of New York. She also loved her mother's collection of 60s and 70s soul
- () signed Blige instantly. She spent several years as a backup singer, before releasing her debut album in 1992
- () of life to reach their individual potential."
- () the Foundation for the Advancement of Women Now, "to inspire women from all walks
- () records. She won a talent competition when she was seven and decided she wanted to be a singer
- () Mary Jane Blige is a singer, rapper, songwriter and actress. She is widely known as the "Queen of Hip-Hop Soul" for
- () Blige has recorded eight studio albums, including the highly successful 'The Breakthrough', for
- () Blige was born in 1971 in New York. She grew up listening to the new sounds of hip-hop and rap that were starting to
- () Grammy awards. She also has a World Music Legends Award, despite her young age. Her musical
- () which she scooped many awards. She also branched out into acting and has appeared in television series, Broadway

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With your partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. Queen " is the She Hip-Hop as " of known Soul widely

2. female has vocalists influenced Her many musical other style

3. sounds new the to listening up grew She hop - hip of

4. mother's 70s collection soul of records 60s her and

5. a was talent seven competition She when won she

6. her local singing church technique Blige in improved the

7. spent She singer backup a as years several

8. acting into out branched also She

9. in involved actively also is Blige charities several

10. life women all of inspire from walks

MARY J BLIGE DISCUSSION:

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What do you know about Mary J Blige?
2. Would you like to have met Mary J Blige?
3. What would you like to know about Mary J Blige and why?
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

MARY J BLIGE DISCUSSION:

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. What did you learn from this text about Mary J Blige?
2. What questions would you like to have asked Mary J Blige?
3. What would her answers have been to those questions?
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

MARY J BLIGE SURVEY:

Write five questions about Mary J Blige in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about Mary J Blige. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MARY J BLIGE POSTER: Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Mary J Blige. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all find out similar things?

4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Mary J Blige. Include an imaginary interview with her. Write about what she did every day and what she thought about.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to Mary J Blige. Ask her three questions about her life. Tell her how important she is in today's world and how she is missed. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your "Mary J Blige expert" partner(s) will try and answer your questions.

ANSWERS

SYNONYM MATCH:

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1. widely | a. commonly |
| 2. genres | b. kinds |
| 3. influenced | c. shaped |
| 4. sounds | d. music |
| 5. collection | e. selection |
| 6. competition | f. contest |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

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| 8. executive | h. senior manager |
| 9. instantly | i. immediately |
| 10. highly | j. hugely |
| 11. several | k. a number of |
| 12. potential | l. promise |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. She is widely known as the | a. "Queen of Hip-Hop Soul" |
| 2. Her musical style has influenced | b. many other female vocalists |
| 3. She grew up listening to the new | c. sounds of hip-hop |
| 4. She also loved her mother's | d. collection |
| 5. She won a talent | e. competition |
| 6. Blige improved her | f. singing technique |
| 7. She spent several years | g. as a backup singer |
| 8. she scooped | h. many awards |
| 9. inspire women from all walks | i. of life |
| 10. reach their individual | j. potential |

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Look at the text on page 2.