

BRITNEY SPEARS

http://www.famouspeoplelessons.com/b/britney_spears.html

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THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Britney Spears was born in Mississippi, USA in 1981. She is one of the world's best-selling singers, having sold over 80 million records worldwide. She also writes songs and acts. She led a revival of teen pop in the late 1990s, which helped her become a star. She is also famous for her problems with drugs and alcohol.

Spears was a budding gymnast when she was a child and competed in many tournaments. She also sang and danced in her local church shows. She spent several summers developing her talent at a performing arts school in New York. When she was 11, she appeared in the Disney Channel's New Mickey Mouse Club. She signed a recording contract at the age of 16.

Spears released her debut single "Baby One More Time" in 1998. It was an instant international success and ranks as the 38th best song of all time. The album of the same name sold 28 million copies and is the best selling album for a teenager. Spears broke many records and won many awards. She had established herself as a pop phenomenon.

Spears was ranked the world's most powerful celebrity in 2002 by 'Forbes' magazine. She released four more albums, which cemented her status as a superstar. Her personal life has been less successful. Her four-year relationship with Justin Timberlake ended in 2002. She married dancer Kevin Federline in 2004 and divorced him in 2007. She is currently fighting for custody of their two sons.

247 words

Flesch Kinkaid 7.5

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. worldwide | a. difficulties |
| 2. revival | b. competitions |
| 3. problems | c. promising |
| 4. budding | d. globally |
| 5. tournaments | e. a number of |
| 6. several | f. comeback |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 7. instant | g. sensation |
| 8. of all time | h. confirmed |
| 9. phenomenon | i. ever |
| 10. cemented | j. responsibility |
| 11. relationship | k. immediate |
| 12. custody | l. romance |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. She led a revival of teen | a. her talent |
| 2. famous for her problems | b. less successful |
| 3. Spears was a budding gymnast | c. with drugs and alcohol |
| 4. She spent several summers developing | d. of all time |
| 5. She signed a recording contract at | e. a pop phenomenon |
| 6. ranks as the 38th best song | f. pop in the late 1990s |
| 7. She had established herself as | g. of their two sons |
| 8. Spears was ranked the world's most | h. when she was a child |
| 9. Her personal life has been | i. the age of 16 |
| 10. She is currently fighting for custody | j. powerful celebrity |

LISTENING GAP FILL:

Britney Spears was born in Mississippi, USA in 1981. _____
 world's best-selling singers, _____ 80 million records
 worldwide. She also writes songs and acts. She _____ pop in
 the late 1990s, which helped her become a star. She is also famous for her
 _____ and alcohol.

Spears _____ when she was a child and competed in many
 tournaments. She also sang and danced in her _____. She
 spent several summers _____ at a performing arts school in
 New York. When she was 11, she appeared in the Disney Channel's New
 Mickey Mouse Club. She _____ contract at the age of 16.

Spears released _____ "Baby One More Time" in 1998. It was
 an instant international success _____ 38th best song of all
 time. The album of the same name sold 28 million copies and is the best
 _____ teenager. Spears broke many records and won many
 awards. She had _____ as a pop phenomenon.

Spears _____ most powerful celebrity in 2002 by 'Forbes'
 magazine. She released four more albums, which cemented
 _____ superstar. Her personal life has _____.
 Her four-year relationship with Justin Timberlake ended in 2002. She
 married dancer Kevin Federline in 2004 and divorced him in 2007. She is
 currently _____ of their two sons.

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:

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

Britney Spears was born in Mississippi, USA in 1981. She is one of the world's best-selling singers, having *selling / sold* over 80 million records worldwide. She also *writes / wrote* songs and acts. She led a revival of teen pop in the *late / latest* 1990s, which helped her become a star. She is also famous for her problems with *medicine / drugs* and alcohol.

Spears was a budding *gymnast / gymnastics* when she was a child and competed in many tournaments. She also sang and *dances / danced* in her local church shows. She spent several summers developing her *talent / talented* at a performing arts school in New York. When she was 11, she appeared in the Disney Channel's New Mickey Mouse Club. She signed a recording contract at the *old / age* of 16.

Spears released her debut single "Baby One More Time" in 1998. It was an *instant / instantly* international success and *rank / ranks* as the 38th best song of *all / every* time. The album of the same name sold 28 million copies and is the best selling album for a teenager. Spears broke many records and won *much / many* awards. She had established herself as a pop phenomenon.

Spears was ranked the world's *best / most* powerful celebrity in 2002 by 'Forbes' magazine. She released four more albums, which *glued / cemented* her status as a superstar. Her *personality / personal* life has been less successful. Her four-year relationship with Justin Timberlake ended in 2002. She married dancer Kevin Federline in 2004 and divorced him in 2007. She is currently *fought / fighting* for custody of their two sons.

SPELLING:

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

Paragraph 1

1. of the world's best-selling nseirgs
2. sold over 80 million records iedwwlrdo
3. a vialrve of teen pop in the late 1990s
4. problems with drugs and ahclloo

Paragraph 2

5. Spears was a budding yngmast when she was a child
6. lrasvee summers
7. developing her latetn
8. She signed a recording ncotrcat at the age of 16

Paragraph 3

9. Spears released her edtub single
10. an ntaitsn international success
11. the best selling album for a ageerten
12. Spears broke many cersord

Paragraph 4

13. Spears was dnkare the world's most powerful celebrity
14. cemented her austts as a superstar
15. Her saenrolp life has been less successful
16. fighting for otudcys of their two sons

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- (**1**) Britney Spears was born in Mississippi, USA in 1981. She is one of the world's best-selling singers, having sold
- () over 80 million records worldwide. She also writes songs and acts. She led a revival of teen pop in the late
- () album for a teenager. Spears broke many records and won many awards. She
- () dancer Kevin Federline in 2004 and divorced him in 2007. She is currently fighting for custody of their two sons.
- () Spears was a budding gymnast when she was a child and competed in many tournaments. She also sang
- () had established herself as a pop phenomenon.
- () as the 38th best song of all time. The album of the same name sold 28 million copies and is the best selling
- () Spears released her debut single "Baby One More Time" in 1998. It was an instant international success and ranks
- () New Mickey Mouse Club. She signed a recording contract at the age of 16.
- () successful. Her four-year relationship with Justin Timberlake ended in 2002. She married
- () Spears was ranked as the world's most powerful celebrity in 2002 by 'Forbes' magazine. She released
- () and danced in her local church shows. She spent several summers developing her talent at a performing
- () arts school in New York. When she was 11, she appeared in the Disney Channel's
- () 1990s, which helped her become a star. She is also famous for her problems with drugs and alcohol.
- () four more albums, which cemented her status as a superstar. Her personal life has been less

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

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

1. world's selling is the - She of best singers one

2. alcohol and drugs with problems her for famous

3. child a when a was gymnast was Spears budding she

4. talent spent summers her She several developing

5. of signed contract age She recording the 16 a at

6. instant an was It success international

7. had She phenomenon pop a as herself established

8. the Spears world's was most ranked powerful as celebrity

9. been successful personal has less Her life

10. sons for of two fighting custody their

DISCUSSION (Write your questions):

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

1. What do you know about Britney Spears?
2. Would you like to meet Britney Spears?
3. What would you like to know about Britney Spears and why?
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

DISCUSSION (Write your questions):

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

1. What did you learn from this text about Britney Spears?
2. What questions would you like to ask Britney Spears?
3. What would her answers be to those questions?
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

THE BRITNEY SPEARS SURVEY:

Write five questions about Britney Spears 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 Britney Spears. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. BRITNEY SPEARS POSTER: Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Britney Spears. 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 Britney Spears. Include an imaginary interview with her. Write about what she does every day and what she thinks 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 Britney Spears. Ask her three questions about her life. Give her three suggestions on what she should do in her future. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your "Britney Spears expert" partner(s) will try and answer your questions.

ANSWERS

SYNONYM MATCH:

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. worldwide | a. globally |
| 2. revival | b. comeback |
| 3. problems | c. difficulties |
| 4. budding | d. promising |
| 5. tournaments | e. competitions |
| 6. several | f. a number of |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 7. instant | g. immediate |
| 8. of all time | h. ever |
| 9. phenomenon | i. sensation |
| 10. cemented | j. confirmed |
| 11. relationship | k. romance |
| 12. custody | l. responsibility |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. She led a revival of teen | a. pop in the late 1990s |
| 2. famous for her problems | b. with drugs and alcohol |
| 3. Spears was a budding gymnast | c. when she was a child |
| 4. She spent several summers developing | d. her talent |
| 5. She signed a recording contract at | e. the age of 16 |
| 6. ranks as the 38th best song | f. of all time |
| 7. She had established herself as | g. a pop phenomenon |
| 8. Spears was ranked the world's most | h. powerful celebrity |
| 9. Her personal life has been | i. less successful |
| 10. She is currently fighting for custody | j. of their two sons |

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Look at the text on page 2.