

# NANCY AJRAM

[http://www.famouspeoplelessons.com/n/nancy\\_ajram.html](http://www.famouspeoplelessons.com/n/nancy_ajram.html)

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## THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Nancy Ajram is a Lebanese pop singer. She ranks as the third best-selling female singer in Lebanese history, and has sold over forty million records. She was born in 1983 and started singing at the age of eight. She appeared in a singing contest for kids on Lebanese TV. Four years later she won the gold medal in a popular talent show.

Ajram decided singing was for her, so she studied music throughout her teenage years. She worked with and learnt from many famous Lebanese musicians and artists. She turned professional when she was just 15 and released her first album in 1998. She sang in the traditional *Tarab* style. She recorded a second album in 2000 and became a star.

In 2003, Ajram made her third album, *Ya Salam* ("How Fantastic"). A video from the album showing Ajram flirting with men started a lot of controversy in the Arab world but made her more famous. In 2005, she became Coca-Cola's star and spokesperson for the Middle East and North Africa. Ajram's sixth album was aimed at teaching children good values and morals.

Ajram is a rising star in the Arab world. She has turned down offers to appear in movies directed by top Arab directors. She said she is too busy singing, although her fans are waiting for her movie debut. She has won Best Female Arab Singer of the Year twice. She also made the 'Newsweek' magazine's list of Most Influential Arab Personalities in 2005.

247 words

Flesch Kinkaid 8.1

**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. appeared   | a. singers     |
| 2. contest    | b. all through |
| 3. popular    | c. competition |
| 4. throughout | d. performed   |
| 5. artists    | e. method      |
| 6. style      | f. well-liked  |

*Paragraphs 3 and 4*

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 7. fantastic    | g. war of words  |
| 8. controversy  | h. important     |
| 9. morals       | i. up-and-coming |
| 10. rising      | j. wonderful     |
| 11. turned down | k. principles    |
| 12. influential | l. rejected      |

**PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article.

- |                                    |                               |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. She appeared in a singing       | a. offers to appear in movies |
| 2. she won the gold                | b. for her                    |
| 3. Ajram decided singing was       | c. movie debut                |
| 4. learnt from many famous         | d. contest for kids           |
| 5. She turned                      | e. for the Middle East        |
| 6. controversy in the              | f. values and morals          |
| 7. spokesperson                    | g. medal                      |
| 8. aimed at teaching children good | h. professional               |
| 9. She has turned down             | i. Arab world                 |
| 10. her fans are waiting for her   | j. Lebanese musicians         |

**LISTENING GAP FILL:**

Nancy Ajram is a Lebanese pop singer. She \_\_\_\_\_ best-selling female singer in Lebanese history, and \_\_\_\_\_ forty million records. She was born in 1983 and started singing at the age of eight. She \_\_\_\_\_ singing contest for kids on Lebanese TV. Four years later she won \_\_\_\_\_ a popular talent show.

Ajram decided \_\_\_\_\_, so she studied music throughout her teenage years. She worked \_\_\_\_\_ from many famous Lebanese musicians and artists. She \_\_\_\_\_ when she was just 15 and released her first album in 1998. She \_\_\_\_\_ traditional *Tarab* style. She recorded a second album in 2000 and became a star.

In 2003, Ajram \_\_\_\_\_ album, Ya Salam ("How Fantastic"). A video from the album showing Ajram \_\_\_\_\_ started a lot of controversy in the Arab world but made \_\_\_\_\_. In 2005, she became Coca-Cola's star and spokesperson for the Middle East and North Africa. Ajram's sixth album was aimed at teaching children \_\_\_\_\_ morals.

Ajram \_\_\_\_\_ in the Arab world. She has turned down offers to appear in movies directed by top Arab directors. She said \_\_\_\_\_ singing, although her fans \_\_\_\_\_ movie debut. She has won Best Female Arab Singer of the Year twice. She also made the 'Newsweek' magazine's list of \_\_\_\_\_ Personalities in 2005.

## CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:

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

Nancy Ajram is a Lebanese pop singer. She ranks *as / by* the third best-selling female singer in Lebanese history, and has sold over forty million records. She was born in 1983 and started singing at the *aged / age* of eight. She appeared in a singing *contested / contest* for kids on Lebanese TV. Four years later she won the gold medal in a popular *talent / talented* show.

Ajram decided singing was for *she / her*, so she studied music throughout her *teenage / teenagers* years. She worked with and learnt from many famous Lebanese musicians and artists. She *turned / turning* professional when she was just 15 and released her first album in 1998. She sang in the *tradition / traditional* Tarab style. She recorded a second album in 2000 and became a star.

In 2003, Ajram made her third album, Ya Salam ("How Fantastic"). A video from the album *showed / showing* Ajram flirting with men started a lot of *controversy / controversial* in the Arab world but made her more famous. In 2005, she became Coca-Cola's star and *spokesperson / spokesman* for the Middle East and North Africa. Ajram's sixth album was *aimed / armed* at teaching children good values and morals.

Ajram is a *raising / rising* star in the Arab world. She has *turned up / down* offers to appear in movies directed by top Arab directors. She said she is too busy *songs / singing*, although her fans are waiting for her movie debut. She has won Best Female Arab Singer of the Year twice. She also made the 'Newsweek' magazine's *list / lost* of Most Influential Arab Personalities in 2005.

## SPELLING:

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

### *Paragraph 1*

1. the third best-sigllen female singer in Lebanese history
2. forty ionlmli records
3. a singing nstceot for kids
4. a popular eIntat show

### *Paragraph 2*

5. she studied music throughout her ateenge years
6. famous Lebanese musicians and sttrasi
7. a eadreseI her first album
8. She drcedreo a second album in 2000

### *Paragraph 3*

9. "How Factitasn"
10. grlitfin with men
11. the ieMdld East and North Africa
12. teaching children good suvael and morals

### *Paragraph 4*

13. Ajram is a risign star in the Arab world
14. directed by top Arab oeirdtscr
15. her movie duetb
16. Most fnalnIteiIu Arab Personalities

## PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) contest for kids on Lebanese TV. Four years later she won the gold medal in a popular talent show.
- ( ) Ajram is a rising star in the Arab world. She has turned down offers to appear in movies
- ( ) with and learnt from many famous Lebanese musicians and artists. She turned professional when she was just
- ( ) album showing Ajram flirting with men started a lot of controversy in the Arab world but made her more
- ( ) style. She recorded a second album in 2000 and became a star.
- ( ) Ajram decided singing was for her, so she studied music throughout her teenage years. She worked
- ( ) over forty million records. She was born in 1983 and started singing at the age of eight. She appeared in a singing
- ( ) debut. She has won Best Female Arab Singer of the Year twice. She also made
- ( ) 15 and released her first album in 1998. She sang in the traditional Tarab
- ( ) famous. In 2005, she became Coca-Cola's star and spokesperson for the Middle East and
- ( ) In 2003, Ajram made her third album, Ya Salam ("How Fantastic"). A video from the
- ( ) directed by top Arab directors. She said she is too busy singing, although her fans are waiting for her movie
- ( ) the 'Newsweek' magazine's list of Most Influential Arab Personalities in 2005.
- ( **1** ) Nancy Ajram is a Lebanese pop singer. She ranks as the third best-selling female singer in Lebanese history, and has sold
- ( ) North Africa. Ajram's sixth album was aimed at teaching children good values and morals.

## SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

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

1. the singer history best-selling female Lebanese third in

---

2. a in appeared She kids for contest singing

---

3. the in talent won medal popular she gold a show

---

4. she music her years studied throughout teenage

---

5. She 15 just was she when professional turned

---

6. 2005 she became Coca - Cola's star and spokesperson In

---

7. teaching values at good aimed children

---

8. turned in down movies offers She to has appear

---

9. for waiting are fans her debut movie her

---

10. Arab Singer of the Year twice She has won Best Female

---

**DISCUSSION (Write your questions):**

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

1. What do you know about Nancy Ajram?
2. Would you like to meet Nancy Ajram?
3. What would you like to know about Nancy Ajram 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 Nancy Ajram?
2. What questions would you like to ask Nancy Ajram?
3. What would her answers be to those questions?
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

## THE NANCY AJRAM SURVEY:

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

**3. NANCY AJRAM POSTER:** Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Nancy Ajram. 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 Nancy Ajram. 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 Nancy Ajram. 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 "Nancy Ajram expert" partner(s) will try and answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## SYNONYM MATCH:

*Paragraphs 1 and 2*

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. appeared   | a. performed   |
| 2. contest    | b. competition |
| 3. popular    | c. well-liked  |
| 4. throughout | d. all through |
| 5. artists    | e. singers     |
| 6. style      | f. method      |

*Paragraphs 3 and 4*

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 7. fantastic    | g. wonderful     |
| 8. controversy  | h. war of words  |
| 9. morals       | i. principles    |
| 10. rising      | j. up-and-coming |
| 11. turned down | k. rejected      |
| 12. influential | l. important     |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |                                    |                               |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. She appeared in a singing       | a. contest for kids           |
| 2. she won the gold                | b. medal                      |
| 3. Ajram decided singing was       | c. for her                    |
| 4. learnt from many famous         | d. Lebanese musicians         |
| 5. She turned                      | e. professional               |
| 6. controversy in the              | f. Arab world                 |
| 7. spokesperson                    | g. for the Middle East        |
| 8. aimed at teaching children good | h. values and morals          |
| 9. She has turned down             | i. offers to appear in movies |
| 10. her fans are waiting for her   | j. movie debut                |

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Look at the text on page 2.