Taylor Swift

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Taylor Swift is an American country-pop singer from Pennsylvania, USA. She plays the guitar, the piano and the ukulele, and she writes all her own songs. She is considered by critics all over America as one of the best singers ever.

influences

Her grandmother was an opera singer and Taylor says she was a big influence on her and her musical style as she was growing up. Her other musical influences include American country singers Shania Twain, LeAnn Rimes and the Dixie Chicks.

musical biography

Taylor was born in 1989 and her rise to fame has been steady and uneventful. She started writing songs when she was 12 years old and her break came at the age of 14 when she was singing at the Bluebird Café in Nashville. She was seen by Scott Borchetta, a record producer, and was given a recording contract with Big Machine Records. Three years later, in 2006, she released her first album, *Taylor Swift*, which produced five hit singles. She was nominated for the Best New Artist Award at the 50th Grammy Awards that year. Since then, she has won four Grammy Awards. Her second album, *Fearless*, was released in 2008 and stayed at the top of the album charts for 11 weeks. While both her first and second albums stayed in the charts, she became the biggest selling artist of 2008. Her third album, *Speak Now*, was released in October 2010 and sold more than a million copies in its first week. Her latest album, *Reputation*, was released in 2017.

WORD CHECK

- ukulele
- steady
- uneventful
- growing up

summary

Since the release of her first album, Taylor's life has changed dramatically. She has earned over 40 million dollars, won lots of awards, worked with the Jonas Brothers, appeared in the film Hannah Montana and given over a million dollars to different charities. It's clear that this young singer-songwriter from America has an exciting career ahead.

1. Do you think Taylor Swift is a traditional singer? Justify your answer.
2. Who influenced her?
3. When did her life begin to change?
4. In your opinion, has this singer been successful? Justify your answer.
5. Has she ever helped a charity?
6. How long has Taylor been a songwriter?

What do these numbers refer to in the text?

1. 1989
2. 14
3. 2006
4. 11

YEAR IN WHICH SHE WAS BORN

YEAR IN WHICH SHE REALESED HER FIRST ALBUM

NUMBER OF WEEKS HER SECOND ALBUM WAS

AT THE AGE HER LIFE STARTED TO CHANGE

Read the text again and find words or phrases for these meanings.

1. the state of being famous
2. prizes
3. more than
4. in the future

awards | Rise to fame | ahead | over