

Listening skills practice: High-achieving teenagers – exercises

Listen to the radio interview about high-achieving teenagers and do the exercises to practise and improve your listening skills.

1. Preparation: grouping

Do this exercise before you listen. Write the words in the correct group.

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|
| listeners | photographers | editors | readers |
| talent scouts | fans | top designers | followers |

| People working in arts and media | The audience for arts and media |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | |

2. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Do this exercise while you listen. Circle the best option to complete these sentences.

- Many famous and successful teenagers have used new technology / worked from an early age / been inspired by YouTube videos .
- Justin Bieber started off singing with R&B star Usher / sending videos to talent scouts / posting videos on YouTube .
- Some people say Justin Bieber is the most influential person in the world because he has had so many number one songs / he has so many followers on Twitter / he is friends with Barack Obama .
- A negative consequence of fame for Justin Bieber is he has very little privacy / people get bored of hearing about him / people criticise his appearance .
- Tavi Gevinson started a fashion blog when she was 11 years old / when she was in 11th grade in high school / in 2011 .
- “Rookie” means a beginner / a fan / someone who is bad at something .
- Style Rookie allowed readers to post pictures of themselves / soon had a lot of readers / was noticed by Karl Lagerfeld .

8. When some people didn't believe her age, Tavi was sad and angry at first / decided to attack them in return / completely ignored them and continued working .
9. Tavi employs only teenagers / writers and photographers of all ages / a very small group of people .
10. Louise thinks it's difficult for Tavi to have a normal life / there's more pressure when you are a writer / there's more pressure when you are a performer .

3. Check your understanding: gap fill

Do this exercise while you listen. Write the numbers to complete the gaps.

1. Justin Bieber started off posting videos on YouTube at the age of _____ .
2. Justin Bieber has over _____ followers on Twitter.
3. Tavi Gevinson started Style Rookie when she was only _____ years old.
4. Tavi's blog soon built up a huge following of up to _____ reader per day.
5. One magazine upset Tavi by printing an article saying the writer didn't believe Tavi was only _____ .
6. Tavi started Rookie Magazine in _____ .
7. Less than a week after it started Rookie Magazine had _____ followers.
8. Tavi employs about _____ writers and photographers.

Do you think Justin Bieber and Tavi Gevinson deserve their success, or are they just lucky?

I think ... deserves his/ her success because ...

I don't think ... deserves his/ her success because ...