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.

1. Many famous and successful teenagers have used new technology / worked from an early age / been inspired by YouTube videos .
2. Justin Bieber started off singing with R&B star Usher / sending videos to talent scouts / posting videos on YouTube .
3. 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 .
4. 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 .
5. Tavi Gevinson started a fashion blog when she was 11 years old / when she was in 11th grade in high school / in 2011 .
6. "Rookie" means a beginner / a fan / someone who is bad at something .
7. Style Rookie allowed readers to post pictures of themselves / soon had a lot of readers / was noticed by Karl Lagerfeld .

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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 …*

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