

## An unusual collectible

- 10 Look at the photos and *quickly* read the text.
- Who are the celebrities?
  - Why are they important to Paul Fraser?
- 11 Read the text again and complete it with the verbs in the correct tense.

# Paul Fraser Celebrity hair collector!

**Celebrity culture** <sup>1</sup> *has arrived* (arrive)! We <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ never \_\_\_\_\_ (be) more interested in the latest celebrity news and gossip. And some fans <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ just \_\_\_\_\_ (not want) to read about their favourite celebrity, they want more – an autograph, a selfie or even a lock of their hair! So, believe it or not, there are professional hair collectors who <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (make) money by selling the locks of celebrities!

Paul Fraser is a UK professional collector of all kinds of things, including ... hair! He <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (collect) the hair of famous people for some years. He <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a collector of stamps, coins, fine art, and antiques for a long time, but a few years ago, Paul <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (realize) that the best way to make money was to invest in things that are one of a kind, such as a lock of a celebrity's hair. In 2016, a US auction house in Texas <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (sell) a lock of John Lennon's hair for an amazing \$35,000.

Paul Fraser now <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (own) a lock of Paul McCartney's hair, and he also <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (have) Michael Jackson's, Marilyn Monroe's, Napoleon's, John Kennedy's, and even Charles Dickens's hair in his collection. When the celebrity is dead, the hair is worth more! However, in 2011 someone <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a lock of Justin Bieber's hair on eBay for \$40,668!



### Celebrity hair for sale



**BID NOW**

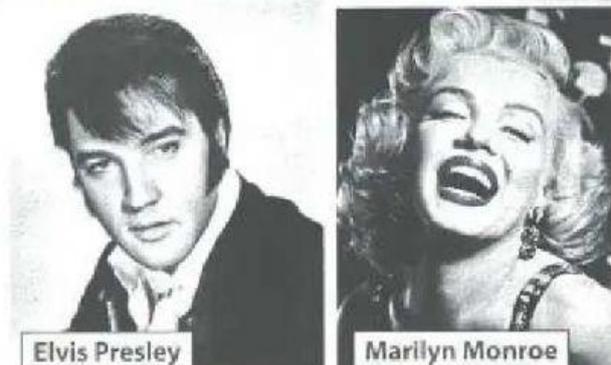
Auction ends in 2 days

**\$800**

**BUY IT NOW**

Add to basket

Add to wishlist



Paul charges \$570 for just one strand of hair! He <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (sell) hair for the last few years on his website, Paul Fraser Collectibles, alongside his other collections.

So – what's the highest amount of money someone <sup>13</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ ever \_\_\_\_\_ (pay) for a lock of celebrity hair? And whose head <sup>14</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ (belong) to? It was Elvis Presley's, and it <sup>15</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (cost) \$115,000!

Historian, Leo Braudy, says, 'to own a genuine\* artefact\* from a widely recognised cultural figure – even if it's hair – is highly attractive.'

This certainly seems to be true!

**genuine** real  
**artefact** an object of historical or cultural interest

- 12 Complete the questions using the verbs in brackets. Then answer them.

- What **does** Paul Fraser **do** (do)?  
*He's a professional collector.*
- What kind of things \_\_\_\_\_ he \_\_\_\_\_ (collect)?
- How long \_\_\_\_\_ he \_\_\_\_\_ (collect) celebrity hair?
- Why \_\_\_\_\_ he \_\_\_\_\_ (start) collecting hair?
- How much \_\_\_\_\_ John Lennon's hair \_\_\_\_\_ (sell) for?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Paul \_\_\_\_\_ (own) Lennon's hair?
- How much \_\_\_\_\_ Paul Fraser \_\_\_\_\_ (charge) for a strand of hair?
- What's the greatest amount someone \_\_\_\_\_ ever \_\_\_\_\_ (pay) for a lock of hair? Whose hair \_\_\_\_\_ (be) it?

**11.3** Listen and check.